

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 804*

Short Title: Strategies for Improving MH-DD-SAS. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hise and Hartsell (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Health Care.

May 20, 2014

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO DEVELOP AND REPORT ON STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by November 1, 2014, that includes all of the following components:

- (1) A strategy for improving communication and coordination among all divisions within the Department that administer funds or programs related to the delivery of behavioral health services, especially regarding the most appropriate and efficient uses of public and private inpatient behavioral health services. The Department shall include as part of its strategy a process to address shortages and deficiencies identified in the annual State Medical Facilities Plan.
- (2) A plan developed in collaboration with local management entities that have been approved to operate as managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) to increase access to, and availability of, community-based outpatient crisis and emergency services for the stabilization and treatment of individuals experiencing mental health, developmental disability, or substance abuse crises in settings other than local hospital emergency departments and State-operated psychiatric hospitals.
- (3) A plan to ensure that a comprehensive array of outpatient treatment and crisis prevention and intervention services are available and accessible to children, adolescents, and adults in every LME/MCO catchment area. The plan shall ensure that an adequate number of crisis stabilization units are available in each LME/MCO catchment area.
- (4) Findings and recommendations for increasing the inventory of inpatient psychiatric and substance abuse services within the State. In developing its findings and recommendations, the Department shall examine the advantages and disadvantages of increasing this inventory of services through (i) additional State-operated facilities, (ii) community hospital beds,



1 (iii) United States Veterans Administration beds, and (iv) community-based
2 services that decrease the need for inpatient treatment.

3 (5) A plan for offering hospitals and other entities incentives to apply for
4 licenses to begin offering new inpatient behavioral health services, or to
5 begin operating existing licensed beds that are currently unstaffed, or both.

6 (6) Recommendations on the use of the existing Cherry Hospital buildings after
7 patients and operations are relocated to the replacement facility. In
8 developing its findings and recommendations, the Department shall conduct
9 a study that includes development of an inventory and assessment of the
10 condition of every building located on the existing Cherry Hospital campus.
11 The study shall include an examination of the feasibility of using the existing
12 Cherry Hospital facility to provide community-based and facility-based
13 behavioral health services, including additional child and adolescent
14 inpatient beds.

15 (7) A method by which the Division of Health Service Regulation can begin
16 tracking and separately reporting no later than January 1, 2015, on the
17 inventory of inpatient behavioral health beds for children ages six through
18 12 and for adolescents over age 12.

19 (8) A status update on the implementation of each component of the 2008
20 Mental Health Commission Workforce Development Plan.

21 **SECTION 2.** The Department shall submit a report to the House of
22 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate
23 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight
24 Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division by March 1,
25 2015, that includes all of the following components:

26 (1) A comprehensive strategy, developed in collaboration with stakeholders
27 deemed relevant by the Department, to address the dearth of licensed child
28 and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds throughout the State. The strategy
29 shall:

30 a. Ensure that an adequate inventory of child and adolescent beds are
31 available in each LME/MCO catchment area.

32 b. Include the development and implementation of a child and
33 adolescent psychiatric bed registry to provide real-time information
34 on the number of beds available at each licensed inpatient facility in
35 the State.

36 (2) Recommendations for meaningful outcome measures to be implemented by
37 State-operated alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers to assess the impact
38 of inpatient treatment on an individual's substance use following discharge
39 from a State-operated alcohol and drug abuse treatment center. The
40 recommendations shall include a proposed time line for implementation of
41 these outcome measures.

42 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.