

Amend CSSB 6, in Article 1 of the bill, by adding the following appropriately numbered section to the article and renumbering the remaining sections of the article as appropriate:

SECTION 1.____. Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. FAMILY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

Sec. 264.801. FAMILY DRUG COURT PROGRAM DEFINED. In this subchapter, "family drug court program" means a program that has the following essential characteristics:

(1) the integration of substance abuse treatment services in the processing of civil cases in the child welfare system with the goal of family reunification;

(2) the use of a comprehensive case management approach involving department caseworkers, court-appointed case managers, and court-appointed special advocates to rehabilitate a parent who has had a child removed from the parent's care by the department because of suspected child abuse or neglect and who is suspected of substance abuse;

(3) early identification and prompt placement of eligible parents who volunteer to participate in the program;

(4) comprehensive substance abuse needs assessment and referral to an appropriate substance abuse treatment agency;

(5) a progressive treatment approach with specific requirements that a parent must meet to advance to the next phase of the program;

(6) monitoring of abstinence through periodic alcohol or other drug testing;

(7) ongoing judicial interaction with program participants;

(8) monitoring and evaluation of program goals and effectiveness;

(9) continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective program planning, implementation, and operations; and

(10) development of partnerships with public agencies and community organizations.

Sec. 264.802. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM. The commissioners court of a county may establish a family drug court

program for persons who:

(1) have had a child removed from their care by the department; and

(2) are suspected by the department or a court of having a substance abuse problem.

Sec. 264.803. OVERSIGHT. (a) The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives may assign to appropriate legislative committees duties relating to the oversight of family drug court programs established under this subchapter.

(b) A legislative committee or the governor may request the state auditor to perform a management, operations, or financial or accounting audit of a family drug court program established under this subchapter.

Sec. 264.804. PARTICIPANT PAYMENT FOR TREATMENT AND SERVICES. A family drug court program may require a participant to pay the cost of all treatment and services received while participating in the program, based on the participant's ability to pay.

Sec. 264.805. FUNDING. A county creating a family drug court under this chapter shall explore the possibility of using court improvement project funds to finance the family drug court in the county. The county shall also explore the availability of federal and state matching funds to finance the court.