

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 174

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY MILLER

MENTAL HEALTH: Urges and requests a joint subcommittee to study the coordination of care for persons receiving mental health services in community-based and institutional settings

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request that the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare and
3 the chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice
4 form a joint subcommittee to receive testimony from certain parties with relevant
5 expertise for the purpose of studying means and best practices for the coordination
6 of care for persons receiving mental health services in community-based and
7 institutional settings.

8 WHEREAS, the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health
9 (LDH) provides statewide authority and accountability for behavioral healthcare including
10 mental health treatment services and substance use disorder treatment for Louisiana citizens;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, state law mandates that local administration of the Louisiana behavioral
13 healthcare system, including both community and residential services, be operated by
14 independent human services districts and authorities; and

15 WHEREAS, the LDH office of behavioral health contracts with various private and
16 public hospital acute care units to provide psychiatric, psychosocial, and medical services
17 in an effort to meet individual patient needs for adults, children, and adolescents in an
18 inpatient treatment environment that is less restrictive and more cost effective than long-term
19 hospitalization; and

1 WHEREAS, many of these units are closely linked to community-based services and
2 support networks, which allow patients to return to their homes faster with greater continuity
3 of care; and

4 WHEREAS, the rise in local mental health issues, treated and untreated, and the
5 impacts resulting therefrom have become a public health crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, one-third of Americans between the ages of fifteen and fifty-four will
7 develop a mental illness in their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, according to data from the Treatment Advocacy Center, approximately
9 fifty percent of individuals with schizophrenia and forty percent of individuals with bipolar
10 disorder have symptoms of anosognosia; and

11 WHEREAS, according to data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
12 Administration, one of every five people experiences a diagnosable mental disorder in any
13 given year; and

14 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, an estimated six hundred fifty thousand adults and two
15 hundred forty-five thousand children experience mental health disabilities and incapacities
16 throughout the course of their lifetimes; and

17 WHEREAS, identification of gaps in the provision of mental health treatment at the
18 local level is vital to the overall improvement of mental health within the community; and

19 WHEREAS, conducting a study to identify such gaps can provide the legislature with
20 the requisite information to better address the state of mental health in Louisiana.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the chairman of the House
23 Committee on Health and Welfare and the chairman of the House Committee on the
24 Administration of Criminal Justice form a joint subcommittee comprised of members of the
25 two committees to solicit input, advice, and recommendations from representatives of
26 mental healthcare and criminal justice organizations to study the level of care for persons
27 receiving mental health services in community-based and institutional settings.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint subcommittee provided for in this
29 Resolution shall report to the legislature its findings and any recommendations to resolve the
30 issues discovered no later than February 1, 2022.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint subcommittee established herein shall
2 solicit input, advice, and recommendations from representatives of the following
3 organizations and professions impacted by the epidemic of untreated serious mental illness
4 as required by this Resolution:

- 5 (1) The Louisiana Department of Health.
- 6 (2) The office of behavioral health within the Louisiana Department of Health.
- 7 (3) The Central Louisiana Human Services District.
- 8 (4) The Capital Area Human Services District.
- 9 (5) The Acadiana Area Human Services District.
- 10 (6) The Florida Parishes Human Services Authority.
- 11 (7) The Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority.
- 12 (8) The Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority.
- 13 (9) The Metropolitan Human Services District.
- 14 (10) The Northeast Delta Human Services Authority.
- 15 (11) The Northwest Louisiana Human Services District.
- 16 (12) The South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority.
- 17 (13) The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of
18 Criminal Justice.
- 19 (14) The Louisiana Law Enforcement Association.
- 20 (15) The Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.
- 21 (16) Healing Minds NOLA.
- 22 (17) Judges from the Louisiana District Judges Association.
- 23 (18) Attorneys from the Louisiana State Bar Association.
- 24 (19) Forensic physicians.
- 25 (20) Psychiatrists from the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association.
- 26 (21) Clinical psychologists from the Louisiana Psychological Association.
- 27 (22) Nurse practitioners from the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
- 28 (23) Family advocates.
- 29 (24) Mental healthcare professionals.
- 30 (25) Emergency medical services from the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.

1 (26) Managed care organizations from the Louisiana Managed Medicaid
2 Association.

3 (27) Assertive and forensic assertive community treatment teams.

4 (28) Local public defenders.

5 (29) Local district attorneys.

6 (29) Housing advocates.

7 (30) Outreach workers.

8 (31) Criminal justice reform advocates.

9 (32) Social workers from the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of
10 Social Workers.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
12 secretary of Louisiana Department of Health, the assistant secretary of the office of
13 behavioral health with the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the Central
14 Louisiana Human Services District, the director of the Capital Area Human Services District,
15 the director of the Acadiana Area Human Services District, the director of the Florida
16 Parishes Human Services Authority, the director of the Imperial Calcasieu Human Services
17 Authority, the director of the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, the director of the
18 Metropolitan Human Services District, the director of the Northeast Delta Human Services
19 Authority, the director of the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District, the director of
20 the South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority, the executive director of the
21 Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, the
22 president of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Association, the executive director of the
23 Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the president of the Louisiana District Judges
24 Association, the president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the president of the
25 Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association, the president of the Louisiana Psychological
26 Association, the president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the chief
27 executive officer of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance, the director of the Louisiana
28 Managed Medicaid Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Chapter of the
29 National Association of Social Workers, and the founder of Healing Minds NOLA.

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 174 Original

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Gregory Miller

Requests that the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice form a joint subcommittee comprised of members of the two committees to solicit input, advice, and recommendations from representatives from the Louisiana Department of Health office of behavioral health and other state agencies to conduct a study on mental health issues and service provisions in Louisiana.