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Chairman Severson and committee members thank you for holding a hearing on AB 459 today.

This bill is a direct result of the recommendations from the Speaker's Task Force on Mental Health. The bill will expand an Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Program throughout Wisconsin. By expanding an IPS program, the bill will greatly assist individuals experiencing mental illness or developmental disabilities in becoming employed.

IPS was developed at Dartmouth College Psychiatric Research Center. That center's IPS website indicates that IPS is three times more likely to help those experiencing mental illness compete in the workforce for a job than other programs. Employment is a key factor in recovery for those experiencing mental illness. Two out of three people experiencing mental illness are interested in becoming part of the workforce, but only one in ten are gainfully employed. The fear of losing benefits is a major reason individuals may choose to not look for a job.

AB 459 provides funding to create a regional infrastructure to promote implementing IPS as well as providing incentives for benefits counseling. Currently, the Northwest Wisconsin region already has a site operated by the Western Regional Wellness and Recovery Consortium. The South Central Wisconsin region will be served by the IPS coordinator who is currently under contract with the Department of Health Services and currently serves the whole state. The new regions to be created by the WI Department of Health Services under AB 459 are, Northeast Wisconsin, Central Wisconsin, and a consortium including Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine Counties. The WI Department of Health Services may contract with existing organizations or consortiums to create any regional center.

Each IPS office will host an IPS trainer and an IPS supervisor. The trainer will be available to train agencies on the IPS model, provide support for IPS sites and conduct reviews every six months. AB 459 provides competitive grants that will be awarded for implementing IPS, to offset the initial costs while the program develops systems for billing Medicaid and to become a Department of Workforce Development Rehabilitation (DVR) provider.

AB 459 provides for Work Incentive Benefits Counseling that will assist individuals obtain and maintain work-related government benefits. AB 459 includes funds for supporting individuals who are not currently DVR clients or who may be on a DVR waiting list.

AB 459 assists those experiencing mental illnesses become part of the workforce. This is good for the state of Wisconsin, but more importantly good for those looking for a job become a competing member of the workforce.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Terry C. Anderson, Director
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director

TO: REPRESENTATIVE JOE SANFELIPPO

FROM: Laura Rose, Deputy Director

RE: 2013 Assembly Bill 459, Relating to an Individual Placement and Support Program for Employment of Individuals Experiencing Mental Illness and Making an Appropriation

DATE: October 21, 2013

This memorandum describes 2013 Assembly Bill 459, relating to an Individual Placement and Support (IPS) program for employment of individuals experiencing mental illness and making an appropriation.

An IPS program is an evidence-based practice approach that was developed at the Dartmouth College Psychiatric Research Center. It is designed to help promote the recovery of people who have serious mental illness through competitive jobs related to their employment preferences.

The eight practice principles of IPS are as follows:

- Every person with severe mental illness who wants to work is eligible for IPS supported employment.
- Employment services are integrated with mental health treatment services.
- Competitive employment is the goal.
- Personalized benefits counseling is provided.
- The job search starts soon after a person expresses interest in working.
- Employment specialists systematically develop relationships with employers based upon their client's work preferences.
- Job supports are continuous.

- Client preferences are honored.

There are currently nine counties in Wisconsin with an IPS site: Washington, La Crosse, Marathon, Barron, Dunn, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Dane, and Jefferson.

The bill provides \$485,000 of general purpose revenue (GPR) in each year of the 2013-15 fiscal biennium for the IPS program. Under the bill, the Department of Health Services (DHS) must create five regional IPS centers for employment of individuals with mental illness in the following regions, and must ensure that each county in the state is served by one of these regional centers:

- Northwestern Wisconsin.
- South-central Wisconsin.
- A consortium of counties in northeastern Wisconsin.
- A consortium of counties in central Wisconsin.
- A consortium consisting of Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine Counties.

The DHS must ensure that each regional center has access to the services of an IPS trainer or mentor, and an IPS supervisor.

The IPS **trainer** is responsible for:

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

The IPS **supervisor** is responsible for:

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

The DHS must award grants to regional centers or to employment sites that are implementing IPS, for any of the following activities:

- Implementing IPS 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 provides that IPS grant funds must be distributed as follows in the 2013-15 fiscal biennium:

- Three IPS trainers or mentors at an amount of \$75,000 for each trainer or mentor with \$50,000 of each \$75,000 being the base salary.
- Three IPS supervisors at an amount of \$75,000 for each supervisor with \$50,000 of each \$75,000 being the base salary.
- Infrastructure pilot grants in the total amount of \$400,000, to be distributed as follows:
 - \$2,500 for each grant applicant when that applicant develops a steering committee, completes agreements with the DWD, becomes a vocational rehabilitation service provider, hires staff, and hosts an event indicating readiness to provide services.
 - \$2,500 for each grant applicant when that applicant completes the baseline review within the first six months of the program.
 - \$5,000 for each grant applicant when that applicant develops a plan for improvements and achieves 50% employment for a full year based on the program model requirements.
 - \$5,000 for each grant applicant when that applicant achieves good fidelity to the evidence-based IPS model.
- Work incentive benefits counseling for 100 individuals statewide at the amount of \$1,200 for each individual who is provided counseling.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at the Legislative Council staff offices.

LR:ksm