

1 WHEREAS, these closures have negatively impacted the state's disability services
2 system and other health systems because individuals now reach crisis levels before receiving
3 treatment, which results in this state sometimes paying to send Medicaid enrollees out of
4 state to receive needed care or admitting individuals into the state-run Pinecrest Supports and
5 Services Center, where care for an institutionalized client costs over two hundred thousand
6 dollars per year; and

7 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and
8 co-occurring behavioral health conditions and the families of such persons need access
9 across the continuum of care and benefit significantly from the following:

10 (1) Access to community-based mental health treatment, including intensive,
11 evidence-based options.

12 (2) Crisis services including therapeutic respite.

13 (3) Residential or inpatient treatment when indicated; and

14 WHEREAS, due to the abundance of specialized expertise among staff in the office
15 for citizens with developmental disabilities and office of behavioral health of the Louisiana
16 Department of Health, this department is uniquely qualified to facilitate an effort to study
17 means by which to improve services for individuals with intellectual and developmental
18 disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health conditions.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to facilitate a working group to study
21 the unique needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and
22 co-occurring behavioral health conditions and to develop a report of the group's findings and
23 recommendations.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall be composed of the
25 following members:

26 (1) The executive director of The Arc of Louisiana or his designee.

27 (2) Three parents of minor or adult children with disabilities appointed by the
28 executive director of The Arc of Louisiana.

29 (3) A deputy assistant secretary with the office for citizens with developmental
30 disabilities appointed by the assistant secretary of the office.

1 (4) The clinical director of the office for citizens with developmental disabilities or
2 his designee.

3 (5) The medical director of the office of behavioral health or his designee.

4 (6) The chief executive officer of Magellan of Louisiana or his designee.

5 (7) Two representatives of Medicaid managed care organizations appointed by the
6 Medicaid director of the Louisiana Department of Health.

7 (8) Three professionals with expertise in serving individuals with intellectual and
8 developmental disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health conditions appointed by the
9 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

10 (9) A person who previously worked as a professional staff member at the
11 developmental neuropsychiatric unit or stabilization unit appointed by the assistant secretary
12 of the office for citizens with developmental disabilities.

13 (10) The executive director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs or his
14 designee.

15 (11) The chief executive officer of Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family
16 Services or his designee.

17 (12) The executive director of People First of Louisiana or his designee.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall
19 convene the first meeting of the working group no later than August 31, 2022.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its deliberations, the working group shall
21 consider all of the following:

22 (1) Potential sources of funding to reopen a developmental neuropsychiatric unit,
23 a stabilization unit, or both types of units, as well as suitable locations for the unit or units.

24 (2) Psychiatric residential treatment facilities as options for serving the target
25 population.

26 (3) Options for implementing community-based behavioral health services for the
27 target population within existing systems and funding of such services through existing
28 programs.

29 (4) Approaches for engaging all of Louisiana's Medicaid managed care organizations
30 in delivering services for the target population.

