



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 460: Grants for Mental Health Mobile Crisis Teams

Assembly Bill 460 was introduced on October 18, 2013, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Health. The Committee adopted Assembly Amendment 1 and recommended the amended bill for passage by a vote of 9 to 0. On November 12, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 and passed the amended bill by a vote of 94 to 0. The bill was messaged to the Senate and, on November 14, referred to the Joint Committee on Finance.

As passed by the Assembly, Assembly Bill 460 would provide \$125,000 GPR annually, beginning in 2013-14, for the Department of Health Services (DHS) to award grants to counties or multi-county regions to establish certified crisis programs that create mental health mobile crisis teams.

BACKGROUND

State law requires DHS to establish standards and procedures for certification of county and multi-county emergency medical mental health service programs. By rule (DHS 34), DHS has established requirements that certified county programs must meet in order to be eligible for reimbursement under the state's medical assistance (MA) program. For example, each program must provide the following services: (1) an informational and crisis telephone service; (2) a mobile crisis intervention service; (3) walk-in services; (4) short-term voluntary or involuntary hospital care; (5) linkage and coordination services; and (6) services for children and adolescents and their families.

The rules define a mobile crisis service as a mental health service that provides immediate, on-site, in-person mental health service for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Mobile crisis services must be directed at achieving one or more of the following outcomes: (1) immediate relief of distress; (2) reduction in the level of risk present in the situation; (3) assistance to law enforcement, such as providing evaluation criteria for emergency detention; (4) coordination of

other mental health resources during the crisis; (5) referral to and arrangement of additional services; and (6) follow-up with the client to guarantee intervention plans are being followed after the crisis. The mobile crisis services must also be available at least eight hours a day, seven days a week during the periods of highest demand, as determined by the county's emergency mental health services plan. The mobile crisis service must have the capacity for making home visits and for seeing clients at other locations in the community and all of the mobile crisis staff must meet specified staffing requirements.

Currently, 57 counties have MA-certified programs with mobile crisis teams. The Department provides GPR funding in the form of multi-county crisis initiative grants to some counties for crisis intervention programming, which may include programming for mobile crisis units. The following table shows the county recipients and amounts of the current grants.

**Multi-County Crisis Initiative Annual Awards
2013**

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Bayfield County	\$110,200
Milwaukee County	33,100
Sauk County	72,227
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay	20,000
Washburn County	<u>105,000</u>
 Total	 \$340,527

Counties may also use funds DHS distributes as community aids to fund mobile crisis units. In 2012, counties reported spending \$141,415,885 in 2012 on community-based mental health treatment services. However, DHS does not maintain information on the amount of community aids or local funding counties use to support mobile crisis teams.

SUMMARY OF BILL

As introduced, the bill would provide \$125,000 GPR annually, beginning in 2013-14, for DHS to award grants to counties to establish mental health mobile crisis teams. The bill would require DHS to award grants in an amount equal to one-half the amount of money the county provides to establish a mobile crisis team. For example, a county would need to provide \$50,000 in funding for their mobile crisis team to receive a \$25,000 grant from DHS.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 would make two changes to the bill. First, it would authorize DHS to award grants to multi-county regions, in addition to counties. Second, it would specify that DHS could only provide these grants to counties or multi-county regions to *establish certified crisis programs that create mental health mobile crisis teams*, rather than to provide grants to *establish mental health mobile crisis teams*, as provided under the bill as introduced.

FISCAL EFFECT

The bill passed by the Assembly would provide \$125,000 GPR annually for counties and multi-county regions to establish certified crisis programs that create mental health mobile crisis teams. Counties or multi-county regions would need to provide at least \$250,000 annually for the entire \$125,000 annual amount to be awarded.

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