

By: Nelson, et al.

S.B. No. 63

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 113 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 113. TEXAS MENTAL HEALTH CARE CONSORTIUM

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 113.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Community mental health provider" means an entity that provides mental health care services at a local level. The term includes community centers established under Subchapter A, Chapter 534.

(2) "Consortium" means the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium.

(3) "Executive committee" means the executive committee of the consortium.

SUBCHAPTER B. CONSORTIUM

Sec. 113.0051. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE. The Texas Mental Health Care Consortium is established to:

(1) coordinate the expansion and delivery of mental health care services by using the infrastructure and expertise of the health-related institutions of higher education listed in Section 113.0052 and community mental health providers;

1 (2) enhance the state's ability to address mental
2 health care needs through stronger collaboration and institutional
3 alignment of the health-related institutions of higher education
4 listed in Section 113.0052;

5 (3) improve the effectiveness and efficiency of mental
6 health care services delivered in this state;

7 (4) facilitate access to mental health care services
8 through telemedicine and other cost-effective, evidence-based
9 programs;

10 (5) improve mental health and substance use disorder
11 research efforts conducted by institutions of higher education; and

12 (6) improve and expand the behavioral health workforce
13 through training and development opportunities between the
14 health-related institutions of higher education listed in Section
15 113.0052 and community mental health providers.

16 Sec. 113.0052. COMPOSITION. The consortium is composed of:

17 (1) the following health-related institutions of
18 higher education:

19 (A) Baylor College of Medicine;

20 (B) The Texas A&M University System Health
21 Science Center;

22 (C) Texas Tech University Health Sciences
23 Center;

24 (D) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
25 at El Paso;

26 (E) University of North Texas Health Science
27 Center at Fort Worth;

- 1 (F) Dell Medical School at The University of
2 Texas at Austin;
- 3 (G) The University of Texas Medical Branch at
4 Galveston;
- 5 (H) The University of Texas Health Science Center
6 at Houston;
- 7 (I) The University of Texas Health Science Center
8 at San Antonio;
- 9 (J) The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
10 School of Medicine;
- 11 (K) The University of Texas Health Science Center
12 at Tyler; and
- 13 (L) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical
14 Center;

- 15 (2) the commission;
- 16 (3) not fewer than three nonprofit organizations that
17 focus on mental health care; and
- 18 (4) any other entity that the executive committee
19 considers necessary.

20 Sec. 113.0053. ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT. The consortium
21 is administratively attached to the Texas Higher Education
22 Coordinating Board. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
23 shall provide administrative support to the consortium as necessary
24 to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

25 SUBCHAPTER C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

26 Sec. 113.0101. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION. The
27 consortium is governed by an executive committee composed of the

1 following members:

2 (1) the chair of the academic department of psychiatry
3 of each of the health-related institutions of higher education
4 listed in Section 113.0052;

5 (2) a representative of the commission with expertise
6 in the delivery of mental health care services, appointed by the
7 executive commissioner;

8 (3) a representative of the commission with expertise
9 in mental health facilities, appointed by the executive
10 commissioner;

11 (4) a representative of an organization that
12 represents the interests of community centers established under
13 Subchapter A, Chapter 534, appointed by the governor;

14 (5) a representative of each nonprofit organization
15 described by Section 113.0052 that is part of the consortium,
16 appointed by the governor; and

17 (6) any other representative appointed by the governor
18 at the request of the executive committee.

19 Sec. 113.0102. PRESIDING OFFICER. The executive committee
20 shall elect a presiding officer from among the membership of the
21 executive committee.

22 Sec. 113.0103. MEETINGS. The executive committee shall
23 meet at the call of the presiding officer.

24 Sec. 113.0104. VACANCY. A vacancy on the executive
25 committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original
26 appointment.

27 Sec. 113.0105. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The executive

1 committee may accept on behalf of the consortium gifts, grants, or
2 donations from any public or private source for the purpose of
3 carrying out this chapter.

4 SUBCHAPTER D. POWERS AND DUTIES

5 Sec. 113.0151. GENERAL DUTIES. (a) The executive
6 committee shall:

7 (1) coordinate the expansion and delivery of mental
8 health care services by providing grants or other funding to the
9 health-related institutions of higher education listed in Section
10 113.0052 and community mental health providers;

11 (2) establish procedures and policies for the
12 administration of funds under this chapter;

13 (3) monitor contracts and other agreements entered
14 into under this chapter to ensure recipients of grants or other
15 funding comply with the terms and conditions of those contracts or
16 agreements; and

17 (4) establish procedures to document compliance by
18 executive committee members and staff with applicable laws
19 governing conflicts of interest.

20 (b) In carrying out the duties under Subsection (a), the
21 consortium shall ensure that evidence-based tools, including
22 telemedicine, are used to help expand the delivery of mental health
23 care services.

24 (c) The consortium shall designate a member of the executive
25 committee to work in liaison with the statewide health coordinating
26 council.

27 Sec. 113.0152. COMPREHENSIVE CHILD PSYCHIATRY ACCESS

1 NETWORK. (a) The consortium shall establish a network of
2 comprehensive child psychiatry access centers at the
3 health-related institutions of higher education listed in Section
4 113.0052.

5 (b) A center established under Subsection (a) shall
6 collaborate with community mental health providers to better care
7 for children and youth with behavioral health needs by:

8 (1) providing consultation services and training
9 opportunities for pediatricians and primary care providers
10 operating in the center's geographic region; and

11 (2) expanding a telemedicine program for identifying
12 and assessing behavioral health needs and providing access to
13 mental health care services.

14 (c) A center established under Subsection (a) may enter into
15 a memorandum of understanding with a community mental health
16 provider to carry out this section.

17 Sec. 113.0153. MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH PLAN. The consortium
18 shall:

19 (1) develop and implement a mental health research
20 plan to advance the research component of the statewide behavioral
21 health strategic plan;

22 (2) create an aggregated inventory of mental health
23 and substance use disorder research completed by institutions of
24 higher education in this state; and

25 (3) coordinate mental health and substance use
26 disorder research efforts by the health-related institutions of
27 higher education listed in Section 113.0052 to ensure those

1 institutions engage in effective and targeted research to leverage
2 additional funding.

3 Sec. 113.0154. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE EXPANSION
4 PROJECT. (a) The consortium shall enhance collaboration between
5 the health-related institutions of higher education listed in
6 Section 113.0052 and community mental health providers to increase
7 psychiatric residency training and improve the quality of care for
8 persons receiving mental health care services in this state.

9 (b) The executive committee may provide grants or other
10 funding to the academic department of psychiatry at each
11 health-related institution of higher education listed in Section
12 113.0052 for the purpose of funding:

13 (1) one full-time psychiatrist to serve as academic
14 medical director for a community mental health provider; and

15 (2) two resident positions.

16 (c) An academic medical director described by Subsection
17 (b) shall collaborate and coordinate with community mental health
18 providers to expand the amount and availability of mental health
19 care resources by:

20 (1) developing training opportunities for residents
21 and medical students; and

22 (2) promoting the use of telemedicine or other
23 evidence-based tools to provide comprehensive mental health care
24 services to a greater population.

25 (d) An institution of higher education that receives grants
26 or other funding under Subsection (b) shall include in its
27 curriculum a requirement that psychiatric residents and medical

1 students participate in rotations through facilities operated by
2 community mental health providers.

3 Sec. 113.0155. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than July 31 of
4 each year, the consortium shall submit to the governor, the
5 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
6 and the standing committee of each house of the legislature with
7 primary jurisdiction over behavioral health issues and post on its
8 Internet website a written report that outlines:

9 (1) the activities and objectives of the consortium;

10 (2) the health-related institutions of higher
11 education listed in Section 113.0052 or community mental health
12 providers awarded grants or other funding by the executive
13 committee;

14 (3) any prospective grants or funding the consortium
15 expects to receive; and

16 (4) any research accomplishments associated with the
17 consortium.

18 SUBCHAPTER E. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

19 Sec. 113.0201. JUDICIAL INSTRUCTION REGARDING MENTAL
20 HEALTH CARE RESOURCES. The court of criminal appeals, in
21 consultation with the consortium, shall develop a training program
22 to educate and inform designated judges and their staff on mental
23 health care resources available within the geographic region in
24 which the designated judges preside. The court of criminal appeals
25 may develop and operate the training program in conjunction with
26 any other training programs it develops or operates.

27 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date

1 of this Act, the governor and the executive commissioner of the
2 Health and Human Services Commission shall make the appointments
3 required by Section 113.0101, Health and Safety Code, as added by
4 this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.