

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 3724

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the maternal mental health peer support pilot program for perinatal mood and anxiety disorder.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 32.201. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Peer support service" means a service provided by a peer support specialist to a person with a mental illness or substance use condition in accordance with commission rules regarding peer specialists.

(2) "Perinatal mood and anxiety disorder" includes any of the following psychiatric illnesses, as defined by the American Psychiatric Association in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), that occur during pregnancy or within 12 months postpartum:

(A) bipolar disorder, including hypomanic, manic, depressive, and mixed types;

(B) major depressive disorder, including single-episode and recurrent types;

(C) generalized anxiety disorder;

(D) obsessive-compulsive disorder;

(E) paranoid or other psychotic disorder; and

1                    (F) post-traumatic stress disorder.

2                    (3) "Pilot program" means the maternal mental health  
3 peer support pilot program established under this subchapter.

4                    Sec. 32.202. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The  
5 commission shall establish and operate the maternal mental health  
6 peer support pilot program to reduce the risk and manage the effects  
7 of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders in women through the  
8 delivery of peer support services at federally qualified health  
9 centers located in the geographic areas in which the pilot program  
10 operates.

11                    (b) The commission shall establish the pilot program in five  
12 counties in this state that:

13                    (1) either:

14                    (A) are within an area designated as a mental  
15 health professional shortage area; or

16                    (B) have high rates of maternal mortality and  
17 morbidity as determined by the commission in consultation with the  
18 Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee; and

19                    (2) include at least one rural county and one county  
20 with a population of at least 500,000.

21                    Sec. 32.203. OPERATION OF PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In  
22 establishing the pilot program, the commission shall:

23                    (1) develop a strategy for federally qualified health  
24 centers participating in the pilot program and persons responsible  
25 for training to collaborate on the training, certification, and  
26 guidance of peer support specialists in accordance with existing  
27 state procedures and programs;

1           (2) seek comments regarding best practices for the  
2 design and implementation of the pilot program from relevant  
3 interested persons, including federally qualified health centers,  
4 mental health care providers, local mental health authorities,  
5 certified peer support specialists and affiliated organizations,  
6 women's health care providers, and individuals who have personal  
7 experience with perinatal mood and anxiety disorders;

8           (3) develop specialized training to:

9                   (A) identify and treat symptoms of perinatal mood  
10 and anxiety disorders; and

11                   (B) provide peer support services to pregnant  
12 women and new mothers;

13           (4) develop a strategy for federally qualified health  
14 centers and peer support specialists participating in the pilot  
15 program to provide peer support services through any form of  
16 telephonic communication;

17           (5) develop in collaboration with the federally  
18 qualified health centers participating in the pilot program a  
19 strategy to integrate the delivery of peer support services with  
20 the health care services provided by the centers to women during  
21 pregnancy and within one year of giving birth;

22           (6) create for the federally qualified health centers  
23 participating in the pilot program a protocol for referring to peer  
24 support services women who are diagnosed as having or identified as  
25 being at risk of developing a perinatal mood and anxiety disorder;

26           (7) ensure the services provided by peer support  
27 specialists under the pilot program are within the scope of a duty

of care prescribed by commission rule for peer support specialists who provide similar services; and

(8) develop a method for collecting data, including by consulting with the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and other relevant entities regarding the data, on:

(A) maternal health and mental health outcomes; and

(B) substance use by women receiving peer support services through the pilot program.

(b) A peer support specialist who provides peer support services through the pilot program at a federally qualified health center shall:

(1) provide peer support services to women who:

(A) based on the results of a postpartum depression screening or other screening tool, are diagnosed as having or identified as being at risk of developing a perinatal mood and anxiety disorder; and

(B) are interested in receiving peer support services; and

(2) through the use of the specialist's personal experience with perinatal mood and anxiety disorders:

(A) provide guidance to the women;

(B) if necessary, advocate for the women to receive mental health care services or other specialized health care services; and

(C) provide the women with information on mental health care resources as necessary.

1       Sec. 32.204. FUNDING. In addition to money appropriated by  
2 the legislature, the commission may accept gifts, grants, and  
3 donations from any source for establishing the pilot program and  
4 compensating peer support specialists under the pilot program.

5       Sec. 32.205. REPORT. Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
6 commission shall prepare and submit to the governor, lieutenant  
7 governor, and legislature a written report that:

8             (1) evaluates the success of the pilot program in  
9 reducing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and substance use in  
10 women who received peer support services under the pilot program;  
11 and

12            (2) recommends whether the pilot program should be  
13 continued, expanded, or terminated.

14       Sec. 32.206. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires September  
15 1, 2027.

16       SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 31, 2023, the  
17 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission  
18 shall adopt rules as necessary to establish the maternal mental  
19 health peer support pilot program as required by Subchapter G,  
20 Chapter 32, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

21       (b) Not later than June 30, 2024, the Health and Human  
22 Services Commission shall establish the maternal mental health peer  
23 support pilot program as required by Subchapter G, Chapter 32,  
24 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

25       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.