



AN ACT TO REQUIRE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR THE EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES

H.909/S.590 Rep. Balsler/Sen. Friedman

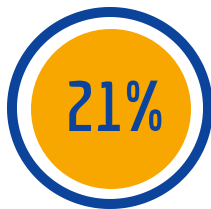
OVERVIEW

Emergency Services Providers (ESPs) are mobile teams of clinicians that provide behavioral health services to individuals in crisis in the community setting, offering a cost-effective alternative to emergency room visits. However, these services are currently only available to individuals with MassHealth and limited third party commercial insurance providers.

NAMI Massachusetts supports the legislation to address this disparity in accessibility by requiring all insurance providers to cover services by Emergency Service Providers.

THE NEED

Low Accessibility



Percent of MA population covered by MassHealth that qualify for ESP services

High Cost



How much more an inpatient behavioral health hospital stay costs vs. an ESP crisis stabilization bed

High Prevalence



Portion of US Emergency Department visits for behavioral health, including substance abuse

Long Wait Times



Behavioral health patients are significantly more likely to spend 12 or more hours in an ED awaiting services ("ED boarding")

Upward Trend



Percent increase in behavioral- health ED visits among Massachusetts residents from 2011 to 2016

THE SOLUTION

Increased accessibility to and utilization of ESPs will...

- ➔ Provide more direct access to behavioral health specialists trained in de-escalation techniques during times of crisis
- ➔ Allow clinicians to provide services out in the community and meet with people where they feel most comfortable
- ➔ Decrease the utilization of ER trips for behavioral health related visits and thus reduce the incidence of ED boarding and unnecessary spending
- ➔ Provide a crucial jail diversion resource and allow the opportunity for collaboration between clinicians and law enforcement to help people obtain care in the most appropriate setting



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Sources

- Massachusetts Health Policy Commission: Cost Trends Report 2018
- Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUPnet) 2014 & 2016
- MBHP Massachusetts Emergency Services Program Overview 2016
- American College of Emergency Physicians: Analysis of Emergency Department Length of Stay for Mental Health Patients at Ten Massachusetts Emergency Departments 2017

WHAT ARE ESPs? Emergency Service Providers

Goal Services

A primary goal of ESP/Mobile Crisis Interventions (MCIs) is to make emergency behavioral health services accessible in the community - offering viable service alternatives to hospital emergency departments (EDs)



- Behavioral health crisis assessment, intervention, and stabilization services (24/7/365)
- Onsite, face-to-face therapeutic response - solution-focused counseling
- Psychiatric consultation and urgent psychopharmacology intervention

Mission

To deliver high quality, culturally competent, clinical and cost-effective, integrated community-based behavioral health crisis assessment, intervention, and stabilization services that promote resiliency, rehabilitation, and recovery.

- Referrals and linkages to all medically necessary behavioral health services and supports
- Safety Plans developed in collaboration with patients behavioral health providers and/or supports