

SENATE No. 620

By Mr. Rauschenbach, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 620) of Henri S. Rauschenbach, Shirley Gomes, Therese Murray and Brian P. Lees for legislation relative to clubhouse projects in psychiatric rehabilitation. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CLUBHOUSE PROJECTS IN PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION.

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 1. The General Court hereby finds that:

2 a) The Department of Mental Health currently provides day
3 and evening services and housing for persons diagnosed with
4 long-term or serious mental illness who are in need of support but
5 are capable of some measure of self-sufficiency.

6 b) The Fountain House, a non-profit organization in New York
7 City, has developed a comprehensive community-based program
8 of psychiatric rehabilitation and of national clubhouse training
9 since its founding in 1948.

10 c) The Fountain House has been successful in reducing the
11 rehospitalization of its patients who are members.

12 d) The Fountain House model has been adopted by two hundred
13 and fifty rehabilitation programs in the United States and twenty-
14 two such programs in Massachusetts.

15 e) The Department of Mental Health supports the clubhouse
16 model which provides some or all of the following:

- 17 1) A day program of pre-vocational social services;
- 18 2) An opportunity for mentally ill individuals to work side
19 by side with clubhouse staff who are mental health professionals;
- 20 3) A Transitional Employment Placement (TEP) program;
- 21 4) Pre-vocational "unit" services;
- 22 5) An outreach program for members who prematurely
23 terminate from the clubhouse and for hospitalized patients;

24 6) An evening and weekend social-recreational program; and
25 7) Housing assistance including development of a clubhouse-
26 supported apartment program for those members who cannot
27 obtain adequate housing on their own.

28 f) The Department of Mental Health has developed standards
29 for the community-support clubhouse model, which are largely
30 based on the Fountain House model and which include the above
31 components and the following criteria and principles:

32 1) That all clubhouse program directors, staff and members
33 assigned in critical positions receive training at Fountain House
34 designated training sites or such other training programs as are
35 approved by the department;

36 2) That all clubhouse programs have a citizen advisory board
37 drawn from residents of the area served by the clubhouse, the
38 composition of which includes significant participation by club
39 house members, other individuals who have experienced mental
40 illness, and family members and participation by representatives
41 of professions useful to the operation of the clubhouse, such as
42 law, accounting, psychiatry, education, philanthropy, banking and
43 business;

44 3) That all men and women, including chronically mentally
45 ill persons, require opportunities to live independently, to con-
46 tribute and feel useful, to gather socially, and to raise their level of
47 personal participation in the community at large;

48 4) That the most severely psychiatrically disabled person is
49 capable of productive activity;

50 5) That work and the opportunity to aspire to independent
51 employment is a central ingredient in the development of this per-
52 sonal productivity; and

53 6) That the opportunity to “succeed” or to “fail” is neces-
54 sary for the recovery, personal choice, and growth of members,
55 and the clubhouse environment which provides these opportuni-
56 ties for growth also provides long-term support so that the person
57 will not be abandoned.

1 SECTION 2. Section 16 of chapter 19 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1992 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out, in line 10, the word “and”.

1 SECTION 3. Said section 16 of said chapter 19, as so appear-
2 ing, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “community”
3 in line 12, the following words:— ; and (h) day and evening serv-
4 ices, including but not limited to community-support clubhouses.

