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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. **772**

02/21/2013 Authored by Metsa, Newton, Norton, Mullery and Isaacson

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Jobs and Economic Development Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to employment; appropriating money for employment support services  
1.3 for persons with mental illness; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections  
1.4 245.4712, subdivision 1; 268A.13; 268A.14, subdivision 1.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 245.4712, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Availability of community support services.** (a) County boards  
1.8 must provide or contract for sufficient community support services within the county to  
1.9 meet the needs of adults with serious and persistent mental illness who are residents of the  
1.10 county. Adults may be required to pay a fee according to section 245.481. The community  
1.11 support services program must be designed to improve the ability of adults with serious  
1.12 and persistent mental illness to:

1.13 (1) ~~work in a regular or supported work environment~~ find and maintain competitive  
1.14 employment;

1.15 (2) handle basic activities of daily living;

1.16 (3) participate in leisure time activities;

1.17 (4) set goals and plans; and

1.18 (5) obtain and maintain appropriate living arrangements.

1.19 The community support services program must also be designed to reduce the  
1.20 need for and use of more intensive, costly, or restrictive placements both in number of  
1.21 admissions and length of stay.

1.22 (b) Community support services are those services that are supportive in nature and  
1.23 not necessarily treatment oriented, and include:

2.1 (1) conducting outreach activities such as home visits, health and wellness checks,  
2.2 and problem solving;

2.3 (2) connecting people to resources to meet their basic needs;

2.4 (3) finding, securing, and supporting people in their housing;

2.5 (4) attaining and maintaining health insurance benefits;

2.6 (5) assisting with job applications, finding and maintaining employment, and  
2.7 securing a stable financial situation;

2.8 (6) fostering social support, including support groups, mentoring, peer support, and  
2.9 other efforts to prevent isolation and promote recovery; and

2.10 (7) educating about mental illness, treatment, and recovery.

2.11 (c) Community support services shall use all available funding streams. The county  
2.12 shall maintain the level of expenditures for this program, as required under section  
2.13 245.4835. County boards must continue to provide funds for those services not covered  
2.14 by other funding streams and to maintain an infrastructure to carry out these services. The  
2.15 county is encouraged to fund evidence-based practices such as Individual Placement and  
2.16 Support Supported Employment and Illness Management and Recovery.

2.17 (d) The commissioner shall collect data on community support services programs,  
2.18 including, but not limited to, demographic information such as age, sex, race, the number  
2.19 of people served, and information related to housing, employment, hospitalization,  
2.20 symptoms, and satisfaction with services.

2.21 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 268A.13, is amended to read:

2.22 **268A.13 EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH**  
2.23 **MENTAL ILLNESS.**

2.24 The commissioner of employment and economic development, in cooperation  
2.25 with the commissioner of human services, shall develop a statewide program of grants  
2.26 as outlined in section 268A.14 to provide services for persons with mental illness who  
2.27 want to work in supported employment. Projects funded under this section must: (1)  
2.28 assist persons with mental illness in obtaining and retaining competitive employment; (2)  
2.29 emphasize individual ~~community placements for clients~~ client preferences; (3) ensure  
2.30 interagency collaboration at the local level between vocational rehabilitation field offices,  
2.31 county service agencies, community support programs operating under the authority of  
2.32 section 245.4712, and community rehabilitation providers, in assisting clients; (4) ensure  
2.33 services are integrated with mental health treatment; (5) provide benefits counseling;  
2.34 (6) conduct rapid job search; and ~~(4)~~ (7) involve clients in the planning, development,  
2.35 oversight, and delivery of support services. Project funds may not be used to provide

3.1 services in segregated settings such as the center-based employment subprograms as  
3.2 defined in section 268A.01.

3.3 The commissioner of employment and economic development, in consultation  
3.4 with the commissioner of human services, shall develop a request for proposals which is  
3.5 consistent with the requirements of this section and section 268A.14 and which specifies  
3.6 the types of services that must be provided by grantees. Priority for funding shall be given  
3.7 to organizations ~~with experience in developing innovative employment support services~~  
3.8 ~~for persons with mental illness~~ carrying out evidence-based practices. Each applicant for  
3.9 funds under this section shall submit an evaluation protocol as part of the grant application.

3.10 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 268A.14, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

3.11 Subdivision 1. **Employment support services and programs.** The commissioner  
3.12 of employment and economic development, in cooperation with the commissioner of  
3.13 human services, shall operate a statewide system to reimburse providers for employment  
3.14 support services for persons with mental illness. The system shall be operated to support  
3.15 employment programs and services where:

3.16 (1) services provided are readily accessible to all persons with mental illness who  
3.17 want to work, including rapid competitive job search, so they can make progress toward  
3.18 economic self-sufficiency;

3.19 (2) services provided are made an integral part of all mental health treatment and  
3.20 rehabilitation programs for persons with mental illness to ensure that they have the ability  
3.21 and opportunity to consider a variety of work options;

3.22 (3) programs help persons with mental illness form long-range plans for employment  
3.23 that fit their skills and abilities by ensuring that ongoing time-unlimited support, crisis  
3.24 management, placement, and career planning services are available;

3.25 (4) services provided give persons with mental illness the information needed  
3.26 to make informed choices about employment expectations and options, including  
3.27 information on the types of employment available in the local community, the types of  
3.28 employment services available, the impact of employment on eligibility for governmental  
3.29 benefits, and career options;

3.30 (5) programs assess whether persons with mental illness being serviced are satisfied  
3.31 with the services and outcomes. Satisfaction assessments shall address at least whether  
3.32 persons like their jobs, whether quality of life is improved, whether potential for  
3.33 advancement exists, and whether there are adequate support services in place;

3.34 (6) programs encourage persons with mental illness being served to be involved in  
3.35 employment support services issues by allowing them to participate in the development of

4.1 individual rehabilitation plans and to serve on boards, committees, task forces, and review  
 4.2 bodies that shape employment services policies and that award grants, and by encouraging  
 4.3 and helping them to establish and participate in self-help and consumer advocacy groups;

4.4 (7) programs encourage employers to expand employment opportunities for  
 4.5 persons with mental illness and, to maximize the hiring of persons with mental illness,  
 4.6 educate employers about the needs and abilities of persons with mental illness and the  
 4.7 requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act;

4.8 (8) programs encourage persons with mental illness, vocational rehabilitation  
 4.9 professionals, and mental health professionals to learn more about current work incentive  
 4.10 provisions in governmental benefits programs;

4.11 (9) programs establish and maintain linkages with a wide range of other programs  
 4.12 and services, including educational programs, housing programs, economic assistance  
 4.13 services, community support services, and clinical services to ensure that persons with  
 4.14 mental illness can obtain and maintain employment;

4.15 (10) programs participate in ongoing training across agencies and service delivery  
 4.16 systems so that providers in human services systems understand their respective roles,  
 4.17 rules, and responsibilities and understand the options that exist for providing employment  
 4.18 and community support services to persons with mental illness; and

4.19 (11) programs work with local communities to expand system capacity to provide  
 4.20 access to employment services to all persons with mental illness who want them.

4.21 **Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION.**

4.22 \$2,555,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$2,555,000 in fiscal year 2015 are appropriated  
 4.23 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development  
 4.24 for grants to programs that provide employment support services to persons with mental  
 4.25 illness under Minnesota Statutes, sections 268A.13 and 268A.14. At least 50 percent of  
 4.26 the funding must be used for projects that use the evidence-based practice of Individual  
 4.27 Placement and Supports. Grants may be used for special projects for young people with  
 4.28 mental illness transitioning from school to work or experiencing a first psychotic episode.