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H.71

Introduced by Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Dakin of Chester,
Morris of Bennington, Poirier of Barre City, and Woodward of
Johnson

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; mental health; Resource and Referral Registry

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish an
electronic mental health resource and referral system within the Blueprint for
Health.

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An act relating to the Mental Health Resource and Referral Registry

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 701 is amended to read:

§ 701. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(16) “Mental Health Resource and Referral Registry” means an
electronic database developed and maintained by the Director of the Blueprint
to support and connect health care professionals specializing in mental health

1 or substance abuse treatment, medical homes, community health teams,
2 advocates, families, and consumers pursuant to section 710 of this title.

3 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 702(d) is amended to read:

4 (d) The Blueprint for Health shall include the following initiatives:

5 * * *

6 (8) The development and maintenance of the Mental Health Resource
7 and Referral Registry established in section 710 of this title.

8 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 710 is added to read:

9 § 710. RESOURCE AND REFERRAL REGISTRY

10 (a) The Director of the Blueprint for Health shall develop and maintain an
11 electronic Mental Health Resource and Referral Registry for the purpose of
12 supporting and connecting health care professionals specializing in mental
13 health or substance abuse treatment, medical homes, community health teams,
14 advocates, families, and consumers.

15 (b)(1) The Registry shall contain a list of licensed, certified, or rostered
16 mental health and substance abuse professionals in Vermont who serve clients
17 in inpatient or outpatient settings. The list shall be generated using data
18 maintained by the Secretary of State and by the Departments of Health and of
19 Mental Health. Information about each professional listed on the Registry
20 shall include the professional's:

21 (A) name;

1 (B) office address, telephone number, and website, if any;

2 (C) office hours;

3 (D) office accessibility for individuals with a physical disability;

4 (E) relevant education and degrees;

5 (F) relevant certifications, licenses, or rosters;

6 (G) professional affiliations;

7 (H) languages spoken;

8 (I) specialties, areas of expertise, or treatment modalities;

9 (J) ability to accept new patients; and

10 (K) populations served, including whether Medicaid and Medicare
11 are accepted.

12 (2) The Director of the Blueprint shall allow mental health and
13 substance abuse professionals to remove their names from the Registry.

14 (c) The Registry shall include, by region, electronic links to, and telephone
15 numbers, e-mail addresses, and physical addresses for, the following:

16 (1) intensive inpatient and outpatient services;

17 (2) crisis services;

18 (3) peer-supported services;

19 (4) other community mental health and substance abuse services;

20 (5) the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation;

21 (6) the Health Care and Mental Health Care Ombudsmen;

1 (7) Vermont Legal Aid's Mental Health Law Project; and

2 (8) Disability Rights Vermont.

3 (d) The Director of the Blueprint shall ensure the Registry contains current
4 information and shall employ outreach and educational activities to promote
5 knowledge and use of the Registry by health care professionals specializing in
6 mental health or substance abuse treatment, medical homes, community health
7 teams, advocates, families, and consumers.

8 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.