

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive assessment of this state's capacity and needs with respect to substance use disorder treatment and to report findings of the assessment to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

WHEREAS, the effects of untreated substance use disorders are often devastating for families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health characterizes opioid abuse as a serious national crisis that affects public health as well as social and economic welfare; and

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis in this state and nation has grown more severe during the COVID-19 pandemic; concurrently, substance use disorders involving alcohol and other mind- and mood-altering substances have also become more prevalent and acute since 2020 in populations across all states; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders are taking a vast toll on lives in Louisiana and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, enhancing the capacity of substance use disorder treatment providers is an urgent public health need in this state; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of public policy, substance use disorder treatment capacity should be directed to places and populations in which the needs for such treatment are the greatest; however, a suitable allocation of treatment provider capacity can only be accomplished in Louisiana if policymakers understand this state's substance use disorder treatment needs and resources as they exist presently; and

WHEREAS, due to the abundance of specialized expertise among staff of the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health, this office is uniquely qualified to provide situational awareness to the legislature concerning substance use disorder treatment capacity and unmet needs for such treatment in this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive, statewide assessment of this state's capacity and needs with respect to substance use disorder treatment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the assessment called for in this Resolution, the office of behavioral health shall consider the current capacity of both outpatient and residential substance use disorder treatment providers as well as present levels of unmet needs for outpatient and residential substance use disorder treatment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health shall submit the findings of the assessment called for in this Resolution in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report required by this Resolution shall identify and discuss gaps in service delivery, propose means to ensure access to the full continuum of recovery services throughout this state, and delineate a strategy for enhancing substance use disorder treatment provider capacity statewide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report required by this Resolution shall include, without limitation, sections that address the following special topics:

(1) Costs and benefits associated with prioritizing residential treatment providers within future investments in Medicaid-funded substance use disorder treatment capacity.

(2) Provider capacity and unmet needs associated with substance use disorder treatment for adolescents.

(3) Provider capacity and unmet needs associated with substance use disorder treatment for women with children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study of substance use disorder treatment capacity and needs called for in this Resolution, the office of behavioral health shall engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from substance use disorder treatment providers and provider agencies and shall provide documentation of this engagement and collaboration in the report required by this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health shall engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from the Department of Children and Family Services in developing the sections of the report called for in this Resolution concerning substance use disorder treatment needs of adolescents and of women with children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE