

By: Farabee

H.B. No. 799

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing temporary community-based therapeutic foster care for certain children.

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

SECTION 1. Section 534.053, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 534.053. REQUIRED COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES. (a) In this section, "therapeutic foster care" means 24-hour living arrangements with trained foster parents for a child who is temporarily unable to live with the child's parent or other primary caregiver, and specialized treatment and services that may include training for the parent or other primary caregiver, training and support for foster parents, crisis management services, and individual, group, and family counseling.

(b) The department shall ensure that, at a minimum, the following services are available in each service area:

(1) 24-hour emergency screening and rapid crisis stabilization services;

(2) community-based crisis residential services or hospitalization;

(3) community-based assessments, including the development of interdisciplinary treatment plans and diagnosis and evaluation services;

(4) family support services, including respite care;

(5) case management services;

(6) medication-related services, including medication clinics, laboratory monitoring, medication education, mental health maintenance education, and the provision of medication; ~~and~~

(7) psychosocial rehabilitation programs, including social support activities, independent living skills, and vocational training; and

(8) therapeutic foster care for a child for whom the parent-child relationship has not been terminated.

(c) ~~(b)~~ The department shall arrange for appropriate community-based services, including the assignment of a case manager, to be available in each service area for each person discharged from a department facility who is in need of care.

(d) ~~(c)~~ To the extent that resources are available, the department shall:

(1) ensure that the services listed in this section are available for children, including adolescents, and ~~[as well as]~~ adults~~[,]~~ in each service area;

(2) emphasize early intervention services for children, including adolescents, who meet the department's definition of being at high risk of developing severe emotional disturbances or severe mental illnesses; and

(3) ensure that services listed in this section are available for defendants required to submit to mental health treatment under Article 17.032 or Section 5(a) or 11(d), Article 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure.

1           SECTION 2.   This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.