

COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT SERVICES PROGRAM

SECTION 21.60.(a) The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish the Comprehensive Treatment Services Program for children at risk for institutionalization or other out-of-home placement. The Program shall be implemented by the Department in consultation with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Department of Public Instruction, and other affected State agencies. The purpose of the Program is to provide appropriate and medically necessary residential and nonresidential treatment alternatives for children at risk of institutionalization or other out-of-home placement. Program funds shall be targeted for non-Medicaid eligible children. Program funds may also be used to expand a system-of-care approach for services to children and their families statewide. The program shall include the following:

- (1) Behavioral health screening for all children at risk of institutionalization or other out-of-home placement.
- (2) Appropriate and medically necessary residential and nonresidential services for deaf children.
- (3) Appropriate and medically necessary residential and nonresidential treatment services including placements for sexually aggressive youth.
- (4) Appropriate and medically necessary residential and nonresidential treatment services including placements for youths needing substance abuse treatment services and children with serious emotional disturbances.
- (5) Multidisciplinary case management services, as needed.
- (6) A system of utilization review specific to the nature and design of the Program.
- (7) Mechanisms to ensure that children are not placed in department of social services custody for the purpose of obtaining mental health residential treatment services.
- (8) Mechanisms to maximize current State and local funds and to expand use of Medicaid funds to accomplish the intent of this Program.
- (9) Other appropriate components to accomplish the Program's purpose.
- (10) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services may enter into contracts with residential service providers.
- (11) A system of identifying and tracking children placed outside of the family unit in group homes, therapeutic foster care home settings, and other out-of-home placements.

SECTION 21.60.(b) In order to ensure that children at risk for institutionalization or other out-of-home placement are appropriately served by the mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services system, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, shall do the following with respect to services provided to these children:

- (1) Provide only those treatment services that are medically necessary.
- (2) Implement utilization review of services provided.
- (3) Adopt the following guiding principles for the provision of services:
 - a. Service delivery system must be outcome-oriented and evaluation-based.
 - b. Services should be delivered as close as possible to the child's home.
 - c. Services selected should be those that are most efficient in terms of cost and effectiveness.
 - d. Services should not be provided solely for the convenience of the provider or the client.
 - e. Families and consumers should be involved in decision making throughout treatment planning and delivery.
- (4) Implement all of the following cost-reduction strategies:
 - a. Preauthorization for all services except emergency services.
 - b. Levels of care to assist in the development of treatment plans.
 - c. Clinically appropriate services.
 - d. Not later than May 1, 2002, State review of individualized service plans for former Willie M. class members and for other children whose individual service plan exceeds one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to ensure that service plans focus on delivery of appropriate services rather than optimal treatment and habilitation plans.

SECTION 21.60.(c) The Department shall collaborate with other affected State agencies such as the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Department of Public Instruction, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and with local departments of social services, area mental health programs, and local education agencies to eliminate cost shifting and facilitate cost-sharing among these governmental agencies with respect to the treatment and placement services.

SECTION 21.60.(d) The Department shall not allocate funds appropriated for Program services until a Memorandum of Agreement has been executed between the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Instruction, and other affected State agencies. The Memorandum of Agreement shall address specifically the roles and responsibilities of the various departmental divisions and affected State agencies involved in the administration, financing, care, and placement of children at risk of institutionalization or other out-of-home placement. The Department shall not allocate funds appropriated in this act for the Program until Memoranda of Agreement between local departments of social services, area mental health programs, local education agencies, and the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, as appropriate, are executed to effectuate the purpose of the Program. The Memoranda of Agreement shall address issues pertinent to local implementation of the Program, including provision for the immediate availability of student records to a local school administrative unit receiving a child placed in a residential setting outside the child's home county.

SECTION 21.60.(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, services under the Comprehensive Treatment Services Program are not an entitlement for non-Medicaid eligible children served by the Program.

SECTION 21.60.(f) Of the funds appropriated in this act for the Comprehensive Treatment Services Program, the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a reserve of three percent (3%) to ensure availability of these funds to address specialized needs for children with unique or highly complex problems.

SECTION 21.60.(g) The Department of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Department of Public Instruction, and other affected agencies, shall report on the following Program information:

- (1) The number and other demographic information of children served.
- (2) The amount and source of funds expended to implement the Program.
- (3) Information regarding the number of children screened, specific placement of children including the placement of children in programs or facilities outside of the child's home county, and treatment needs of children served.
- (4) The average length of stay in residential treatment, transition, and return to home.
- (5) The number of children diverted from institutions or other out-of-home placements such as training schools and State psychiatric hospitals and a description of the services provided.
- (6) Recommendations on other areas of the Program that need to be improved.
- (7) Other information relevant to successful implementation of the Program.

SECTION 21.60.(h) The Department shall submit an interim report on December 1, 2001, on the implementation of this section and a final report not later than April 1, 2002, to the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

Requested by: Senators Martin of Guilford, Dannelly, Metcalf, Purcell, Wellons, Plyler, Odom, Lee; Representatives Earle, Nye, Baddour, Esposito, Easterling, Oldham, Redwine, Thompson