



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Assembly Bill 459	Assembly Substitute Amendment 1
<i>Memo published: November 7, 2013</i>	<i>Contact: Mary Matthias, Principal Attorney (266-0932)</i>

Assembly Bill 459 creates a program within the Department of Health Services (DHS) for individual placement and support (IPS) for individuals with mental illness and provides funding for the program. An IPS program is an evidence-based practice designed to help promote the recovery of people who have serious mental illness through competitive jobs related to their employment preferences.

Funding

The Bill

The bill creates a new biennial appropriation for operating and providing grants for the IPS program and provides \$485,000 in general purpose revenue (GPR) annually for those purposes. The bill specifies that of the total biennial funding amount of \$970,000 GPR, \$450,000 is to be used to hire three IPS trainers or mentors and three IPS supervisors at an amount of \$75,000 each; \$120,000 GPR is to be used to provide \$1,200 in work incentive benefits counseling to 100 individuals statewide, and \$400,000 is to be used for infrastructure pilot grants.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 (ASA 1) would create two new biennial appropriations, one to fund operations and the other to fund grants and work incentive benefits counseling for the IPS program.

ASA 1 provides \$450,000 GPR in 2013-14 for IPS operations, to support IPS trainers or mentors and IPS supervisors. ASA 1 does not specify the number of individuals to be funded or the salary amounts to be provided.

ASA 1 provides \$520,000 GPR in 2013-14 for IPS grants and counseling, and specifies that no more than \$400,000 may be used for infrastructure pilot grants and no more than \$120,000 may be used

for work incentive benefits counseling. ASA 1 does not specify the number of individuals to whom counseling must be provided.

The appropriations and funding in ASA 1 would be repealed on July 1, 2015.

Infrastructure Pilot Grants

The Bill

Under the bill, DHS is authorized to award infrastructure pilot grants to employment sites that are implementing IPS services, or to regional centers, for any of the following activities:

- Implementing individual placement and support programs.
- Offsetting costs until a program is capable of billing the Medical Assistance program.
- Becoming a provider of vocational rehabilitation services through the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

The bill specifies that DHS must award infrastructure pilot grants in the total amount of \$400,000, using a graduated outcome or incentive payment schedule, with the following amounts being awarded to an applicant when the applicant satisfies the criteria indicated:

1. \$2,500 when an applicant develops a steering committee, completes agreements with DWD, becomes a vocational rehabilitation service provider, hires staff, and hosts an event indicating readiness to provide services.
2. \$2,500 when an applicant completes the baseline review within the first six months of the program.
3. \$5,000 when an applicant develops a plan for improvements and achieves 50% employment for a full year based on the program model requirements.
4. \$5,000 when an applicant achieves good fidelity to the evidence-based model.

ASA 1

Under ASA 1, these grants may also be provided to county or tribal unit programs that implement IPS services.

ASA 1 clarifies that grant funds may be used to offset costs until a program is capable of billing the Medical Assistance program for any services covered under the Medical Assistance program.

ASA 1 also requires an applicant for a grant to identify future sources of possible funding to support the IPS program.

Like the bill, ASA 1 directs DHS to award \$400,000 in infrastructure pilot grants, using a graduated outcome or incentive payment schedule. However, ASA 1 does not link specific amounts to the achievement of the various criteria. Also, ASA 1 differs from the bill in that it does not require an applicant to achieve 50% employment for a full year, but rather requires that they must achieve the required percentage of employees retained that is determined by DHS.

Regional IPS Centers

The Bill

The bill requires DHS to create five regional IPS centers, as follows.

1. A Northwestern Wisconsin region.
2. A South-Central Wisconsin region.
3. A region consisting of a consortium of counties in Northeastern Wisconsin
4. A region consisting of a consortium of counties in Central Wisconsin.
5. A region consisting of Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine Counties.

DHS must ensure that each county in the state is served by one of the regional centers. DHS may contract with existing organizations or consortiums to create any regional center. DHS must ensure that each regional center has access to the services of an IPS trainer or mentor and an IPS supervisor.

DHS and regional centers must provide or arrange for work incentive benefits counseling for individuals who are not receiving vocational rehabilitation services from DWD.

ASA 1

The provisions of ASA 1 regarding regional centers are the same as those in the bill, except that the fifth region consists of “a consortium of counties in Southeastern Wisconsin” rather than “Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine Counties.”

Duties of IPS Trainers or Mentors

The Bill

The bill specifies that an IPS trainer or mentor is responsible for all of the following:

- Monitoring infrastructure grants.
- Coordinating training with DHS.
- Training employers on individual placement and support practices.
- Conducting visits twice per month to supervisors of employees hired under individual placement and support to assist with implementation of effective practices.
- Reviewing individual placement and support programs every six months until the programs achieve good fidelity to the evidence-based model.

ASA 1

Under ASA 1, the listing of specific duties of an IPS trainer or mentor is replaced with a provision stating that a trainer or mentor is responsible for the duties required of a trainer or mentor by an evidence-based IPS model of supported employment.

Duties of IPS Supervisors

The Bill

The bill specifies that the responsibilities of an IPS supervisor include all of the following:

- Developing training for employment specialists at work sites.
- Creating a vocational unit of employment specialists that with the supervisor comprise the individual placement and support team.
- Providing supervision of program outcomes in accordance with the evidence-based IPS model.

ASA 1

Under ASA 1, the listing of specific duties of an IPS supervisor is replaced with a provision stating that a supervisor is responsible for the duties required of a supervisor by an evidence-based individual placement and support model of supported employment.

Medicaid Matching Funds

ASA 1 requires DHS to seek any approval from the federal Department of Health and Human Services that is necessary to obtain federal Medicaid matching funds, if available, for reimbursement of IPS services. The bill does not contain this requirement.

Bill History

Assembly Bill 459 was introduced on October 21, 2013 by Representative Sanfelippo; cosponsored by Senator Petrowski. ASA 1 was offered on November 1, 2013 by Representative Sanfelippo.

On November 5, 2013, the Assembly Committee on Health voted to recommend adoption of ASA 1, and passage of the bill, as amended, on successive votes of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

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