

REFERENCE TITLE: mental health; residential treatment

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1573

Introduced by
Senators Hatathlie: Kuby, Ortiz

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 36-550.05, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT SYSTEM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 36-550.05, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 36-550.05. Community mental health residential treatment
5 services and facilities; discharge; prevention
6 services

7 A. A residential or day treatment facility shall be designed to
8 provide a homelike environment without sacrificing safety or care.
9 Facilities shall be relatively small, with preferably fifteen or fewer
10 beds.

11 B. Individual programs of a community residential treatment system
12 shall include the following:

13 1. A short-term crisis residential treatment program. This program
14 is an alternative to hospitalization for persons in an acute episode or
15 situational crisis requiring temporary removal from the home from one to
16 fourteen days. The program shall provide admission capability twenty-four
17 hours a day, seven days a week in the least restrictive setting possible
18 to reduce the crisis and stabilize the client. Services shall include
19 direct work with the client's family, linkage with prevocational and
20 vocational programs, assistance in applying for income, medical and other
21 benefits and treatment referral.

22 2. A residential treatment program. This program shall provide a
23 full-day treatment program for persons who may require intensive support
24 ~~for a maximum of two years~~. The program shall provide rehabilitation for
25 chronic clients who need long-term support to develop independence and for
26 clients who live marginally in the community with little or no support and
27 periodically need rehospitalization. **AN INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
28 **FACILITY MAY NOT DISCHARGE A CLIENT WHO IS DETERMINED TO NEED PLACEMENT IN**
29 **A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM UNTIL A SUITABLE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT**
30 **PROGRAM THAT ACCEPTS THE CLIENT FOR TREATMENT IS PROVIDED.** Services shall
31 include intensive diagnostic evaluation, a full-day treatment program with
32 prevocational, vocational and special education services, outreach to
33 social services and counseling to assist the client in developing skills
34 to move toward a less structured setting.

35 3. A secure behavioral health residential facility program. This
36 program shall provide secure twenty-four-hour on-site supportive treatment
37 and supervision by staff with behavioral health training only to persons
38 who have been determined to be seriously mentally ill and chronically
39 resistant to treatment pursuant to a court order issued pursuant to
40 section 36-550.09.

41 4. A semisupervised, structured group living program. This program
42 is a cooperative arrangement in which three to five persons live together
43 in apartments or houses as a transition to independent living. The
44 program shall provide an increase in the level of the client's
45 responsibility for the functioning of the household and an increase in the
46 client's involvement in daytime activities outside the house or apartment

1 that are relevant to achieving personal goals and greater
2 self-sufficiency. Services provided by the program shall include
3 counseling and client self-assessment, the development of support systems
4 in the community, a day program to encourage participation in the larger
5 community, activities to encourage socialization and use of general
6 community resources, rent subsidy and direct linkages to staff support in
7 emergencies.

8 5. A socialization or day care/partial care program. This program
9 shall provide regular daytime, evening and weekend activities for persons
10 who require long-term structured support but who do not receive such
11 services in their residential setting. The program shall provide support
12 for persons who only need regular socialization opportunities and referral
13 to social services or treatment services. The program shall provide
14 opportunities to develop skills to achieve more independent functioning
15 and means to reduce social isolation. Services shall include outings,
16 recreational activities, cultural events and contact with community
17 resources, such as prevocational counseling and life skills training.

18 C. Individual and family support prevention services shall provide
19 assistance to the seriously mentally ill residing in their own home. Such
20 prevention services shall include transportation, recreation,
21 socialization, counseling, respite, companion services and in-home
22 training.

23 D. Each individual program shall use appropriate multidisciplinary
24 staff to meet the diagnostic and treatment needs of the seriously mentally
25 ill and shall encourage use of paraprofessionals.

26 E. Each program shall have an evaluation method to assess the
27 effectiveness of the programs and shall include the following criteria:

28 1. Prevalence and incidence of the target behavioral problem.

29 2. Cost effectiveness.

30 3. Potential for implementing the program using available monies
31 and resources through cost-sharing.

32 4. Measurability of the benefits.

33 5. Effectiveness of intervention strategy.

34 6. Availability of resources and personnel.

35 F. Each community residential treatment system shall be designed to
36 provide:

37 1. Coordination between each program and other treatment systems in
38 the community.

39 2. A case management system to enhance cooperation of elements
40 within the system and provide each client with appropriate services.

41 3. Client movement to the most appropriate and least restrictive
42 service.

43 4. Direct referral of clients for specific programs that does not
44 require the client to pass through the entire system to reach the most
45 appropriate service.