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## **86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature Interim Committee Charges Related to Mental Health**

### **Committee on Appropriations**

Monitor the agencies and programs under Article II and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation and riders passed by the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the Subcommittee will also specifically monitor:

- Progress on construction of state hospitals and the capacity of state hospital system to provide mental health support in all regions across Texas.

Review how Texas is preparing for state and federal budgetary changes that impact the state's health programs, including: the Family First Prevention Services Act; the next phase of the 1115 Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program Waiver; Texas' Targeted Opioid Response Grant; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed Medicaid Fiscal Accountability rule, and the Healthy Texas Women Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Human Services and the House Committee on Public Health)

### **Committee on Corrections**

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- **HB 650 and HB 3227**, which relate to the welfare of confined females within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Monitor TDCJ rules regulating treatment of incarcerated women. Examine the process by which the department facilitates the educational, medical, and wellness needs of incarcerated pregnant women.
  - Incarcerated women are to have mental health wellness educations along with correctional officer mental health training.

## **Committee on County Affairs**

Monitor agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislation, including the following:

- **SB 1849 (85R)**, which revised laws relating to interactions between law enforcement and individuals with mental illness or intellectual disabilities. Review and evaluate crisis prevention and pre-arrest diversion programs in both rural and urban areas. Consider models for expansion and ensure people with behavioral health needs receive appropriate service before entering the criminal justice system. Review the expansion of the community collaboratives grant program under the legislation.

Examine the frequency of arrests and incarceration of people with behavioral health needs in county jails. Specifically, the committee should study the availability of and access to behavioral health services, including recovery services utilized in the county jail systems of Texas; the efficacy of counties that use law enforcement officers and personnel trained in the Crisis Intervention Team program and jail diversion rates; and the frequency of mental health services used in rural counties in comparison to those incarcerated who are living with a mental health disorder.

## **Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs**

Study the mental health treatment options available for all Texas veterans, including efforts to fill gaps left by federal government. Make recommendations for future legislation streamlining mental health treatment coordination among federal, state, and local agencies.

## **Committee on Human Services**

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

### **Related to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities:**

- **HB 3117**, which requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to review the statewide bed capacity in community facilities for individuals with an intellectual disability and develop a process to re-allocate unused beds among regions in the state.

- **HB 4533**, which makes certain reforms to Medicaid managed care and creates a pilot program to deliver acute care and long-term services and supports to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities within Medicaid managed care. Monitor HHSC's rulemaking process, the implementation of the pilot program, and the evaluation of alternative models of care for high needs children in Medicaid.
- **HHSC Rider 21**, which requires HHSC to develop a plan to replace the current day habilitation services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to more integrated and community-based services.
- **HHSC Rider 42**, which directs HHSC to conduct a Medicaid waiver interest list study and update the Statewide Intellectual and Developmental Disability Strategic Plan.

### **Related to Medicaid**

- **HB 25**, which creates a pilot program that provides medical transportation to women in the Medicaid program and their children. Monitor the establishment of the pilot program including any challenges to its implementation; monitor HHSC's rulemaking process.
- **SB 1096**, which improves medication access for certain children with disabilities in Medicaid and streamlines the prior authorization process when a child is hospitalized. Monitor the implementation of new prior authorization procedures directed by the legislation and identify any challenges to implementation. Review managed care organizations' (MCO) compliance with the changes.
- **HB 1576**, which allows Medicaid clients to utilize ride-sharing companies to provide transportation to appointments and carves the medical transportation program into managed care. Conduct oversight of the phased-in transition of medical transportation program services into managed care. Monitor HHSC's rulemaking process.

### **Committee on Public Education - Joint charges with Committee on Public Health**

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- **HB 18**, which enhances school safety and mental health resources for students and school personnel and works to reduce the stigma around mental health conditions. Monitor the process by which state agencies coordinate to implement the legislation and their compliance with various requirements, including providing required guidelines and resources to schools.

- **HB 19**, which places non-physician mental health professionals at education service centers to provide resources for educators and administrators in school districts and charter schools.
- **HB 906**, which creates the Collaborative Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services.
- **SB 11**, which creates the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium to facilitate access to mental health care services through telehealth and expands the mental health workforce through training and funding opportunities. Monitor the creation of the consortium and agencies' rulemaking processes. Review how school districts are spending their school safety allotment.

### **Committee on Public Health**

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

#### **Related to Women/Maternal/Infant Health**

- **HB 253**, which requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to develop and implement a five-year strategic plan to address postpartum depression. Monitor the development of the strategic plan to ensure it provides strategies to improve access to postpartum depression screening, referral, treatment, and support services.
- **SB 750**, which directs HHSC to evaluate and develop a limited postpartum care package for new mothers enrolled in the Healthy Texas Women (HTW) program and to develop strategies to ensure continuity of care for new mothers who transition from Medicaid for Pregnant Women into HTW. Monitor HHSC's rulemaking process and the evaluation and development of the postpartum care package in HTW.
- **SB 2132**, which requires additional information be provided to new mothers enrolled in HTW. Monitor HHSC's rulemaking process.

#### **Related to Rural Health**

- **SB 633**, which provides the authority to assemble local mental health authorities (LMHA) in rural areas into groups in order to ensure access to mental health services in those areas. Conduct oversight of the process of grouping individual LMHAs and the development of a plan for each group to increase capacity and access.

## Related to General Monitoring

- **HB 1501**, which creates the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council. Monitor the transfer of the regulation of psychologists, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, and social workers to the new council.
- **HB 4455**, which authorizes a health professional to provide a mental health service via telemedicine or telehealth services to a patient located outside of Texas.
- **SB 670**, which relates to ensuring reimbursement of telemedicine and telehealth services and expanding which facilities may receive reimbursement for those services.

Review behavioral health capacity in the state, with a focus on suicide prevention efforts and the provision of behavioral health care services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Review suicide prevention programs and initiatives across state agencies, evaluate their effectiveness, and identify opportunities for greater coordination. Identify gaps in the continuum of care for individuals with disabilities and challenges for those providing care to them. Additionally, identify any existing administrative and licensing barriers that negatively affect overall behavioral health capacity in the state.

*This document is for informational purposes only. If you have any questions, please contact Meaghan Read, Director of Public Policy.*