



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 618

Chairperson: Jim Jensen
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 11, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Behavioral health services are vital to the well being of the people of Nebraska and the State of Nebraska has recognized this dating back to the 1800's, when the facilities in Norfolk, Hastings and Lincoln were established. Behavioral health is a dynamic field and Nebraska last year passed LB 1083 which moves services from the regional centers to community based services. In implementing LB 1083 it has become clear community based behavioral health services need more time and funding to transition into providing care to clients currently receiving services at Hastings and Norfolk. LB 618 proposes to continue for two more years additional funding for community based behavioral health services from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund. The intent of this funding is to allow more time and resources to establish appropriate community based services.

LB 618 also requires the Division of Behavioral Health Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to contract with national entities with expertise to examine how the State of Nebraska can maximize federal Medicaid funding for behavioral health services. The more federal funding available, the more behavioral health services Nebraska can provide.

The division is also required to establish a system to track persons receiving or requesting behavioral health services to ensure as Nebraska's behavioral health system transitions people are not lost or left without necessary behavioral health services.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Mike Flood