



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 4

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STRENGTHENING WISCONSIN FAMILIES

FROM: Anne Sappenfield, Senior Staff Attorney

RE: WLC: 0125/2, Relating to Children Who Are Involved in Multiple Systems of Care and Their Families

DATE: November 7, 2008

This Memo describes the substantive differences between WLC: 0125/1 and WLC: 0125/2, a bill draft relating to children who are involved in multiple systems of care and their families, and making an appropriation, for consideration by the committee. Briefly, the draft modifies the current integrated services programs statute to rename it the coordinated services initiative and to modify the roles of the entities that administer the initiative. The draft increases the appropriation for coordinated services initiatives by \$1,466,000 annually in the 2009-10 Biennium.

DEFINITIONS OF “CHILD” AND “SERVICE SYSTEM”

In WLC: 0125/2, “child” is defined as an individual under the age of 18 years who is involved in multiple systems of care. [SECTION 9.] In WLC: 0125/1, “child” is defined as an individual under the age of 18 years who has a severe disability or is involved in multiple systems of care, or both. [SECTION 9.]

In the draft, “severe disability” is defined as a mental, physical, sensory, behavioral, emotional, or developmental disability, including severe emotional disturbance, or a combination of these disabilities, that meets *all* of the following conditions:

- Is severe in degree.
- Has persisted for at least one year or is expected to persist for at least one year.

- Causes substantial limitations in a child’s ability to function in his or her family, school, or community and with his or her ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life.
- ***Causes the child to need services or other resources from two or more service systems.***

[SECTION 10.]

Because the definition of “severe disability” includes as an element that the disability causes the child to need services or other resources from two or more service systems, it appears that it is not necessary to include a child with a severe disability in the definition of “child.”

WLC: 0125/2 also replaces the term “service system” with “system of care.” [SECTION 24.] In WLC: 0125/1, both terms are used, but they appear to have the same meaning.

DEFINITION OF “SERVICE COORDINATOR”

In WLC: 0125/1, “service coordinator” is defined as an individual who is qualified by specialized training and experience with children and their families, who receives ongoing coaching and support from the service coordination agency and the project coordinator, and who is appointed by the service agency to provide coordination of treatment, education, and other family resources for eligible children and their families. [SECTION 22.] WLC: 0125/2 does not include “who receives ongoing coaching and support from the service coordination agency and the project coordinator” in the definition of “service coordinator.” [SECTION 22.] In addition, one of the duties of the project coordinator (which, as described below, is referred to as the initiative coordinator in the new draft), is modified to provide as follows:

Ensure provision of ongoing support and training that is related to the coordinated services team process for families, service coordinators, and providers and ensure orientation for coordinated services team members.

[SECTION 47.]

PROJECT COORDINATOR

WLC: 0125/2 replaces the term “project coordinator” with “initiative coordinator.” [SECTIONS 46 and 47.]

In WLC: 0125/1, the initiative coordinator has several duties. In addition, under the draft, the initiative coordinator may perform additional duties that include the following:

- Maintaining data of enrollments in the initiative and results of screening.
- Establishing and reporting monitoring and evaluation reports.
- Monitoring, or ensuring proper monitoring by the appropriate entity, of targeted case management and in-home activities under Medical Assistance, including recordkeeping and billing processes.

- Assisting in developing and maintaining additional funding sources, including collaborative efforts with system partners.
- Assisting in the development and implementation of advocacy for families.

[SECTION 46.]

WLC: 0125/2 provides that the coordinating committee may direct the initiative coordinator or another person to perform the above duties, and the initiative coordinator must perform any of those duties that he or she is directed to perform. [SECTIONS 37 and 47.]

COURT-ORDERED COORDINATED SERVICES PLANS

In WLC: 0125/1, if a report to the juvenile court recommends that a child should receive a coordinated services plan of care and if a coordinated services initiative has been established in the child's county or tribe, the judge may order that a coordinated services plan of care be developed and implemented for a child or juvenile who is found to be in need of protection or services. [SECTIONS 77 and 87.] WLC: 0125/2 provides that the judge may order an assessment of the child and the child's family for eligibility for and appropriateness of the initiative and, if eligible for enrollment in the initiative, that a coordinated services plan be developed and implemented. [SECTIONS 78 and 89.]

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