



FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. _____

BY: Menéndez

1 Amend H.B. No. 1324 on third reading by adding the
2 following appropriately numbered SECTION and renumbering
3 subsequent SECTIONS accordingly:

4 SECTION _____. (a) The Department of State Health Services
5 shall establish a cross-system coordinated behavioral health
6 intervention pilot project for children in Bexar County who may
7 have a mental disability or participate in disciplinary
8 alternative education programs.

9 (b) In implementing the pilot project, the department
10 shall require a local mental health authority serving Bexar
11 County to:

12 (1) enter into a memorandum of understanding or other
13 agreement with state and local agencies that work directly with
14 children, including the Department of State Health Services, the
15 Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas Youth
16 Commission, and the Texas Education Agency, to:

17 (A) permit cross-system collaboration in the
18 provision of uniform early intervention behavioral health
19 assessments to children; and

20 (B) to the extent allowed by other law, identify
21 children in the educational, juvenile justice, and child
22 protective services systems who have or are at risk of
23 developing mental health or substance abuse problems, divert the
24 children to integrated systems of care services, and reduce
25 cross-system gaps or inefficiencies in the provision of care;

26 (2) develop, in collaboration with the state and
27 local agencies, a best practices plan regarding:

28 (A) cross-system informed consent and
29 confidentiality practices;

1 (B) uniform behavioral health screening for
2 children;

3 (C) uniform referral processes between systems
4 and agencies related to behavioral health services;

5 (D) the delivery of early intervention and
6 treatment services; and

7 (E) an information exchange process between
8 agencies to facilitate faster identification and assessment of
9 behavioral health problems and integrate service delivery;

10 (3) identify outcome measures that may be used to
11 measure the efficiency of cross-system coordination; and

12 (4) ensure that an extensive listing of providers is
13 available for children and their families, including information
14 regarding the services offered and the behavioral health issues
15 addressed by the provider.

16 (c) The department may use funds for crisis prevention
17 programs in collaboration with funds from local authorities,
18 including school districts and criminal justice agencies, to
19 implement the pilot project.

20 (d) Not later than December 1, 2008, the local mental
21 health authority involved in the pilot project shall submit a
22 report to the department regarding the cross-system coordinated
23 behavioral health intervention pilot project, including:

24 (1) a comprehensive analysis of the efficacy of the
25 project; and

26 (2) the local authority's findings and
27 recommendations.

28 (e) This section expires September 1, 2009.