86R3700 JG-D

By:  Kolkhorst S.B. No. 632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the composition of the governing bodies and the consultation policies of local mental health authorities with respect to sheriffs, their representatives, and local law enforcement agencies.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 533, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 533.0351 to read as follows:

Sec. 533.0351.  REQUIRED COMPOSITION OF LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY GOVERNING BODY. (a) If a local mental health authority has a governing body, the governing body must include as an ex officio nonvoting member a sheriff or a representative of a sheriff of a county in the local authority's service area. Except as provided by Subsection (b), the sheriff or representative described by this subsection serves as an ex officio member of the governing body for the duration of the sheriff's term in office.

(b)  If there are two or more counties in a local mental health authority's service area, the position of ex officio nonvoting member described by Subsection (a) must rotate among the sheriffs of those counties in the local authority's service area every two years.

(c)  If a local mental health authority does not have a governing body, the local authority shall consult with a sheriff or a representative of a sheriff of a county in the local authority's service area regarding the use of the funds received under Section 533.035(b).

SECTION 2.  Section 533.0352(d), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  In developing the local service area plan, the local mental health authority shall:

(1)  solicit information regarding community needs from:

(A)  representatives of the local community;

(B)  consumers of community-based mental health services and members of the families of those consumers; [~~and~~]

(C)  local law enforcement agencies; and

(D)  other interested persons; and

(2)  consider:

(A)  criteria for assuring accountability for, cost-effectiveness of, and relative value of service delivery options;

(B)  goals to minimize the need for state hospital and community hospital care;

(C)  goals to divert consumers of services from the criminal justice system;

(D)  goals to ensure that a child with mental illness remains with the child's parent or guardian as appropriate to the child's care; and

(E)  opportunities for innovation in services and service delivery.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.