

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 346

Introduced by Gay, 14; Cornett, 45; Howard, 9; Pankonin, 2; at the request of the Governor.

Read first time January 15, 2009

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Department of Health and Human Services;
2 to require the department to establish a hotline and
3 a program relating to children's behavioral health and
4 to provide services in certain adoption and guardianship
5 cases; and to require a report.
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Department of Health and Human Services
2 shall establish a Children and Family Support hotline which shall:

3 (1) Be a single point of access for children's behavioral
4 health triage through the operation of a twenty-four-hour-a-day,
5 seven-day-a-week telephone line;

6 (2) Be staffed by licensed mental health practitioners or
7 other licensed practitioners engaged in activities of mental health
8 treatment;

9 (3) Provide screening and assessment; and

10 (4) Provide referral to existing community-based
11 resources.

12 Sec. 2. The Department of Health and Human Services
13 shall establish a Family Navigator Program to respond to children's
14 behavioral health needs. The program shall consist of individuals
15 trained and compensated by the department who, at a minimum, will
16 provide:

17 (1) Peer support; and

18 (2) Connection to existing services, including the
19 identification of community-based services.

20 Sec. 3. After an adoption or guardianship process has
21 been completed, the Department of Health and Human Services shall
22 provide, on a voluntary basis, post-adoption and post-guardianship
23 case management services for the families.

24 Sec. 4. The Department of Health and Human Services shall
25 provide an annual report evaluating the operation of the Children

1 and Family Support hotline established under section 1 of this
2 act, the Family Navigator Program established under section 2 of
3 this act, and voluntary adoption and guardianship case management
4 services pursuant to section 3 of this act.