

By: Delisi

H.B. No. 940

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing behavioral health services and the Mental Health Transformation Project.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 531.093 through 531.097 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.093. DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER REGARDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. (a) The executive commissioner, in support of Mental Health Transformation Project efforts, shall implement programs and policies that recognize the importance of early intervention and recovery in treating behavioral health conditions.

(b) In implementing programs required by Subsection (a), the executive commissioner shall address any disparity for racial and ethnic groups in the type of behavioral health services provided and in the availability of those services. The executive commissioner shall implement methods to reduce that disparity and identify interagency initiatives that reduce that disparity.

(c) The executive commissioner shall:

(1) develop a comprehensive recovery culture through:

(A) education and networking initiatives at state and local levels; and

(B) the development of recovery-based patient

1 and family education and disease management opportunities and
2 appropriate materials for behavioral health patients, family
3 members of patients, and mental health organizations;

4 (2) develop and coordinate uniform standards,
5 processes, data, and contracting requirements for behavioral
6 health services that reflect early intervention and recovery as
7 goals;

8 (3) develop methods to share information among state
9 agencies participating in Mental Health Transformation Project
10 efforts to ensure that state agencies have access to the same
11 information and to eliminate duplication of duties and services;

12 (4) support the use of new technologies and the
13 implementation of information sharing mechanisms at the local
14 community level;

15 (5) implement behavioral health peer support programs
16 across the state;

17 (6) develop partnership models with behavioral health
18 patients, their family members, behavioral health consumer groups,
19 and behavioral health service providers at the state and local
20 levels;

21 (7) collaborate with universities and community
22 colleges to develop appropriate training programs for behavioral
23 health professionals that reflect current evidence-based best
24 practices and expand the use of new technologies to promote
25 long-distance learning initiatives to include opportunities for
26 continuing education in behavioral health;

27 (8) consult with the professional licensing and

1 credentialing organizations with a role in behavioral health to
2 share information on current evidence-based behavioral health
3 practices to facilitate licensing and professional credentialing
4 standards that reflect current best practices; and

5 (9) develop evidence-based programs to better assist a
6 person with behavioral health issues in obtaining both an education
7 and employment in the person's community to facilitate sustained
8 recovery.

9 Sec. 531.094. MENTAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION WORKGROUP. (a)
10 In this section, "workgroup" means the mental health transformation
11 workgroup.

12 (b) The workgroup shall:

13 (1) develop and assess screening tools and models for
14 early detection of behavioral health problems;

15 (2) develop interagency behavioral health information
16 sharing protocols and coordination requirements that will achieve
17 efficient and effective care of behavioral health patients;

18 (3) develop common metrics and outcome measures for
19 behavioral health interventions;

20 (4) develop a common method for state agencies to
21 measure the outcome of behavioral health interventions; and

22 (5) develop recommendations for participation in
23 federal and state initiatives to ensure that behavioral health
24 services are adequately reflected in electronic health records
25 initiatives.

26 (c) Not later than December 1, 2008, the workgroup shall
27 present to the Texas Legislature:

1 (1) a status report on current efforts and
2 recommendations regarding the development of standard definitions,
3 training, and contracting requirements for behavioral health
4 services;

5 (2) information on the return on investment to the
6 state of the state's investment in providing behavioral health
7 services in emergency rooms, adult and child protective services,
8 and in the adult and juvenile justice systems;

9 (3) an assessment of the effect of the use of
10 coordinated behavioral health interventions on average daily
11 attendance in public schools as provided by Section 42.005,
12 Education Code, and graduation rates; and

13 (4) an analysis of the progress made with the state's
14 mental health transformation goals.

15 (d) This section expires on December 31, 2012, unless
16 reauthorized by the legislature.

17 Sec. 531.095. AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN MENTAL HEALTH
18 TRANSFORMATION EFFORTS. (a) In this section, "agencies
19 participating in Mental Health Transformation efforts" means any
20 agency the governor designates as a participating agency in the
21 Mental Health Transformation Project. The governor shall appoint
22 the members of the mental health transformation workgroup and
23 designate a lead agency to oversee the Mental Health Transformation
24 Project. The governor may make additional appointments to the
25 workgroup from other governmental entities and private sector
26 stakeholders as may be needed to oversee the implementation of the
27 Mental Health Transformation Project.

1 (b) Participating agencies shall work in coordination with
2 the mental health transformation workgroup.

3 Sec. 531.096. INTERVENTION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS. To
4 combat mental illness occurring in children and adolescents as
5 early as possible, to minimize poor school outcomes, and to improve
6 academic and vocational opportunities, the executive commissioner
7 in collaboration with the commissioner of education shall:

8 (1) assess the availability and adequacy of
9 school-based behavioral health services and the assistance
10 provided to schools and children who exhibit a clear indication of
11 risk for referral to disciplinary classrooms or other behavioral
12 referrals, juvenile justice involvement, or other actions by
13 community-based mental health and substance abuse prevention and
14 treatment services; and

15 (2) build on initiatives regarding early childhood
16 intervention for children and adolescents by using a system of care
17 approach and by building a population-based, early intervention
18 approach for identified high risk children and adolescents.

19 Sec. 531.097. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

20 (a) In this section:

21 (1) "Telehealth service" has the meaning assigned by
22 Section 57.042, Utilities Code.

23 (2) "Telemedicine medical service" has the meaning
24 assigned by Section 57.042, Utilities Code.

25 (b) The executive commissioner may:

26 (1) implement programs that use telemedicine medical
27 services and new technologies in rural areas to increase the

1 quality of and access to behavioral health care;

2 (2) develop initiatives and programs that address the
3 shortage of behavioral health professionals in rural areas,
4 including opportunities for cross-training and continuing
5 education;

6 (3) develop community behavioral health
7 collaboratives in the state, including in rural areas, that can
8 serve as prototypes for statewide transformation, using the
9 collaboratives to develop a strong commitment by broad-based
10 community leadership and to empower the community to address high
11 priority needs through collaborations among agencies that have
12 previously had limited or no working relationships; and

13 (4) address rural workforce development needs through
14 the use of telehealth services, videoconferencing, and other
15 technologies.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.