

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVES NORTON, BAGNERIS, GARY CARTER, COX, FRANKLIN,
HODGES, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JONES, SMITH, AND TALBOT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Medicaid Integrated Care Assessment Task Force to make a thorough study and evaluation of Louisiana's current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana is a vital issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of communities, families, and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, nearly forty-four million adults in the United States live with mental illness and twenty percent of children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental health disorder; and

WHEREAS, one in twenty-five individuals in the United States has lived with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression; and

WHEREAS, studies note that individuals with serious mental illness die, on average, twenty-five years earlier than individuals in the general population; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mental illness, behavioral health disorders, or co-occurring substance use disorders can recover through treatment that includes psychosocial therapy, clinical treatment, and peer support, alone or in combination with behavioral, psychiatric, psychological, or integrated medical services; and

WHEREAS, parents, families, and caregivers are allies in recovery and serve as critical members of the care delivery team; and

WHEREAS, the unintended consequence of untreated mental illness results in a negative financial and social impact on Louisiana including an ever-increasing burden on the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the legislature declares that, due to compelling moral and economic reasons, it is in the best interest of Louisiana to study and evaluate the state's current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Medicaid Integrated Care Assessment Task Force, hereafter referred to as the "task force".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of representatives assigned from relevant state agencies, interested state medical and behavioral health services provider associations, and other relevant and interested parties, including but not limited to all of the following:

- (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (2) The assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health, Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (3) The director of the Medicaid program of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (4) The director of the health standards section of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (5) The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, youth services, office of juvenile justice or his designee.
- (6) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Louisiana School Counselor Association or his designee.
- (8) The chairperson of the Louisiana Mental Health Planning Council or his designee.
- (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners or his designee.
- (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Counseling Association or his designee.
- (11) The president of the Louisiana Association of Marriage and Family Therapy or his designee.
- (12) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists or his designee.

- (13) The executive director of the Community Provider Association or his designee.
- (14) The executive director of the Homecare Association of Louisiana or his designee.
- (15) The president of the Louisiana Psychological Association or his designee.
- (16) The executive director of the National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter or his designee.
- (17) The president of the Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers or his designee.
- (18) The president of the Louisiana Hospital Association or his designee.
- (19) The executive director of the Mental Health Association of Louisiana or his designee.
- (20) The president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Louisiana or his designee.
- (21) The president of the Louisiana State Medical Society or his designee.
- (22) The president of the Louisiana Association of Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers, Inc. or his designee.
- (23) The president of the Louisiana Association of Behavioral Health Providers or his designee.
- (24) The president of the Louisiana State Nurses Association or his designee.
- (25) Two elected members of the Louisiana House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (26) Two elected members of the Louisiana Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (27) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is assigned to the Louisiana Department of Health, with staff support to be provided from existing personnel within the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee shall serve as chairman of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at the first meeting of the task force, the members shall elect a vice chairman and other officers as they may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services and shall serve at no expense to the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge but may hold public meetings elsewhere in the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the task force is to make a thorough study and evaluation of Louisiana's current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness and render objective, fiscally feasible recommendations to the legislature for the implementation of policies that could be adopted by the state for the delivery of integrated physical and behavioral health services for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in conducting the study and evaluation, the task force shall engage and work in cooperation with the human service districts and authorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary, no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Legislative Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative authority for the task force shall terminate on December 31, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee shall convene the task force for its first meeting no later than October 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE