

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 1873

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot project to evaluate the use of self-directed mental health services in the integrated Medicaid managed care system.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.085 to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.085. SELF-DIRECTED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PILOT PROJECT. (a) The commission and the department jointly shall develop and implement a four-year pilot project for self-directed mental health services in the integrated Medicaid managed care system to maximize patient choice and encourage personal responsibility for achieving recovery.

(b) To be eligible to participate in the pilot project, an individual must:

(1) be at least 18 years of age;
(2) have a serious mental illness, as defined by Section 1355.001, Insurance Code; and

(3) be receiving Medicaid rehabilitative services through a local mental health authority.

(c) Participation in the pilot project by an individual is voluntary, and the decision whether to participate may be made only by the individual or the individual's legally authorized representative.

1 (d) The commission and the department shall develop the
2 pilot project with input from relevant stakeholders, including
3 patients, advocates, Medicaid managed care organizations,
4 providers, and local mental health authorities.

5 (e) The pilot project as implemented must include:

6 (1) person-centered planning to assist each
7 participant in identifying recovery goals and the specific services
8 and supports needed to accomplish those goals;

9 (2) the development of an individualized budget for
10 each participant that is based on the goals identified in
11 Subdivision (1) and of which some percentage less than 50 may be
12 spent on nontraditional goods and services that the participant
13 generally would not receive as part of a package of outpatient
14 mental health services delivered through a local mental health
15 authority;

16 (3) guidelines for nontraditional goods and services
17 that may be purchased with a participant's individualized budget to
18 ensure that nontraditional goods and services purchased are
19 directly related to the participant's recovery goals;

20 (4) the option for a participant to use a life coach to
21 assist with:

22 (A) person-centered planning;

23 (B) budgeting;

24 (C) identifying and navigating community
25 services;

26 (D) recruiting, hiring, and releasing service
27 providers;

1 (E) crisis planning; and

2 (F) interactions with the fiscal intermediary
3 designated in accordance with Subdivision (7) and billing for goods
4 and services;

5 (5) specific qualifications for a life coach to be
6 eligible to provide services to a participant;

7 (6) the option for a participant to receive services
8 from a certified peer specialist;

9 (7) the designation of a fiscal intermediary who
10 provides financial management and billing support for the project;
11 and

12 (8) a plan for budget neutrality by the end of the
13 second year of the project.

14 (f) The commission and the department shall select the pilot
15 project site based on a competitive application process among the
16 local mental health authorities. Applications must include
17 evidence of significant patient and certified peer specialist
18 participation in the preparation of the application. The
19 commission and the department shall select as the pilot project
20 site an area of this state where the local mental health authority
21 and Medicaid managed care providers have a strong partnership and
22 where there is a high commitment to the success of the project.

23 (g) The commission and the department shall collect
24 information relating to the pilot project, including information
25 relating to recovery-focused outcome metrics and to the costs of
26 the project.

27 (h) Not later than one year after the date the pilot project

1 concludes, the commission and the department shall submit to the
2 legislature a report evaluating the pilot project, particularly
3 with regard to cost-effectiveness and recovery-focused outcomes.
4 In developing the report, the commission and the department shall
5 seek private funding and support to assist with the evaluation
6 process.

7 (i) The executive commissioner, with input from patients
8 receiving mental health services, certified peer specialists, and
9 other interested stakeholders, shall adopt rules necessary to
10 implement the pilot project developed under this section.

11 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
12 of this Act, the Health and Human Services Commission and the
13 Department of State Health Services shall begin developing and
14 implementing the pilot project under Section 1001.085, Health and
15 Safety Code, as added by this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.