

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 248

BY REPRESENTATIVE SELDERS

HEALTH CARE/FACILITIES: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to form a group to study alternative tools to inform reimbursement rates for outpatient behavioral health services

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to form a group to study
3 alternative tools to inform reimbursement rates for outpatient behavioral health
4 services and to report its findings by February 1, 2024.

5 WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Medicaid
6 enrollees are enrolled in one of five managed care organizations (MCO); and

7 WHEREAS, Medicaid has the primary responsibility to oversee the MCO contracts
8 while the office of behavioral health of LDH is responsible for the portions of the contracts
9 that relate to behavioral health; and

10 WHEREAS, according to LDH, Mental Health Rehabilitation (MHR) services are
11 available throughout the state and offered by approximately three hundred twenty-five
12 providers; and

13 WHEREAS, MHR services consist of community psychiatric supportive treatment,
14 psychosocial rehabilitation, and many other treatment methods; and

15 WHEREAS, all MHR providers are required to be licensed by the health standards
16 section of LDH, be accredited, and meet other LDH requirements in order to contract with
17 one or more MCOs; and

18 WHEREAS, MHR services are often delivered in combination with outpatient
19 services and employ a variety of licensed and unlicensed staff; and

1 WHEREAS, the primary goal of such treatment is recovery and to lower emergency
2 room utilization, inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations, and institutional care; and

3 WHEREAS, the MCO must make a determination of whether the member meets
4 medical necessity standards, and the eligibility process includes provider referral and
5 authorization of services; and

6 WHEREAS, additionally, MHR services require prior authorization, and the length
7 of the authorization may vary from two to six months, depending on the MCO; and

8 WHEREAS, all enrollees must have a treatment plan submitted to the enrollee's
9 MCO no later than thirty days after the initial prior authorization; and

10 WHEREAS, to address behavioral health services in this state, the Legislature of
11 Louisiana passed Senate Bill No. 213 of the 2022 Regular Session; Governor John Bel
12 Edwards signed the instrument, and it became Act No. 503; and

13 WHEREAS, Act No. 503 affects behavioral health service providers who provide
14 community psychiatric support and treatment services or psychosocial rehabilitation services
15 to Medicaid enrollees; and

16 WHEREAS, in an effort to gauge the success of the legislation, the office of
17 behavioral health planned a regional tour of the state to meet with MHR providers regarding
18 Act No. 503; and

19 WHEREAS, it is important to assess the service reports for providers who offer care
20 to individuals with more complex behavioral health issues; and

21 WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Legislature of Louisiana to urge LDH to study
22 alternative assessment tools to capture the needs of individuals affected by such mental
23 health issues and to ensure that a study is conducted on the reimbursement rates for
24 outpatient behavioral health services.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
26 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
27 to form a group to study alternative tools to inform reimbursement rates for outpatient
28 behavioral health services and to report its findings.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall consider the possibility of
2 using a standard method of assessment for all programs that serve individuals with such
3 behavioral health issues.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals shall participate in the
5 study group:

6 (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

7 (2) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health office of behavioral
8 health or his designee.

9 (3) The deputy assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health office of
10 behavioral health or his designee.

11 (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Medicaid program or his designee.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2024, the group shall
13 submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the David R. Poynter Legislative
14 Research Library a written report of its findings and recommendations.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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)]

HR 248 Original

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Selders

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to form a group to study alternative tools to inform reimbursement rates for outpatient behavioral health services.

Requests a report of its findings on or before Feb. 1, 2024.