

Amend CSSB 7 (house committee printing) in ARTICLE 1 of the bill by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the ARTICLE and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the ARTICLE accordingly:

SECTION 1.____. (a) Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0525 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0525. PILOT PROJECT TO ESTABLISH COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS POINT FOR LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Aging and disability resource center" means a center established under the Aging and Disability Resource Center initiative funded in part by the federal Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(2) "Colocated long-term services and supports staff members" means:

(A) long-term services and supports staff members who are located in the same physical office; or

(B) long-term services and supports staff members who are not located in the same physical office but who work collaboratively through the use of the telephone or other technologies.

(3) "Department of Aging and Disability Services staff members" includes community services staff members of the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

(4) "Long-term services and supports" means long-term assistance or care provided to older persons and persons with physical disabilities through the Medicaid program or other programs. The term includes assistance or care provided through the following programs:

(A) the primary home care program;

(B) the community attendant services program;

(C) the community-based alternatives program;

(D) the day activity and health services program;

(E) the promoting independence program;

(F) a program funded through the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. Section 3001 et seq.);

(G) a community care program funded through Title

XX of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 301 et seq.);

(H) the in-home and family support program; and

(I) a nursing facility program.

(5) "Long-term services and supports staff" means:

(A) one or more of the commission's Medicaid eligibility determination staff members;

(B) one or more Department of Aging and Disability Services staff members; and

(C) one or more area agency on aging staff members.

(6) "Pilot project site" means a location in an area served by the pilot project established under this section where colocated long-term services and supports staff members work collaboratively to provide information and tentatively assess functional and financial eligibility to initiate long-term services and supports.

(7) "Tentative assessment of functional and financial eligibility" means an expedited preliminary screening of an applicant to determine Medicaid eligibility with the goal of initiating services within seven business days. The tentative assessment does not guarantee state payment for services.

(b) Subject to availability of funds appropriated by the legislature for this purpose, the commission shall develop and implement a pilot project to establish a comprehensive access point system for long-term services and supports in which colocated long-term services and supports staff members work in collaboration to provide all necessary services in connection with long-term services and supports from the intake process to the start of service delivery. The pilot project must require that, at a minimum, the staff members work collaboratively to:

(1) inform and educate older persons, persons with physical disabilities, and their family members and other caregivers about long-term services and supports for which they may qualify;

(2) screen older persons and persons with physical disabilities requesting long-term services and supports;

(3) provide a tentative assessment of functional and financial eligibility for older persons and persons with physical disabilities requesting long-term services and supports for which there are no interest lists; and

(4) make final determinations of eligibility for long-term services and supports.

(c) In developing and implementing the pilot project, the commission shall ensure that:

(1) the pilot project site has colocated long-term services and supports staff members who are located in the same physical office;

(2) the pilot project site serves as a comprehensive access point for older persons and persons with physical disabilities to obtain information about long-term services and supports for which they may qualify and access long-term services and supports in the site's service area;

(3) the pilot project site is designed and operated in accordance with best practices adopted by the executive commissioner after the commission reviews best practices for similar initiatives in other states and professional policy-based research describing best practices for successful initiatives;

(4) the colocated long-term services and supports staff members supporting the pilot project site include:

(A) one full-time commission staff member who determines eligibility for the Medicaid program and who:

(i) has full access to the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS);

(ii) has previously made Medicaid long-term care eligibility determinations; and

(iii) is dedicated primarily to making eligibility determinations for incoming clients at the site;

(B) sufficient Department of Aging and Disability Services staff members to carry out the tentative functional and financial eligibility and screening functions at the site;

(C) sufficient area agency on aging staff members to:

(i) assist with the performance of screening functions and service coordination for services funded under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. Section 3001 et seq.), such as meals programs; and

(ii) identify other locally funded and supported services that will enable older persons and persons with physical disabilities to continue to reside in the community to the extent reasonable; and

(D) any available staff members from local service agencies; and

(5) the colocated long-term services and supports staff members of the pilot project site:

(A) process intakes for long-term services and supports in person or by telephone or through the Internet;

(B) use a standardized screening tool to tentatively assess both functional and financial eligibility with the goal of initiating services within seven business days;

(C) closely coordinate with local hospital discharge planners and staff members of extended rehabilitation units of local hospitals and nursing homes; and

(D) inform persons about community-based services available in the area served by the pilot project.

(d) The pilot project must be implemented in a single county or a multicounty area, as determined by the commission. The pilot project site must be located within an aging and disability resource center service area. If the commission finds that there is no aging and disability resource center that is willing or able to accommodate a pilot project site on the date the pilot project is to be implemented, the pilot project site may be located at another appropriate location.

(e) Not later than January 31, 2013, the commission shall submit a report concerning the pilot project to the presiding officers of the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over health and human services. The report must:

(1) contain an evaluation of the operation of the pilot project;

(2) contain an evaluation of the pilot project's benefits for persons who received services;

(3) contain a calculation of the costs and cost savings that can be attributed to implementation of the pilot project;

(4) include a recommendation regarding adopting improved policies and procedures concerning long-term services and supports with statewide applicability, as determined from information obtained in operating the pilot project;

(5) include a recommendation regarding the feasibility of expanding the pilot project to other areas of this state or statewide; and

(6) contain the perspectives of service providers participating in the pilot project.

(f) This section expires September 1, 2015.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2011, the Health and Human Services Commission shall ensure that the pilot project site is in operation under the pilot project required by Section 531.0525, Government Code, as added by this section.