

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 901**

Introduced by McGill, 26.

Read first time January 14, 2014

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Behavioral Health Education Center; to  
2 amend section 71-830, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
3 Supplement, 2012; to provide for psychology internships  
4 as prescribed; and to repeal the original section.  
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1                   Section 1. Section 71-830, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

3                   71-830 (1) The Behavioral Health Education Center is  
4 created ~~beginning July 1, 2009,~~ and shall be administered by the  
5 University of Nebraska Medical Center.

6                   (2) The center shall:

7                   (a)(i) Provide funds for two additional medical residents  
8 in a Nebraska-based psychiatry program each year starting in 2010  
9 until a total of eight additional psychiatry residents are added in  
10 2013. ~~Beginning in 2011 and every year thereafter, the~~ The center  
11 shall provide psychiatric residency training experiences that serve  
12 rural Nebraska and other underserved areas. As part of his or her  
13 residency training experiences, each center-funded resident shall  
14 participate in the rural training for a minimum of one year.  
15 ~~Beginning in 2012, a~~ A minimum of two of the eight center-funded  
16 residents shall be active in the rural training each year; and

17                   (ii) Provide funds for five one-year doctoral-level  
18 psychology internships in Nebraska within twelve months after the  
19 effective date of this act and every year thereafter and increase the  
20 number of interns in the program to ten within thirty-six months  
21 after the effective date of this act. The interns shall be placed in  
22 communities so as to increase access to behavioral health services  
23 for patients residing in rural and underserved areas of Nebraska.

24                   (b) Focus on the training of behavioral health  
25 professionals in telehealth techniques, including taking advantage of

1 a telehealth network that exists, and other innovative means of care  
2 delivery in order to increase access to behavioral health services  
3 for all Nebraskans;

4 (c) Analyze the geographic and demographic availability  
5 of Nebraska behavioral health professionals, including psychiatrists,  
6 social workers, community rehabilitation workers, psychologists,  
7 substance abuse counselors, licensed mental health practitioners,  
8 behavioral analysts, peer support providers, primary care physicians,  
9 nurses, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists;

10 (d) Prioritize the need for additional professionals by  
11 type and location;

12 (e) Establish learning collaborative partnerships with  
13 other higher education institutions in the state, hospitals, law  
14 enforcement, community-based agencies, and consumers and their  
15 families in order to develop evidence-based, recovery-focused,  
16 interdisciplinary ~~curriculum~~curricula and training for behavioral  
17 health professionals delivering behavioral health services in  
18 community-based agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement. Development  
19 and dissemination of such ~~curriculum~~curricula and training shall  
20 address the identified priority needs for behavioral health  
21 professionals; and

22 (f) Beginning in 2011, develop two interdisciplinary  
23 behavioral health training sites each year until a total of six sites  
24 have been developed. Four of the six sites shall be in counties with  
25 a population of fewer than fifty thousand inhabitants. Each site

1 shall provide annual interdisciplinary training opportunities for a  
2 minimum of three behavioral health professionals.

3 (3) No later than December 1, ~~2011, and no later than~~  
4 ~~December 1~~ of every odd-numbered year, ~~thereafter,~~ the center shall  
5 prepare a report of its activities under the Behavioral Health  
6 Workforce Act. The report shall be filed electronically with the  
7 Clerk of the Legislature and shall be provided electronically to any  
8 member of the Legislature upon request.

9 Sec. 2. Original section 71-830, Revised Statutes  
10 Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is repealed.