

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY SENATOR NEVERS

HEALTH/HOSPITALS DEPT. Requests that DHH study and develop a list of best practices suicide prevention training programs to make available in Louisiana to offer for training groups of Louisiana professionals and citizens on a voluntary basis.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, through its office of behavioral health, to study and develop a list of suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management training programs meeting the Suicide Prevention Resource Center best practices standards to make available for access by medical professionals and the public in the state of Louisiana; that the department further develop a list of which other professional and citizen groups, beyond the medical professions, the department recommends should be offered such training on a voluntary basis; and that the department recommends how best to make such training widely accessible for use in Louisiana, through online access or otherwise.

WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, suicide kills more people in this country each year than automobile accidents; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, twelve out of every one hundred thousand people in Louisiana committed suicide; and

WHEREAS, early detection and competent care in the treatment of suicidal thoughts can save lives; and

1           WHEREAS, in 2005, a study conducted in the state of Georgia demonstrated that a  
2           group of mental health professionals without best practices suicide prevention training  
3           demonstrated a nine-percent group average competency rate in suicide assessment and  
4           intervention, and, after only a minimal number of hours of such empirically-supported  
5           training, the group's average competency rate in suicide assessment and intervention rose to  
6           eighty-nine percent; and

7           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals is currently making  
8           available to many state agency personnel best practices, empirically-supported training in  
9           suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and management; and

10          WHEREAS, many evidence-based, successful suicide prevention training programs  
11          are available online and otherwise at minimal cost through organizations such as the  
12          nationally recognized Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the American Foundation for  
13          Suicide Prevention; and

14          WHEREAS, in addition to Louisiana's medical professionals and professions such  
15          as educators and law enforcement, other civic or citizen groups, such as students, could  
16          benefit from such suicide assessment and intervention training.

17          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
18          urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, through its office of behavioral  
19          health, to study and develop a list of suicide assessment, intervention, treatment, and  
20          management training programs meeting the Suicide Prevention Resource Center best  
21          practices standards to make available for access by medical professionals and the public in  
22          the state of Louisiana; that the department further develop a list of which other professional  
23          and citizen groups, beyond the medical professions, the department recommends should be  
24          offered such training on a voluntary basis; and that the department recommend how best to  
25          make such training widely accessible for use in Louisiana, through online access or  
26          otherwise.

27          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge  
28          and request the Department of Health and Hospitals complete this study and deliver a written  
29          report with its findings and recommendations to the health and welfare committees of the  
30          Louisiana Senate and House of Representatives on or before January 1, 2015.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
2           secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, and to the assistant secretary of  
3           Department of Health and Hospitals, office of behavioral health.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Julie J. Baxter.

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DIGEST

Nevers

SCR No. 75

Requests the Department of Health and Hospitals and the department's office of behavioral health, study and develop a list of suicide assessment, intervention, treatment and management training programs meeting the Suicide Prevention Resource Center best practices standards to make available for access by medical professionals and the public in the state; that the department further develop a list of which other professional and citizen groups, beyond the medical professions, the department recommends should be offered such training on a voluntary basis; and that the department recommend how best to make such training widely accessible for use in Louisiana, through online access or otherwise.