

HOUSE BILL NO. 83

INTRODUCED BY P. NOONAN

BY REQUEST OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO MEASURE THE OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES; REQUIRING REPORTING OF THE OUTCOMES; AMENDING SECTION 52-2-311, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Department to measure outcomes for children's mental health services.** (1) The department of public health and human services shall measure and report on, as provided in 52-2-311, the effectiveness of medicaid mental health services provided to children. The measurement must be based on identified outcomes.

(2) In measuring outcomes, the department shall:

(a) use validated tools to assess and measure the fidelity of medicaid children's mental health services to a wraparound philosophy of care as defined in 52-2-302;

(b) use validated measures to:

(i) evaluate the acuity of a child's mental health needs;

(ii) assess family functioning and the strengths and weaknesses of family skills; and

(iii) measure the improvements a child and the child's family are making in the areas of acuity of need, family functioning, and family skills and the relationship of the improvements to the treatment provided; and

(c) track a child's placement in services in order to create incentives for providing community-based treatment and reduce the use of out-of-state services, psychiatric residential treatment facility services, and placement in group homes.

**Section 2.** Section 52-2-311, MCA, is amended to read:

**"52-2-311. ~~Out-of-state placement monitoring~~ Monitoring and reporting.** (1) The department shall collect the following information regarding high-risk children with multiagency service needs:

- 1 (a) the number of children placed out of state;  
2 (b) the reasons each child was placed out of state;  
3 (c) the costs for each child placed out of state;  
4 (d) the process used to avoid out-of-state placements; and  
5 (e) the number of in-state providers participating in the pool.

6 (2) For high-risk children with multiagency service needs whose placement is funded in whole or in part  
7 by medicaid, the report must include information indicating other department programs with which the child is  
8 involved.

9 (3) On an ongoing basis, the department shall attempt to reduce out-of-state placements.

10 (4) The department shall report on the measurement of identified outcomes for medicaid mental health  
11 services provided to children that is required under [section 1]. The report shall identify the outcomes for each  
12 provider of services.

13 ~~(4)(5) (a)~~ The department shall report biannually to the children, families, health, and human services  
14 interim committee concerning the information it has collected under this section and the results of the efforts it  
15 has made to reduce out-of-state placements.

16 (b) The department shall annually prepare and publish the report required under subsection (4) and  
17 distribute the report to providers of medicaid mental health services for children."

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19 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
20 integral part of Title 53, chapter 6, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 6, apply to [section 1].

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22 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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