

By: Harris, Van de Putte
(Truitt)

S.B. No. 717

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the purpose and duties of the Council on Children and Families.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 531.802, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The Council on Children and Families is established to:

(1) coordinate the state's health, education, and human services systems to ensure that children and families have access to needed services;

(2) improve coordination and efficiency in state agencies, advisory councils on issues affecting children, and local levels of service;

(3) prioritize and mobilize resources for children;
~~and~~

(4) facilitate an integrated approach to providing services for children and youth; and

(5) promote the sharing of information regarding children and their families among state agencies.

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 531.803, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The council shall:

(1) analyze the biennial legislative appropriations requests of members of the council for services provided to

1 children and their families and identify appropriations that,
2 through the coordination of members of the council, could be
3 modified in the next legislative appropriation request to eliminate
4 waste or increase available services and, not later than May 1 of
5 each even-numbered year, prepare a report recommending those
6 modifications for consideration during the development of the next
7 biennial legislative appropriations request;

8 (2) investigate opportunities to increase flexible
9 funding for health, education, and human services provided to
10 children and their families;

11 (3) identify methods to remove barriers to local
12 coordination of health, education, and human services provided to
13 children and their families;

14 (4) identify methods to ensure that children and youth
15 receive appropriate assessment, diagnoses, and intervention
16 services;

17 (5) develop methods to prevent unnecessary parental
18 relinquishment of custody of children;

19 (6) prioritize assisting children in family settings
20 rather than institutional settings; ~~and~~

21 (7) make recommendations about family involvement in
22 the provision and planning of health, education, and human services
23 for a child, including family partner and liaison models; and

24 (8) identify technological methods to ensure the
25 efficient and timely transfer of information among state agencies
26 providing health, education, and human services to children and
27 their families.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.