

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 174

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY MILLER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request 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 to receive testimony from certain parties with relevant expertise for the purpose of studying means and best practices for the coordination of care for persons receiving mental health services in community-based and institutional settings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request 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 of mental healthcare and criminal justice organizations to study the level of care for persons receiving mental health services in community-based and institutional settings.

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

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

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

(30) Housing advocates.

(31) Outreach workers.

(32) Criminal justice reform advocates.

(33) Social workers from the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

(34) The Department of Children and Family Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, the assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health with the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the Central Louisiana Human Services District, the director of the Capital Area Human Services District, the director of the Acadiana Area Human Services District, the director of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, the director of the Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority, the director of the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, the director of the Metropolitan Human Services District, the director of the Northeast Delta Human Services Authority, the director of the Northwest Louisiana Human Services District, the director of the South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority, the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, the president of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the president of the Louisiana District Judges Association, the president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the president of the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association, the president of the Louisiana Psychological Association, the president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance, the director of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and the founder of Healing Minds NOLA.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES