

SCS HCS HB 59 & 269 -- SUICIDE PREVENTION; PAIN MANAGEMENT;
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PLANS

This bill requires the development of a state suicide prevention plan and certain preventive mental health plans. It also creates an advisory committee on pain and symptom management.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The bill requires the Director of the Department of Mental Health, in partnership with the Department of Health and Senior Services, to design and develop a state suicide prevention plan in collaboration with the departments of Social Services, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, and Corrections and with community-based agencies. The plan must:

- (1) Promote the use of employee assistance and workplace programs to support employees experiencing depression or other psychiatric illnesses;
- (2) Promote the use of student assistance and educational programs to support students with depression, other psychiatric illnesses, and substance abuse disorders;
- (3) Provide training and technical assistance to local public health and other community-based professionals on the best practices to prevent suicides;
- (4) Coordinate federal, state, and local agencies in order to collect and analyze data on suicides and suicidal behaviors in Missouri and annually issue a public report;
- (5) Establish a toll-free suicide prevention hotline; and
- (6) Recommend statutory changes, implementation, and funding requirements to the General Assembly by December 31, 2004.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PAIN AND SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT

The bill establishes the Missouri State Advisory Council on Pain and Symptom Management. The council will consist of 19 members, who will be appointed by February 1, 2004. The council is required to:

- (1) Hold public hearings to gather information relating to pain management;
- (2) Make recommendations on acute and chronic pain management practices;

- (3) Analyze statutes, rules, and regulations relating to pain management;
- (4) Study the use of alternative therapies and any sanctions imposed;
- (5) Examine the needs of adults, children, the terminally ill, and minorities that have acute and chronic pain;
- (6) Review the pain management education materials provided by professional licensing boards;
- (7) Make recommendations to health care professionals for integrating pain management into their practices and regarding continuing education requirements for pain management;
- (8) Review guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and
- (9) Prepare an annual report to deliver to the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the Governor by February 1 of each year.

Members of the council will serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for any expenses incurred, subject to appropriation. The Department of Health and Senior Services will provide existing personnel to staff the council and may receive any moneys that become available on behalf of the council.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PLAN

The bill requires the Department of Mental Health to develop a plan to address the needs of persons who are on a waiting list for services. The plan is required to emphasize the partnership between developmentally disabled individuals and their families, community providers, and state officials.

The plan is required to include:

- (1) A method for reducing the waiting period to 90 days;
- (2) A description of available services and an evaluation of the capacity to serve more individuals;
- (3) A method of adjusting support and service levels based on individual needs and a method for determining when out-of-home, 24-hour care is necessary;
- (4) A description of how the plan will be implemented on a

statewide basis;

(5) Any recommendations for changes to state law; and

(6) An analysis of the monetary and programmatic effects in providing services to all eligible individuals and their families.

The bill requires the plan to be completed no later than November 1, 2003. The director of the department is required to submit a copy of the plan to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the Governor.