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S.B. No. 452

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prevention and early intervention programs and practices.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 264.201(d), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The services may include in-home programs, parenting skills training, youth coping skills, and individual and family counseling. If the department requires or a court orders parenting skills training services through a parenting education program or practice, the program or practice must be an evidence-based program or practice, promising [~~practice parenting education~~] program or practice, or evidence-informed program or practice described by Section 265.151 that is provided in the community in which the family resides, if available.

SECTION 2. Section 265.004(a-1), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) The department shall ensure that not less than 75 percent of the money appropriated for home visitation programs and parenting education programs under Subsection (a) funds evidence-based programs or practices described by Section 265.151(b) and that the remainder of that money funds promising [~~practice~~] programs or practices described by Section 265.151(c) or evidence-informed programs or practices described by Section

1 [265.151](#)(d).

2 SECTION 3. The heading to Subchapter D, Chapter [265](#), Family
3 Code, is amended to read as follows:

4 SUBCHAPTER D. EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES [~~PARENTING~~
5 ~~EDUCATION~~]

6 SECTION 4. The heading to Section [265.151](#), Family Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 265.151. REQUIREMENTS FOR [~~PARENTING—EDUCATION~~]
9 PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES ON EVIDENCE-BASED SPECTRUM.

10 SECTION 5. Section [265.151](#), Family Code, is amended by
11 amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read
12 as follows:

13 (b) An evidence-based program or practice is a [~~parenting~~
14 ~~education~~] program or practice that:

15 (1) is research-based and grounded in relevant,
16 empirical knowledge and program-determined outcomes;

17 (2) has comprehensive standards ensuring the highest
18 quality service delivery with continuous improvement in the quality
19 of service delivery;

20 (3) has demonstrated significant positive [~~short-term~~
21 ~~and long-term~~] outcomes;

22 (4) is listed as an evidence-based program or practice
23 by a nationally recognized clearinghouse associated with a state or
24 federal agency or an institution of higher education or, during the
25 preceding 10 years, has been subject to at least two external
26 evaluations that showed positive results and were published in
27 peer-reviewed literature [~~has been evaluated by at least one~~

1 ~~rigorous, random, controlled research trial across heterogeneous~~
2 ~~populations or communities with research results that have been~~
3 ~~published in a peer-reviewed journal];~~

4 (5) substantially complies with a program or practice
5 manual or design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration,
6 and frequency of the program or practice services; ~~and]~~

7 (6) employs well-trained and competent staff and
8 provides continual relevant professional development opportunities
9 to the staff;

10 (7) is associated with a national organization,
11 institution of higher education, or national or state public health
12 institute; and

13 (8) demonstrates substantial connections to other
14 community-based services.

15 (c) A promising [~~practice~~] program or practice is a
16 [~~parenting education~~] program or practice that:

17 (1) has an active impact evaluation of the program or
18 practice or demonstrates a schedule for implementing an active
19 impact evaluation of the program or practice;

20 (2) is listed as a promising program or practice by a
21 nationally recognized clearinghouse associated with a state or
22 federal agency or an institution of higher education or, during the
23 preceding 10 years, has been subject to an external evaluation that
24 showed positive results and was published in peer-reviewed
25 literature [~~has been evaluated by at least one outcome-based study~~
26 ~~demonstrating effectiveness or random, controlled trial in a~~
27 ~~homogeneous sample];~~

1 (3) substantially complies with a program or practice
2 manual or design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration,
3 and frequency of the program or practice services;

4 (4) employs well-trained and competent staff and
5 provides continual relevant professional development opportunities
6 to the staff; ~~and~~

7 (5) is research-based and grounded in relevant,
8 empirical knowledge and program- or practice-determined
9 ~~[program-determined]~~ outcomes; and

10 (6) demonstrates substantial connections to other
11 community-based services.

12 (d) An evidence-informed program or practice is a program or
13 practice that:

14 (1) combines well-researched interventions with
15 clinical experience and ethics, and client preferences and culture,
16 to guide and inform the delivery of treatments and services;

17 (2) has an active impact evaluation of the program or
18 practice or demonstrates a schedule for implementing an active
19 impact evaluation of the program or practice;

20 (3) substantially complies with a program or practice
21 manual or design that specifies the purpose, outcome, duration, and
22 frequency of the program or practice services; and

23 (4) employs well-trained and competent staff and
24 provides continual relevant professional development opportunities
25 to the staff.

26 SECTION 6. Section [265.152](#), Family Code, is amended to read
27 as follows:

1 Sec. 265.152. OUTCOMES OF EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION AND
2 EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES [~~PARENTING EDUCATION~~].

3 The department shall ensure that a prevention and early
4 intervention [~~parenting education~~] program or practice provided
5 under this subchapter [~~chapter~~] achieves favorable behavioral
6 outcomes in at least two of the following areas:

7 (1) improved cognitive development of children;

8 (2) increased [~~school~~] readiness for and
9 participation and performance in school [~~of children~~];

10 (3) reduced child abuse, neglect, and injury;

11 (4) improved child safety;

12 (5) improved social-emotional development of children
13 and youth;

14 (6) increased protective factors [~~improved parenting~~
15 ~~skills~~], including nurturing, [~~and~~] bonding, and other parenting
16 skills;

17 (7) improved family economic self-sufficiency;

18 (8) reduced parental or youth involvement with the
19 criminal justice system; [~~and~~]

20 (9) increased paternal involvement and support;

21 (10) improved maternal and child health; and

22 (11) increased protective factors for children and
23 youth.

24 SECTION 7. Section 265.153, Family Code, is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 Sec. 265.153. EVALUATION OF PREVENTION AND EARLY
27 INTERVENTION PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES [~~EVIDENCE-BASED PARENTING~~]

1 ~~EDUCATION~~]. (a) The department shall adopt outcome indicators to
2 measure the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention
3 ~~[parenting education]~~ programs and practices provided under this
4 subchapter ~~[chapter]~~ in achieving desired outcomes.

5 (b) The department may work directly with the model
6 developer of a prevention and early intervention ~~[parenting~~
7 ~~education]~~ program or practice to identify appropriate outcome
8 indicators for the program or practice and to ensure that the
9 program or practice substantially complies with the model.

10 (c) The department shall develop internal processes to
11 share information with prevention and early intervention service
12 providers ~~[parenting education programs]~~ to assist the department
13 in analyzing the performance of the programs or practices.

14 (d) The department shall use information obtained under
15 this section to:

16 (1) monitor prevention and early intervention
17 ~~[parenting education]~~ programs and practices;

18 (2) continually improve the quality of the programs
19 and practices; and

20 (3) evaluate the effectiveness of the programs and
21 practices.

22 SECTION 8. Section 265.154, Family Code, is amended to read
23 as follows:

24 Sec. 265.154. REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE. (a) Not later than
25 December 1 of each even-numbered year, the department shall prepare
26 and submit a report on state-funded prevention and early
27 intervention ~~[parenting education]~~ programs and practices to the

1 standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with
2 jurisdiction over child protective services.

3 (b) A report submitted under this section must include:

4 (1) a description of the prevention and early
5 intervention [~~parenting—education~~] programs and practices
6 implemented and of the models associated with the programs and
7 practices;

8 (2) information on the families served by the programs
9 and practices, including the number of families served and their
10 demographic information;

11 (3) the goals and achieved outcomes of the implemented
12 programs and practices;

13 (4) information on the cost for each family served,
14 including any available third-party return-on-investment analysis;
15 and

16 (5) information explaining the percentage of money
17 spent on evidence-based programs and practices, on promising
18 [~~practice~~] programs and practices, and on evidence-informed
19 programs and practices.

20 SECTION 9. Section 265.151(a), Family Code, is repealed.

21 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.