

By: Nelson, Van de Putte
(Gonzalez)

S.B. No. 219

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to health and mental health services for children in foster care and kinship care.

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

SECTION 1. Section 264.015, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 264.015. TRAINING. (a) The department shall include training in trauma-informed programs and services in any training the department provides to foster parents, adoptive parents, kinship caregivers, ~~and~~ department caseworkers, and department supervisors. The department shall pay for the training provided under this subsection ~~section~~ with gifts, donations, and grants and any federal money available through the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-351). The department shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of the training provided under this subsection to ensure progress toward a trauma-informed system of care.

(b) The department shall require department caseworkers and department supervisors to complete an annual refresher training course in trauma-informed programs and services.

(c) To the extent that resources are available, the department shall assist the following entities in developing training in trauma-informed programs and services and in locating money and other resources to assist the entities in providing

1 trauma-informed programs and services:

2 (1) court-appointed special advocate programs;

3 (2) children's advocacy centers;

4 (3) local community mental health centers created
5 under Section 534.001, Health and Safety Code; and

6 (4) domestic violence shelters.

7 SECTION 2. Section 531.0216, Government Code, is amended by
8 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

9 (c-1) The commission shall:

10 (1) explore opportunities to increase STAR Health
11 program providers' use of telemedicine medical services in
12 medically underserved areas of this state; and

13 (2) encourage STAR Health program providers to use
14 telemedicine medical services as appropriate.

15 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 533, Government Code, is
16 amended by adding Sections 533.0052 and 533.0053 to read as
17 follows:

18 Sec. 533.0052. STAR HEALTH PROGRAM: TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE
19 TRAINING. (a) A contract between a managed care organization and
20 the commission for the organization to provide health care services
21 to recipients under the STAR Health program must include a
22 requirement that trauma-informed care training be offered to each
23 contracted physician or provider.

24 (b) The commission shall encourage each managed care
25 organization providing health care services to recipients under the
26 STAR Health program to make training in post-traumatic stress
27 disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder available to

1 a contracted physician or provider within a reasonable time after
2 the date the physician or provider begins providing services under
3 the managed care plan.

4 Sec. 533.0053. COMPLIANCE WITH TEXAS HEALTH STEPS. The
5 commission shall encourage each managed care organization
6 providing health care services to a recipient under the STAR Health
7 program to ensure that the organization's network providers comply
8 with the regimen of care prescribed by the Texas Health Steps
9 program under Section 32.056, Human Resources Code, if applicable,
10 including the requirement to provide a mental health screening
11 during each of the recipient's Texas Health Steps medical exams
12 conducted by a network provider.

13 SECTION 4. (a) Subsection (a), Section 533.0052,
14 Government Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a contract
15 between the Health and Human Services Commission and a managed care
16 organization that is entered into or renewed on or after the
17 effective date of this Act.

18 (b) To the extent permitted by law or the terms of the
19 contract, the Health and Human Services Commission shall amend a
20 contract entered into before the effective date of this Act with a
21 managed care organization to require compliance with Subsection
22 (a), Section 533.0052, Government Code, as added by this Act.

23 SECTION 5. If before implementing any provision of this Act
24 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
25 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
26 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
27 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the

1 waiver or authorization is granted.

2 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.