

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 513

Introduced by Gay, 14.

PURPOSE: (1) The purpose of this interim study is to review and assess the implementation of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act by the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and, if appropriate, provide recommendations for legislation to strengthen the enactment of the act.

(2) The Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act states that:

(a) The division is the chief behavioral health authority for the State of Nebraska and shall direct the administration and coordination of the public behavioral health system, including, but not limited to:

(i) Administration and management of the state regional centers and any other facilities and programs operated by the division;

(ii) Integration and coordination of the public behavioral health system;

(iii) Comprehensive statewide planning for the provision of an appropriate array of community-based services and continuum of care;

(iv) Regional budgets and audits of regional behavior

health authorities;

(v) Development and management of data and information systems;

(vi) Prioritization and approval of all expenditures and reimbursement methodologies for behavioral health services and fees to be paid by consumers of such services;

(vii) Cooperation with the department in the licensure and regulation of behavioral health professions, programs, and facilities;

(viii) Cooperation with the department in the provision of behavior health services under the medical assistance program and audits of behavior health programs and services; and

(ix) Promotion of activities in research and education to improve the quality of behavioral health services, recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals, and access to behavioral health programs and services; and

(b) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the act.

(3) The interim study shall be conducted by the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Behavioral Health, the state advisory committees created in sections 71-814 to 71-816, the Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature, the Legislative Performance Audit Committee, the Behavioral Health Support Foundation, the Magellan Partnership Quality Improvement Team, the report of the Children's Behavioral Health Oversight Committee of the Legislature, and participation of other stakeholders representing

state and local government, professionals, provider organizations, consumers, consumer advocates, and other parties, and information, deemed helpful to the Health and Human Services Committee.

(4) Issues to be considered by the Health and Human Services Committee for the interim study may include, but shall not be limited to:

(a) The division's completion of a strategic plan for continuing reform and transformation of the public behavior health system in accordance with the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act, including, but not limited to:

(i) The development of an enhanced performance measurement system to gather data that is aggregated for systemwide use in planning, monitoring performance, and supporting decisionmaking, especially the best use of funding, including the adoption and use of standard performance measurement instruments and a consumer assessment tool specifically geared to outcomes associated with evidence-based practices;

(ii) The evaluation and analysis of timely consumer access to behavioral health services and standards and adjustments to comply with service capacity and efficiencies; and

(iii) Optimizing the use of available funding for behavioral health services by initiating regulatory reform to reduce redundancy, costs, and burdens in the delivery system that do not impact service delivery but achieve reduced costs; and

(b) The department's completion of the development of rules and regulations to:

(i) Implement the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act; and

(ii) Integrate state and federal regulations across and between the Division of Behavioral Health, the Division of Public Health, and the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care of the Department of Health and Human Services, including medicaid rehabilitation options.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.