

HB 459 -- CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM

CO-SPONSORS: Bean, Campbell, Holand, Johnson (61), Riback Wilson (25), Donnelly

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill establishes a comprehensive mental health service system for children.

The system will be required to:

- (1) Be child centered, family focused, and family driven. The needs of the child and family will dictate the types and mix of services provided;
- (2) Provide community-based mental health services to children and their families;
- (3) Respond in a culturally competent and responsive manner;
- (4) Stress prevention, early identification, and intervention;
- (5) Assure access to a continuum of services;
- (6) Include early screening services;
- (7) Address problems associated with paying for mental health services for children; and
- (8) Assure a smooth transition from mental health services appropriate for children to mental health services needed by persons at least 19 years of age.

The bill also requires:

- (1) Mental health services to be included under the Medicaid Program if services are provided by an eligible system of a care provider;
- (2) The Department of Mental Health, in collaboration with the Division of Medical Services in the Department of Social Services, to establish by rule the definition and criteria for designation of a community-based service;
- (3) The Department of Social Services to conduct research into all child custody cases in order to determine the needs of mental health services and the absence of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment;

(4) Children in need of mental health services to receive those services in the least restrictive and appropriate environment if the children are returned to a family's custody by a judge; and

(5) The Division of Family Services to apply for federal waivers, including home and community-based waivers, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in order to provide services to children.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost to General Revenue of Unknown exceeding \$200,000 in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the provision of mental health services for children continues to be a problem in Missouri. Parents should not be forced to relinquish custody of their children in order to receive services. The bill will require much needed research on the number of children in the custody of the Department of Social Services who need mental health care services, will provide a method to maximize state moneys for mental health services by attracting federal matching dollars, and will assist parents in their efforts to access mental health care services for their children.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bean; and Citizens for Missouri's Children.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst