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SENATE BILL NO. 575

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 10, 2024

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-346.1 and 37.2-505 of the Code of Virginia, relating to discharge plans; copies to public elementary and secondary schools.

Patron—Obenshain

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.1-346.1 and 37.2-505 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 16.1-346.1. Discharge plan.

Prior to discharge of any minor admitted to inpatient treatment, including a minor in detention or shelter care pursuant to an order of a juvenile and domestic relations district court, a discharge plan shall be formulated, provided and explained to the minor, and copies thereof shall be sent (i) to the minor's parents or (ii) if the minor is in the custody of the local department of social services, to the department's director or the director's designee or (iii) to the minor's parents and (a) if the juvenile is to be housed in a detention home upon discharge, to the court in which the petition has been filed and the facility superintendent, or (b) if the minor is in custody of the local department of social services, to the department. If the minor is a student at a public elementary or secondary school, the discharge plan shall be provided to the division superintendent and the division safety official designated pursuant to subsection F of § 22.1-279.8 in the local school division in which the minor attends such public elementary or secondary school at least 48 hours prior to the discharge of such minor. A copy of the plan shall also be provided, upon request, to the minor's attorney and guardian ad litem. If the minor was admitted to a state facility, the discharge plan shall be contained in a uniform discharge document developed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The plan shall, at a minimum, (i) specify the services required by the released minor in the community to meet his needs for treatment, housing, nutrition, physical care, and safety; (ii) specify any income subsidies for which the minor is eligible; (iii) identify all local and state agencies which will be involved in providing treatment and support to the minor; and (iv) specify services which would be appropriate for the minor's treatment and support in the community but which are currently unavailable. A minor in detention or shelter care prior to admission to inpatient treatment shall be returned to the detention home, shelter care, or other facility approved by the Department of Juvenile Justice within 24 hours by the sheriff serving the jurisdiction where the minor was detained upon release from the treating facility, unless the juvenile and domestic relations district court having jurisdiction over the case has provided written authorization for release of the minor, prior to the scheduled date of release.

§ 37.2-505. Coordination of services for preadmission screening and discharge planning.

A. The community services board shall fulfill the following responsibilities:

1. Be responsible for coordinating the community services necessary to accomplish effective preadmission screening and discharge planning for persons referred to the community services board. When preadmission screening reports are required by the court on an emergency basis pursuant to Article 5 (§ 37.2-814 et seq.) of Chapter 8, the community services board shall ensure the development of the report for the court. To accomplish this coordination, the community services board shall establish a structure and procedures involving staff from the community services board and, as appropriate, representatives from (i) the state hospital or training center serving the board's service area, (ii) the local department of social services, (iii) the health department, (iv) the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services office in the board's service area, (v) the local school division, and (vi) other public and private human services agencies, including licensed hospitals.

2. Provide preadmission screening services prior to the admission for treatment pursuant to § 37.2-805 or Article 5 (§ 37.2-814 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of any person who requires emergency mental health services while in a city or county served by the community services board. In the case of inmates incarcerated in a regional jail, each community services board that serves a county or city that is a participant in the regional jail shall review any existing Memorandum of Understanding between the community services board and any other community services boards that serve the regional jail to ensure that such memorandum sets forth the roles and responsibilities of each community services board in the preadmission screening process, provides for communication and information sharing protocols between the community services boards, and provides for due consideration, including financial consideration, should there be disproportionate obligations on one of the community services boards.

3. Provide, in consultation with the appropriate state hospital or training center, discharge planning for any

59 individual who, prior to admission, resided in a city or county served by the community services board or
60 who chooses to reside after discharge in a city or county served by the board and who is to be released from a
61 state hospital or training center pursuant to § 37.2-837. Upon initiation of discharge planning, the community
62 services board that serves the city or county where the individual resided prior to admission shall inform the
63 individual that he may choose to return to the county or city in which he resided prior to admission or to any
64 other county or city in the Commonwealth. If the individual is unable to make informed decisions regarding
65 his care, the community services board shall so inform his authorized representative, who may choose the
66 county or city in which the individual shall reside upon discharge. In either case and to the extent permitted
67 by federal law, for individuals who choose to return to the county or city in which they resided prior to
68 admission, the community services board shall make every reasonable effort to place the individuals in such
69 county or city. The community services board serving the county or city in which he will reside following
70 discharge shall be responsible for arranging transportation for the individual upon request following the
71 discharge protocols developed by the Department.

72 The discharge plan shall be completed prior to the individual's discharge. The plan shall be prepared with
73 the involvement and participation of the individual receiving services or his representative and must reflect
74 the individual's preferences to the greatest extent possible. The plan shall include the mental health,
75 developmental, substance abuse, social, educational, medical, employment, housing, legal, advocacy,
76 transportation, and other services that the individual will need upon discharge into the community and
77 identify the public or private agencies that have agreed to provide these services. *If the individual is a student
78 at a public secondary school, the discharge plan shall be provided to the division superintendent and the
79 division safety official designated pursuant to subsection F of § 22.1-279.8 in the local school division in
80 which the individual attends such public secondary school at least 48 hours prior to the discharge of such
81 individual.*

82 No individual shall be discharged from a state hospital or training center without completion by the
83 community services board of the discharge plan described in this subdivision. If state hospital or training
84 center staff identify an individual as ready for discharge and the community services board that is responsible
85 for the individual's care disagrees, the community services board shall document in the treatment plan within
86 72 hours of the individual's identification any reasons for not accepting the individual for discharge. If the
87 state hospital or training center disagrees with the community services board and the board refuses to develop
88 a discharge plan to accept the individual back into the community, the state hospital or training center or the
89 community services board shall ask the Commissioner to review the state hospital's or training center's
90 determination that the individual is ready for discharge in accordance with procedures established by the
91 Department in collaboration with state hospitals, training centers, and community services boards. If the
92 Commissioner determines that the individual is ready for discharge, a discharge plan shall be developed by
93 the Department to ensure the availability of adequate services for the individual and the protection of the
94 community. The Commissioner also shall verify that sufficient state-controlled funds have been allocated to
95 the community services board through the performance contract. If sufficient state-controlled funds have been
96 allocated, the Commissioner may contract with a private provider, another community services board, or a
97 behavioral health authority to deliver the services specified in the discharge plan and withhold allocated funds
98 applicable to that individual's discharge plan from the community services board in accordance with
99 subsections C and E of § 37.2-508.

100 4. Provide information, if available, to all hospitals licensed pursuant to Article 1 (§ 32.1-123 et seq.) of
101 Chapter 5 of Title 32.1 about alcohol and substance abuse services available to minors.

102 B. The community services board may perform the functions set out in subdivision A 1 in the case of
103 children by referring them to the locality's family assessment and planning team and by cooperating with the
104 community policy and management team in the coordination of services for troubled youths and their
105 families. The community services board may involve the family assessment and planning team and the
106 community policy and management team, but it remains responsible for performing the functions set out in
107 subdivisions A 2 and A 3 in the case of children.