

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

22 (c) If a local mental health authority does not have a  
23 governing body, the local authority shall consult with a sheriff or  
24 a representative of a sheriff of a county in the local authority's

1 service area regarding the use of the funds received under Section  
2 533.035(b).

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

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

7 (1) solicit information regarding community needs  
8 from:

9 (A) representatives of the local community;

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

12 (C) local law enforcement agencies; and

13 (D) other interested persons; and

14 (2) consider:

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

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

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

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

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

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