



ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Committee on Mental Health Thursday, December 17, 2019

Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 654 and allowing me to testify in favor of this legislation.

Currently, the Division of Community Corrections uses telehealth to provide mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision within Region 5. Assembly Bill 654 directs DOC to expand telehealth for mental health treatment to Regions 4, 6, and 8. Based on conversations with DOC, these regions were found to be the most in need of expanded telehealth services. This bill does not use GPR to fund the telehealth expansion and instead places the responsibility on DOC to fund these programs with internal sources. The cost for the expansion would be approximately \$135,000, based on a DOC budget and policy report.



Telehealth is especially beneficial in rural areas where there are fewer health care professionals available than their urban counterparts. Telehealth will assist offenders, by reducing travel time to medical appointments, while still providing them with necessary treatment.

Thank you for your time and attention and I ask that you support this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Division of Community Corrections Telehealth Proposal

The Division of Community Corrections (DCC) currently utilizes telehealth in Region 5 (northwest region of Wisconsin) to provide mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision. Telehealth allows for treatment of offenders without requiring the healthcare professional to physically be in the same location as the offender. This is particularly helpful in rural and urban areas where the number of healthcare professionals does not meet the treatment needs in the community. In addition, it reduces travel time for the offender which may assist the offender in maintaining employment and overcoming transportation as a barrier to treatment.

DCC Regions 8, 6, and 4 have been identified as areas with offenders who would most benefit from telemedicine.

Region 8 would require 14 telehealth units to provide service to locations around the region. The table below shows the geographic locations of the telehealth units.

Region 8 Locations	
Wisconsin Rapids	Green Lake
Stevens Point	Viroqua
La Crosse	Richland Center
Sparta	West Baraboo
Tomah	Portage
New Lisbon	Prairie du Chien
Adams	Dodgeville
Wautoma	Lancaster
Montello	Darlington

Region 6 would require 14 telehealth units to provide service to locations around the region. The table below shows the geographic locations of the telehealth units.

Region 6 Locations	
Medford	Ashland
Merrill	Hayward
Antigo	Phillips
Wausau	Lac du Flambeau
Marinette	Eagle River
Oconto	Rhineland
Shawano	Crandon

Region 4 would require 11 telehealth units to provide service to locations around the region. The table below shows the geographic locations of the telehealth units.

Region 4 Locations	
Sturgeon Bay	Neenah
Green Bay	Oshkosh
Oneida	Chilton
De Pere	Manitowoc
Waupaca	Appleton
Kewaunee	

Below are alternatives to purchase the telehealth machines, assuming the machines cost \$2,600 each and have a five year life cycle. The estimate also assumes there is no cost for the calls, which has been the case with current telehealth machines. The year two costs assume one-fifth of the replacement costs. Expansion into both regions could occur the same year or be divided into multiple years. It is assume the cost of the machines does not change based on number of machines purchased or when they are purchased.

Estimated Costs		
	Year 1	Year 2
Region 8	\$ 46,800	\$ 9,360
Region 6	\$ 36,400	\$ 7,280
Region 4	\$ 28,600	\$ 5,720
	\$ 111,800	\$ 22,360

About Community Corrections

The Division of Community Corrections (DCC) is charged with supervising more than 68,000 offenders placed by the courts on probation, parole or extended supervision in the community. *The mission of the Division of Community Corrections is to enhance public safety through the management and reduction of offender risk by providing supervision and collaboration with community partners to assist offenders to change their behavior and repair the harm they have done.*

Probation and parole agents supervise offenders daily in the community and also provide investigative services to the courts, the Division of Adult Institutions, and the Parole Commission to aid in sentencing and community reentry planning. Under limited circumstances, agents supervise juveniles released to aftercare programs and persons conditionally released from mental health facilities.

Probation means your supervision is community-based. Usually, as part of probation, the court orders you to do certain things or prohibit you from doing certain things that relate to the history of your crime, including but not limited to spending time in jail, paying restitution, attending treatment or education groups, or doing community service. Your agent has a copy of the court order and you should ask them about the court-ordered conditions of your probation, which cannot be changed by the agent.

Parole means that the Wisconsin Parole Commission has released you from prison and set your conditions of parole or you have been released from prison after reaching your mandatory release date.

Extended Supervision means that you have completed your prison sentence under the Truth in Sentencing law and now have a period of community supervision to complete. The judge determined the length of the extended supervision at the time of sentencing.

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 12/17/2019

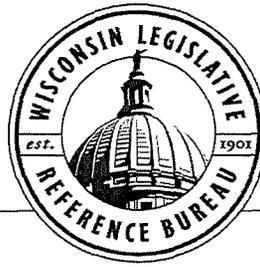
LRB Number 19-4446/1	Introduction Number AB-0654	Estimate Type Original
Description expanding telehealth mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the Department of Corrections to expand telehealth mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision in division of community corrections regions 4, 6, and 8.

Approximately 44 telehealth units would be required to provide mental health treatment via telehealth to Regions 4, 6, and 8. An individual telehealth unit for mental health treatment is estimated to cost \$2,600, each unit has a five year lifecycle. Implementing the expansion as directed by the bill would cost \$111,800 in the first year. The Department could absorb these costs with current resources, no additional funding would be required.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications



MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Rob Brooks
FROM: Ryan LeCloux, legislative analyst
DATE: November 15, 2019
SUBJECT: Wisconsin incarceration data

This memorandum contains the incarceration data that you requested, which includes the number of Wisconsin inmates released and the statewide rearrest rates, recidivism rates, and reincarceration rates for the last five years of available data. You asked for the reconviction rate; however, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) does not provide data on reconviction rates. Instead, the DOC provides data on recidivism rates, which the department defines as “a new offense resulting in a conviction and sentence to the WI DOC.”¹

Table: Wisconsin incarceration data

Year	Number of inmates released ²	3-year rearrest rate ³	3-year recidivism rate ⁴	Reincarceration rate ⁵
2011	8,831	56.0%	31.9%	37.1%
2012	8,594	56.5%	32.6%	36.5%
2013	8,823	57.3%	34.2%	37.4%
2014	8,726	57.1%	33.2%	37.3%
2015	8,599	57.6%	NA	38.0%

Please contact me if you would like more information pertaining to this subject. I can be reached at Ryan.LeCloux@legis.wisconsin.gov or 608-504-5820.

¹ Joseph R. Tatar II and Megan Jones, Recidivism after Release from Prison, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, August 2016, <https://doc.wi.gov/>.

² Prison Releases: 2000-2018, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Appendix B, August 2019, <https://doc.wi.gov/>.

³ Data provided by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Research and Policy Unit.

⁴ Data for 2013 and 2014 was provided by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Research and Policy Unit; Data for 2011 and 2012 is from: “Release from Prison Recidivism Dashboards,” Wisconsin Department of Corrections, <https://doc.wi.gov/>.

⁵ Data provided by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Research and Policy Unit.

Alberta Darling
Wisconsin State Senator
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Mental Health
Assembly Bill 654
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Thank you, Chairman Tittl and committee members for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 654. The legislation before you today will help connect mental health professionals to individuals on community supervision in need of services.

In recent years there has been a well-documented shortage of mental health professionals. This lack of trained service providers has touched every corner of our state. One way the industry has tried to adapt to the shortage is by offering mental health services via telehealth. By offering mental health services through telehealth, we reduce barriers to accessing mental health services particularly for those in rural communities

Currently the Division of Community Corrections, within the Department of Corrections, uses telehealth to provide mental health treatment to offenders under community supervision. Unfortunately, the scope is limited to DOC Region 5 which encompasses much of the northwestern part of the state.

AB 654 will expand the regions offering telehealth mental health services to those on community supervision within regions 4, 6, and 8. Through conversations with DOC, these regions were found to be the most in need of the expanded services. Providing treatment to these individuals will better equip them with the skills needed to reintegrate back into their communities. Regions 4 and 6 cover most of the north and northeast portions of our state, while region 8 spans southeastern Wisconsin.

I would like to thank Representatives Brooks and Schraa for their leadership on this issue. Thank you committee members for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 654, and I hope I can count on your support.



Assembly Bill 654
Public Testimony of Rep. David Bowen
December 17, 2019

Chairman Tittl and Members of the Assembly Committee on Mental Health,

Thank you for allowing me to testify on Assembly Bill 654 relating to expanding telehealth mental treatment to offenders under community supervision.

As the ranking member on the Assembly Committee on Corrections, I am always looking to find bipartisan legislative solutions to our current incarceration and supervision crises in Wisconsin. As a state, our incarcerated population is almost 25% more than what our system was designed to house, and about one out of every three people who are admitted to a state prison were on some form of community supervision. This means that many of the individuals who are released from prison end up returning.

One of the many issues facing this population is access to quality mental health and substance abuse programs. Underlying mental health issues can contribute to many of the reasons that an individual on community supervision can have their supervision revoked and thrown back in prison, often without committing a new crime, but by breaking one of the many rules they must adhere to while on supervision.

Expanding telehealth mental health treatment programs to the regions in Wisconsin that are most in need will provide valuable resources to this struggling population as they are released back into their communities. These expanded resources could be the difference between re-incarceration or successful reintegration as they work to piece their lives back together.

I want to thank Rep. Brooks, Rep. Schraa, Sen. Darling, and Sen. Feyen for working on this bill, and I look forward to continued conversations and legislation as we work together to address the problems in our criminal justice and corrections systems.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to testify today, and I hope to be able to vote for this bill on the Assembly floor this session.