

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: H1/29/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1072

By: Representative Sullivan

By: Senator J. Cooper

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REPEAL OUTCOME MEASURES TESTING WITHIN THE
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REPEAL OUTCOME MEASURES TESTING WITHIN
THE DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-47-705 is amended to read as follows:
20-47-705. Behavioral ~~health care~~ healthcare initiatives.

The Department of Human Services, with advice from the Children's
Behavioral Health Care Commission, shall:

(1) Identify and implement actions for ensuring that children,
youth, and their families are full partners in the design and implementation
of all aspects of the system of care as well as full partners in decisions
about their care or their child's care;

(2) Identify up to two million dollars (\$2,000,000) per year to
apply to the following purposes:

(A) Meeting extraordinary, non-Medicaid-reimbursable needs
of children, youth, and their families, as identified in multi-agency plans
of services;

(B) Supporting creation or strengthening of entities



designed to guide the development and operation of local, regional, and state components of the system of care;

(C) Strengthening family and advocate skills and capacity to provide meaningful input on the system of care; and

(D) Supporting the development and enhancement of needed behavioral ~~health care~~ healthcare services in underserved areas;

(3) Revise Medicaid rules and regulations to increase quality, accountability, and appropriateness of Medicaid-reimbursed behavioral ~~health care~~ healthcare services, including, but not limited to:

(A) Clarifying behavioral ~~health care~~ healthcare services definitions to assure that the definitions are appropriate to the needs of children, youth, and their families;

(B) Revising the process for Medicaid to receive, review, and act upon requests for behavioral health care for children and youth classified as seriously emotionally disturbed;

(C) Clarifying Medicaid certification rules for providers serving children, youth, and their families to assure that the certification rules correlate with the requirements for enrollment as a Medicaid provider of behavioral ~~health care~~ healthcare services;

(D)(i) Defining a standardized screening and assessment process designed to provide early identification of conditions that require behavioral ~~health care~~ healthcare services.

(ii) The standardized process shall ensure that:

(i) Assessments guide service decisions, outcomes, and, if appropriate, development of a multi-agency plan of services; and

(ii) Services delivered are appropriate to meet the needs of the child as identified by the assessment;

(4) Research, identify, and implement innovative and promising local, regional, or statewide approaches for better managing the state's resources devoted to children's behavioral health; and

(5) Create additional capacity within the Division of Behavioral Health Services to develop, support, and oversee the new system of care for behavioral health services for children, including+

(A)(i) ~~Developing~~ Selecting a new outcomes based data system measurement tool to support an improved system of tracking, accountability, and decision making.

(ii) The new outcomes measurement tool shall be selected no later than September 30, 2015, and shall replace the current outcomes measurement tool for purposes of reporting required in § 20-47-510;
and

(B) Creating additional staff support to provide technical assistance, utilize information, identify and encourage best practices, monitor performance, and recommend system improvements.

/s/Sullivan

APPROVED: 02/23/2015