

By: Burkett

H.B. No. 3094

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Prevention Advisory Board in the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 40.078 to read as follows:

Sec. 40.078. PREVENTION ADVISORY BOARD. (a) In this section, "board" means the Prevention Advisory Board.

(b) The board is established in the department to promote public awareness and make recommendations to the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of State Health Services, the department, the governor, and the legislature for changes to law, policy, and practices regarding:

(1) the prevention of child abuse and neglect;

(2) the development of a state strategy to promote child safety and well-being using enhanced data collection and analysis; and

(3) the expansion of evidence-based and promising practice programs, as those terms are described by Sections 531.983(b) and (c), Government Code.

(c) The board is composed of not more than 25 members, appointed as follows:

(1) one member appointed by the governor from the governor's staff;

1 (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor
2 from the lieutenant governor's staff;

3 (3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of
4 representatives from the speaker's staff;

5 (4) one staff member from the Senate Committee on
6 Health and Human Services;

7 (5) one staff member from the House Public Health
8 Committee; and

9 (6) any remaining members appointed by the
10 commissioner.

11 (d) The members appointed under Subsections (c)(1) through
12 (5) serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the board.

13 (e) In appointing members to the board, the commissioner
14 shall attempt to select individuals whose qualifications are not
15 already represented by existing members of the board. Board
16 members must include:

17 (1) a chair of a child fatality review team committee;

18 (2) a pediatrician;

19 (3) a judge;

20 (4) representatives of relevant state agencies;

21 (5) prosecutors who specialize in child abuse and
22 neglect;

23 (6) medical examiners;

24 (7) representatives of service providers to the
25 department; and

26 (8) policy experts in child abuse and neglect
27 prevention, community advocacy, or related fields.

1 (f) The board shall select a chair from among its members
2 and shall meet at least quarterly, with additional meetings called
3 by the chair as necessary.

4 (g) A vacancy on the board shall be filled in the same manner
5 as the original appointment.

6 (h) A member of the board is not entitled to compensation or
7 reimbursement of expenses incurred in performing board duties.

8 (i) The board may take testimony and receive evidence that
9 the board considers necessary to carry out the duties of the board.

10 (j) In developing the recommendations under Subsection (b),
11 the board shall collaborate with the prevention and early
12 intervention services division of the department to:

13 (1) use a public health approach by applying
14 population-based, universal, and targeted strategies for
15 prevention;

16 (2) consider the evidence-based and promising
17 practice programs for home visiting under Section 531.983,
18 Government Code, and parent education under Section 265.101, Family
19 Code, as added by Chapter 1257 (H.B. 2630), Acts of the 84th
20 Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, in structuring accountability
21 and evidence-based measures for child abuse and neglect fatality
22 prevention programming;

23 (3) maximize funding sources to expand prevention
24 programs, including federal and local government funds and private
25 funds; and

26 (4) research and make recommendations regarding the
27 training of external stakeholders, including the expansion of

1 mandated training for medical professionals, child-care workers,
2 educators, and higher education professionals with access to
3 minors, to improve the identification, recognition, reporting, and
4 prevention of child abuse and neglect.

5 (k) The board shall collaborate with the department and the
6 Department of State Health Services to develop and maintain a
7 database of the most effective state and national evidence-based or
8 promising practice programs that address child abuse and neglect
9 and the prevention of child abuse and neglect fatalities. The
10 database shall include the cost per family and a cost-benefit
11 analysis for each program.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.