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H.B. No. 2887

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment and expansion of community
collaboratives by entities to provide services to and coordinate
the care of persons who are homeless, persons with mental illness,
and persons with substance abuse problems.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle I, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
by adding Chapter 539 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 539. COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES

Sec. 539.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the Department of State Health
Services.

(2) "Executive commissioner" means the executive
commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

Sec. 539.002. GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPANSION OF
COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES. (a) To the extent funds are
appropriated to the department for that purpose, the department
shall make grants to entities, including local governmental
entities, nonprofit community organizations, and faith-based
community organizations, to establish or expand community
collaboratives that bring the public and private sectors together
to provide services to and coordinate the care of persons who are
homeless, persons with mental illness, and persons with substance
abuse problems.

(b) The amount of a grant made to an entity by the department

1 under this section may not exceed \$7.5 million and, up to that
2 amount, shall be equal to the amount of money provided to the entity
3 from private funding sources for the establishment or expansion of
4 a community collaborative.

5 Sec. 539.003. ACCEPTABLE USES OF GRANT MONEY. An entity
6 shall use money received from a grant made by the department and
7 private funding sources for the establishment or expansion of a
8 community collaborative, provided that the collaborative must be
9 self-sustaining within seven years. Acceptable uses for the money
10 include:

11 (1) the development of the infrastructure of the
12 collaborative and the start-up costs of the collaborative;

13 (2) the establishment, operation, or maintenance of
14 other community service providers in the community served by the
15 collaborative, including intake centers, detoxification units,
16 sheltering centers for food, workforce training centers,
17 microbusinesses, and educational centers;

18 (3) the provision of clothing, hygiene products, and
19 medical services to and the arrangement of transitional and
20 permanent residential housing for persons served by the
21 collaborative;

22 (4) the provision of mental health services and
23 substance abuse treatment not readily available in the community
24 served by the collaborative;

25 (5) the provision of information, tools, and resource
26 referrals to assist persons served by the collaborative in
27 addressing the needs of their children; and

1 (6) the establishment and operation of coordinated
2 intake processes, including triage procedures, to protect the
3 public safety in the community served by the collaborative.

4 Sec. 539.004. ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES. (a)
5 If appropriate, an entity shall incorporate into the community
6 collaborative operated by the entity the use of the
7 department-operated Texas Electronic Registrar, transportation
8 plans, and case managers. An entity shall also consider
9 incorporating into a collaborative mentoring and volunteering
10 opportunities, strategies to assist homeless youth and homeless
11 families with children, strategies to reintegrate persons who were
12 recently incarcerated into the community, services for veterans,
13 and strategies for persons served by the collaborative to
14 participate in the planning, governance, and oversight of the
15 collaborative.

16 (b) The focus of a community collaborative shall be the
17 eventual successful transition of persons from receiving services
18 from the collaborative to becoming integrated into the community
19 served by the collaborative through community relationships and
20 family supports.

21 Sec. 539.005. OUTCOME MEASURES FOR COMMUNITY
22 COLLABORATIVES. Each entity that receives a grant from the
23 department to establish or expand a community collaborative shall
24 select at least four of the following outcome measures that the
25 entity will focus on meeting through the implementation and
26 operation of the collaborative:

27 (1) persons served by the collaborative will find

1 employment that results in those persons having incomes that are at
2 or above 100 percent of the federal poverty level;

3 (2) persons served by the collaborative will find
4 permanent housing;

5 (3) persons served by the collaborative will complete
6 alcohol or substance abuse programs;

7 (4) the collaborative will help start social
8 businesses in the community or engage in job creation, job
9 training, or other workforce development activities;

10 (5) there will be a decrease in the use of jail beds by
11 persons served by the collaborative;

12 (6) there will be a decrease in the need for emergency
13 care by persons served by the collaborative;

14 (7) there will be a decrease in the number of children
15 whose families lack adequate housing referred to the Department of
16 Family and Protective Services or a local entity responsible for
17 child welfare; and

18 (8) any other appropriate outcome measure that
19 measures whether a collaborative is meeting a specific need of the
20 community served by the collaborative and that is approved by the
21 department.

22 Sec. 539.006. ANNUAL REVIEW OF OUTCOME MEASURES. The
23 department shall contract with an independent third party to verify
24 annually whether a community collaborative is meeting the outcome
25 measures under Section 539.005 selected by the entity that operates
26 the collaborative.

27 Sec. 539.007. REDUCTION AND CESSATION OF FUNDING. The

1 department shall establish processes by which the department may
2 reduce or cease providing funding to an entity if the community
3 collaborative operated by the entity does not meet the outcome
4 measures selected by the entity for the collaborative under Section
5 539.005 or is not self-sustaining after seven years. The
6 department shall redistribute any funds withheld from an entity
7 under this section to other entities operating high-performing
8 collaboratives on a competitive basis.

9 Sec. 539.008. RULES. The executive commissioner shall
10 adopt any rules necessary to implement the community collaborative
11 grant program established under this chapter, including rules to
12 establish the requirements for an entity to be eligible to receive a
13 grant, the required elements of a community collaborative operated
14 by an entity, and permissible and prohibited uses of money received
15 by an entity from a grant made by the department under this chapter.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.