

SENATE No. 584

By Mr. Rauschenbach, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 584) of Henri S. Rauschenbach, Eric Turkington and Therese Murray for legislation to establish accountable clubhouse projects in psychiatric rehabilitation. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABLE CLUBHOUSE PROJECTS IN PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION.

1 *Whereas*, The Department of Mental Health in Massachusetts
2 currently provides day/evening services and housing for mentally
3 ill persons who are in need of support but are capable of some
4 measure of self-sufficiency; and

5 *Whereas*, The Fountain House, a non-profit organization in
6 New York City, has developed a comprehensive community-
7 based program of psychiatric rehabilitation and of national club-
8 house training since its founding in 1948; and

9 *Whereas*, The Fountain House has been successful in reducing
10 the rehospitalization time of its patients who are members; and

11 *Whereas*, The Fountain House Model has been adopted by two
12 hundred and fifty rehabilitation programs in the United States and
13 twenty-two such programs in Massachusetts;

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 24 of Chapter 19 as most recently amended by
2 Section 12 of Chapter 23 of the Acts of 1984, is hereby further
3 amended by inserting after the third paragraph the following
4 paragraph: —

5 The Department shall authorize community support and
6 rehabilitation projects. Said programs shall be implemented in
7 each of the Departmental regions. These programs shall be known
8 as Fountain House Model projects and shall be funded
9 appropriately by the Department of Mental Health.

10 Said projects shall offer their outpatients some or all of the
11 opportunities exclusively for Department outpatients who are
12 recognized as people who are adult clubhouse members with a
13 primary diagnosis and history of sustained psychiatric disease,
14 consistent with the Department's *Policy 89-3* which defines
15 Department Priority Clients in terms of diagnosis and duration by
16 virtue of a major mental illness:

17 A day program of prevocational/social services: An opportunity
18 for mentally ill outpatients/members to work side by side with
19 clubhouse staff who are mental health professionals;

20 A Transitional Employment Placement (TEP) program;
21 pre-vocational "unite" services; housing assistance including the
22 development of a clubhouse supported apartment program for
23 those members who cannot get adequate housing of their own;

24 An outreach program for members who prematurely terminate,
25 who return, and for rehospitalized patients; and

26 An evening and weekend social-recreational program.

27 Said projects shall adopt the principles of the "Community
28 Support Clubhouse Model" developed by Fountain House,
29 namely:

30 That all men and women, including Chronically Mentally Ill
31 persons, require opportunities to live independently, to contribute
32 and feel useful, to gather socially, and to raise their level of
33 personal participation in the community at large;

34 That the most severely psychiatrically disabled person is capa-
35 ble of productive activity;

36 That work and the opportunity to aspire to independent employ-
37 ment is a central ingredient in the development of this personal
38 productivity;

39 That the opportunity to "succeed" or to "fail" is necessary for
40 the recovery, personal choice, and growth of members; and that
41 the clubhouse environment which provides these opportunities for
42 growth also provides guaranteed long-term support so that the
43 person will not be abandoned.

44 The Executive Director of each awardee, staff/employees, and
45 members assigned in critical positions shall be trained at either
46 Fountain House in New York City or one of their designated
47 Certified Training Bases for advice and training in the develop-
48 ment and implementation of these projects.

49 “Each of the projects shall be a non-profit corporation governed
50 by a separate board or, if said project is affiliated with a spon-
51 soring agency, the program shall have a separate citizen advisory
52 board. Each board shall adopt appropriate bylaws and articles of
53 organization. Voting membership of each corporation shall consist
54 of their respective governing boards.

55 The board structure shall allow for significant participation by
56 clubhouse members, other individuals who have experienced
57 mental illness and family members. Other board members shall be
58 selected from professions useful to the oversight of the clubhouse
59 project including but not limited to law, accounting, psychiatry,
60 education, philanthropy, banking, and business. Further, board
61 members shall reside in the region served by their respective
62 programs.”

