

By: Burkett

H.B. No. 1541

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to peer specialists, peer services, and the provision of those services under the medical assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0999 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0999. PEER SPECIALISTS. (a) With input from peer specialists, state-approved organizations that certify peer specialists, and other relevant stakeholders, the commission shall develop and the executive commissioner shall adopt:

(1) rules that establish two peer specialist types, one that provides services to persons with mental illness and one that provides services to persons with substance abuse problems;

(2) rules that establish certification and supervision requirements for each type of peer specialist;

(3) rules that define the scope of services that peer specialists may provide; and

(4) any other rules necessary to protect the health and safety of persons receiving peer services.

(b) The rules adopted under Subsection (a)(3) must include in the scope of services that peer specialists may provide:

(1) one-to-one support;

(2) advocacy;

(3) systems navigation;

1 (4) support group facilitation;

2 (5) transportation assistance;

3 (6) assistance in developing skills that promote
4 independence in the community;

5 (7) assistance in locating community supports;

6 (8) monitoring a person's progress toward the person's
7 achievement of a person-centered plan;

8 (9) resource connecting;

9 (10) staff, family, and community education;

10 (11) crisis intervention; and

11 (12) coordination of appointments.

12 SECTION 2. Section 32.024, Human Resources Code, is amended
13 by adding Subsections (nn) and (oo) to read as follows:

14 (nn) The department in its rules and standards governing the
15 scope of services provided under the medical assistance program
16 shall include peer support services provided by certified peer
17 specialists to the extent permitted by federal law.

18 (oo) The department shall establish a separate provider
19 type for peer specialists for purposes of enrollment as providers
20 of and reimbursement under the medical assistance program.

21 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
22 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
23 Services Commission shall adopt the rules required by Section
24 531.0999, Government Code, as added by this Act.

25 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date
26 of this Act, the Health and Human Services Commission shall
27 establish and implement a separate provider type for peer

1 specialists as required by Section 32.024(oo), Human Resources
2 Code, as added by this Act.

3 SECTION 5. If before implementing any provision of this Act
4 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
5 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
6 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
7 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
8 waiver or authorization is granted.

9 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.