

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To direct the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health to collect data to show the total cost associated with individuals with chronic untreated and under-treated serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders moving through various systems of crisis care and to report such data to certain legislative committees.

WHEREAS, the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) manages and delivers the services and supports necessary to improve the quality of life for citizens with mental illness and addictive disorders; and

WHEREAS, the office of behavioral health provides statewide authority and accountability for all behavioral healthcare, including mental health treatment services, for Louisiana citizens; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the office of behavioral health is to work collaboratively with partners to develop and implement a comprehensive integrated system of behavioral health and health care, social supports, and prevention services that promote recovery and resilience for all citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the mission of LDH is to protect and promote health and to ensure access to medical, preventive, and rehabilitative services for all citizens of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, LDH works to provide quality services, protect and promote health, develop and stimulate services by others, and utilize available resources in the most effective manner in order to fulfill its mission; and

WHEREAS, state law (R.S. 28:52) provides that any person who has a mental illness or is suffering from a substance-related or addictive disorder may apply for voluntary admission to a treatment facility and that admitting physicians are encouraged to admit persons who have a mental illness or persons suffering from a substance-related or addictive disorder to treatment facilities on voluntary admission status whenever medically feasible; and

WHEREAS, there is a high prevalence of comorbidity between mental illness and substance use disorders as stress acts as a neurological link between both diseases; and

WHEREAS, the risk factors that contribute to mental illness and substance use disorders include genetic vulnerabilities, epigenetic influences, environmental influences, childhood trauma, and other biological and socioeconomic components; and

WHEREAS, the office of behavioral health facilitates the provision of crisis care through ten local governing entities, the human service districts, and authorities of this state that are currently making efforts to treat and manage community behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, understanding how individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders flow through different systems of crisis care would help the state behavioral health agency achieve better service coordination and sustainability in systems of care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana Department of Health to collect data to show the total cost associated with individuals with chronic untreated and under-treated serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders moving through various systems of crisis care and to report such data to certain legislative committees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health of the LDH shall submit the data collected in accordance with this Resolution in the form of a report to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES