

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3621

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

Hearing Date: March 31, 2021 8:00 AM

Jasset Thomas, LVN

center for health care services

san antonio, TX

My name is Jasset Thomas and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Christi Mott, Communications Manager

The Center for Health Care Services

San Antonio, TX

My name is Christi J Mott and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Ian Reeder, MS, LPC-Associate, NCC, QMHP-CS

Self, Case Manager

San Antonio, TX

My name is Ian Reeder and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Printed on: April 8, 2021 6:09 PM

Susan Buffaloe, RN Care Coordination

Center For Health Care NW Clinic

San Antonio, TX

I truly support the need of this HB3621, The authorization of 10 inpatient hospital beds to be used for individuals who need longer term inpatient stabilization (60 – 90 days). This would be a boon for many of our consumers who are most severely impacted by their mental health conditions but are unable to be admitted to state hospitals due to waitlists.

Robert Guevara

Self - Mental Health

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez, to create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Zaida Yzaguirre, ECI Director

The Center for Health Care Services

San Antonio, TX

My name is Zaida Yzaguirre and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

graciela cigarroa

self

San Antonio, TX

My name is Graciela Cigarroa and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Printed on: April 8, 2021 6:09 PM

Kathleen Fletcher, President/ CEO
Voices for Children of San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

Jails and prisons were not meant to be mental health treatment facilities. Thank you, Representative Cortez, for your leadership on this issue. The appropriateness of treatment in the community, with the push of judicial authority behind it, with, for many, supportive family involved, would seem to be preferable to extremely costly incarceration. We have seen the success of other innovative court models and this would very likely enjoy the same success. Again, thank you for your leadership. I and Voices strongly support this bill.

Frances A Gonzalez
Gonzalez Professionals, LLC
San Antonio, TX

My name is Frances A. Gonzalez and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Juanita Sepulveda
Board member of CHCSF
Atascosa, TX

My name is Juanita Sepulveda and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Ashley George
The Center for Health Care Services
San Antonio, TX

My name is Ashley George and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per

day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Linda Mikolajek, Ms.

Nami Central Texas advocacy committee

Austin, TX

As a member of NAMI Central Texas advocacy committee and the mother of a son with serious mental illness I am writing to ask you to support HP 3621. My son had been arrested four times for criminal trespassing and was taken to jail each time. He did not even realize he was committing a crime because of his serious mental illness. Pll charges were dropped. After the first time he was offered jail diversion but being seriously mentally eel he refused the jail diversion because he did not want to get help and go to a hospital. A lot of time, energy, and money was wasted. I feel that if they do a pilot program for jail diversion in Bexar county, it will help to collect information and how HHSC along with the LMHA can invest provide services to people with mental health conditions that become involved in the forensic arena. Minor, non-violent crimes do not need to criminalize people with mental illness but instead we need jail diversion and help to regain their Mental health. Please support HP3621

Judith Zimmerman

Center for Health Care Services Foundation

San Antonio, TX

My name is Judy Zimmerman and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Dorothy Burns

The Center for Health Care Services

San Antonio, TX

My name is Dorothy Burns and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Omar Qassom, VP Operations

The Center for Health Care Services

San Antonio, TX

My name is Omar Qassom and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days.

Printed on: April 8, 2021 6:09 PM

The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Grady Batchelor III, Mr.

The Center for Health Care Services

San Antonio, TX

My name is Grady Lee Batchelor III, MA, LPC, LCDC, NCC and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Cynthia Cannon

The Center for Health Care Services

San Antonio, TX

My name is Cynthia Cannon and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Marilyn Hartman

Member and Advocate, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas

Austin, TX

I support this bill. Please pass it

Brian Clark

The Center for Health Care Services

San Antonio, TX

My name is Brian Clark and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and

Printed on: April 8, 2021 6:09 PM

behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Cecil F. King

CHCS

San Antonio, TX

My name is Cecil F King and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Thomas Hardaway, MD

Center for Health Care Services - for Bexar County Child Mental Health Services

San Antonio, TX

My name is Thomas Hardaway, MD, and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.

Jelynnne Jamison, CEO

Center for Health Care Services

San Antonio, TX

Longer term beds will address the growing number of individuals that need additional time for treatment. Currently we have inpatient bed capacity that provides treatment for up to 14 days. We are seeing a growing population that cycles in and out of these beds due to needing 60-90 days of treatment. The State hospital is no longer an option due to focus on the forensic population and institutionalization is not an option. Longer term treatment can in inpatient beds for up to 60-90 days is a viable option of the Bexar County community. This community has already invested in itself and these beds are needed to address high utilizers in need of treatment.

Rene Olvera, MD, MPH, CMO

Center for Healthcare Services

San Antonio, TX

Printed on: April 8, 2021 6:09 PM

My name is Dr. Rene Olvera MD, Chief Medical Officer for the Center for Healthcare Services and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow 10 inpatient beds for stays of up to 60-90 days. Over the past two years we have identified over 200 residents of San Antonio with who we have had over six emergency detentions for chronic mental illness in a single calendar year. We have created programs to increase engagement and outpatient services but a missing link is an adequate hospital stay to stabilize their illness. This step is crucial as these patients need to be healthy enough to participate in outpatient services. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more for a period of 60-90 days. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. Our current long term program for homeless persons with mental illness in partnership with the City of San Antonio and Haven for Hope has been a resounding success. This new pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220 and the costs of repeated emergency room visits. Thank you.

Kathryn Keeton, Dr.

CHCSF Board Member

San Antonio, TX

My name is Dr. Kathryn E. Keeton and I support HB 3621 by Rep. Cortez. This bill would create a pilot program in Bexar County for longer term stays for individuals who struggle with mental illness, substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. Currently, HHSC rules only allow for stays of up to 14 days, and this legislation would allow for stays of up to 60-90 days. The pilot would include the provision of evidence-based services, including psychiatric evaluations, integrated primary and behavioral health care, medication assisted treatment and more. Research collected by CHCS and its partners in the Southwest Texas Crisis Collaborative has shown that individuals who have longer stays in inpatient settings have better outcomes. The pilot program would be overseen by Southwest General Hospital and University of the Incarnate Word with a graduate medical residency program, which will help address the behavioral health workforce shortage in Texas. The estimated cost per bed per day would be \$827, a substantial savings from the cost of an estimated hospital readmission at \$1220. Thank you.