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By:  Coleman H.B. No. 2080

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to family partners, family partner peer support 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 531.09993 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.09993.  FAMILY PARTNERS. (a) With input from family partners and the work group described by Subsection (b), the commission shall develop and the executive commissioner shall adopt:

(1)  rules that establish training requirements for family partners so that they are able to provide family partner peer support services to families or primary caregivers of children with a mental health disorder;

(2)  rules that establish certification and supervision requirements for family partners;

(3)  rules that define the scope of services that family partners may provide; and

(4)  rules that distinguish family partner peer support services from other services that a person must hold a license to provide.

(b)  The commission shall establish a stakeholder work group to provide input for the adoption of rules under Subsection (a). The work group is composed of the following persons appointed by the executive commissioner:

(1)  one representative of an organization that certifies family partners in this state;

(2)  three representatives of organizations that employ family partners;

(3)  one family partner who works in an urban area;

(4)  one family partner who works in a rural area;

(5)  one person who trains family partners;

(6)  three representatives of professional groups who supervise family partners;

(7)  to the extent possible, not more than three persons with personal experience in being the primary caregivers of children who received services for a mental health disorder; and

(8)  any other persons considered appropriate by the executive commissioner.

(c)  The executive commissioner shall appoint one member of the work group to serve as presiding officer.

(d)  The work group shall meet once every month.

(e)  The work group is automatically abolished on the adoption of rules under Subsection (a).

SECTION 2.  Section 32.024, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsection (mm) to read as follows:

(mm)  The commission in its rules and standards governing the scope of services provided under the medical assistance program shall include family partner peer support services provided by certified family partners as part of the treatment of children with a serious emotional disturbance to the extent permitted by federal law.

SECTION 3.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall:

(1)  adopt the rules required by Section 531.09993(a), Government Code, as added by this Act; and

(2)  appoint the members of the stakeholder work group established by Section 531.09993(b), Government Code, as added by this Act.

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

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.