By:  Miles S.B. No. 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing access to local health departments and certain health service regional offices under the Medicaid managed care program.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 533.001, Government Code, is amended by adding Subdivisions (3-a) and (3-b) to read as follows:

(3-a)  "Health service regional office" means an office located in a public health region and administered by a regional director under Section 121.007, Health and Safety Code.

(3-b)  "Local health department" means a local health department established under Subchapter D, Chapter 121, Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 2.  Section 533.006(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  The commission shall require that each managed care organization that contracts with the commission to provide health care services to recipients in a region:

(1)  seek participation in the organization's provider network from:

(A)  each health care provider in the region who has traditionally provided care to recipients;

(B)  each hospital in the region that has been designated as a disproportionate share hospital under Medicaid; [~~and~~]

(C)  each specialized pediatric laboratory in the region, including those laboratories located in children's hospitals; and

(D)  each local health department in the region and each health service regional office acting in the capacity of a local health department in the region; and

(2)  include in its provider network for not less than three years:

(A)  each health care provider in the region who:

(i)  previously provided care to Medicaid and charity care recipients at a significant level as prescribed by the commission;

(ii)  agrees to accept the prevailing provider contract rate of the managed care organization; and

(iii)  has the credentials required by the managed care organization, provided that lack of board certification or accreditation by The Joint Commission may not be the sole ground for exclusion from the provider network;

(B)  each accredited primary care residency program in the region; [~~and~~]

(C)  each disproportionate share hospital designated by the commission as a statewide significant traditional provider; and

(D)  each local health department in the region and each health service regional office acting in the capacity of a local health department in the region.

SECTION 3.  (a)  The Health and Human Services Commission shall, in a contract between the commission and a managed care organization under Chapter 533, Government Code, that is entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this Act, require that the managed care organization comply with Section 533.006, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

(b)  The Health and Human Services Commission shall seek to amend contracts entered into with managed care organizations under Chapter 533, Government Code, before the effective date of this Act to require those managed care organizations to comply with Section 533.006, Government Code, as amended by this Act. To the extent of a conflict between that section and a provision of a contract with a managed care organization entered into before the effective date of this Act, the contract provision prevails.

SECTION 4.  The Health and Human Services Commission is required to implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money to the commission specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the commission may, but is not required to, implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations that are available for that purpose.

SECTION 5.  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 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2020.