

HCS SB 266 -- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PLANS

CO-SPONSORS: Shields, Kennedy (Johnson, 47)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute 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 implementing the plan;
- (5) Any recommendations for necessary changes to state law; and
- (6) An analysis of the monetary effects in providing services to all eligible individuals and their families.

The substitute requires the plan to be completed no later than November 1, 2003. The Director of the Department of Mental Health 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.

The substitute also requires the departments of Mental Health and Social Services to jointly prepare a plan concerning the needs for mental health services and supports for:

- (1) All child custody cases in the Department of Social Services in order to determine mental health service needs and the absence of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment; and
- (2) Children or persons 17 years of age who are determined by the court to be eligible to receive mental health services in the least restrictive and appropriate environment if the children are returned to a family's custody by a court.

The plan is required to include analyses concerning:

- (1) The use of federal funding and the application for federal waivers;
- (2) Budgetary and programmatic effects resulting from providing mental health services to children and persons 17 years of age; and
- (3) The feasibility and time frames for securing federal funds.

The substitute requires the plan to be completed no later than January 1, 2004. The directors of the departments of Mental Health and Social Services are 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.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide for the collection and analysis of mental health data on the number of children and persons who are currently on a waiting list for mental health services. The bill requires the plans to include a number of recommendations for improving access for children and persons who need mental health services.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Shields; Department of Mental Health; Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Services; Missouri Statewide Parent Advisory Network; and Citizens for Missouri's Children.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst