

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE STUDY REQUEST NO. 5
BY REPRESENTATIVE CARMODY

Approved
6-17-10

MENTAL HEALTH: Requests the House Committee on Health and Welfare to study potential reforms to this state's system of child and adolescent psychiatric care

1 A STUDY REQUEST

2 To the House Committee on Health and Welfare to study potential reforms to this state's
3 system of child and adolescent psychiatric care which balances costs with adequacy
4 of treatment and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the
5 convening of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, due to the 2005 hurricanes, the capacity of south Louisiana hospitals
7 to provide child and adolescent psychiatric care was severely diminished, and patients from
8 southern Louisiana were admitted to hospitals in other parts of the state; and

9 WHEREAS, the challenges that families and health care providers faced in having
10 children and adolescents cared for, referred, discharged, and re-admitted to hospitals in their
11 home regions brought to light fundamental flaws in this state's system of care for young
12 people with mental health care needs; and

13 WHEREAS, these flaws essentially result from this state employing a system of
14 managed costs rather than a system of managed care and present an ongoing challenge which
15 affects vulnerable populations in all parts of this state; and

16 WHEREAS, cuts in Medicaid rates for child and adolescent psychiatric care have not
17 been distributed evenly among providers; and

18 WHEREAS, resulting in part from these cuts, the Department of Health and
19 Hospitals (DHH) promulgated rules to establish strict new requirements for child and
20 adolescent psychiatric care, prohibiting any physician with admitting privileges from issuing
21 certificates of need for child and adolescent patients; and

1 WHEREAS, shorter length of stay criteria, which were also part of the new DHH
2 rules, represent an additional barrier to children and adolescents accessing proper psychiatric
3 care; and

4 WHEREAS, in combination, these factors force children and adolescents with mental
5 health needs into outpatient care or no care at all when inpatient care is clearly clinically
6 indicated and necessary; and

7 WHEREAS, overall health care costs are certain to increase due to higher utilization
8 of primary care settings when children and adolescents do not receive adequate psychiatric
9 care.

10 THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests
11 the House Committee on Health and Welfare to study potential reforms to this state's system
12 of child and adolescent psychiatric care which balances costs with adequacy of treatment and
13 to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2011
14 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Carmody

HSR No. 5

Requests the House Committee on Health and Welfare to study potential reforms to this state's system of child and adolescent psychiatric care which balances costs with adequacy of treatment.