

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON, AMEDEE, ARMES, BAGNERIS, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, BOUIE, CARMODY, GARY CARTER, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DAVIS, FALCONER, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, LANCE HARRIS, HAZEL, HILFERTY, HODGES, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, JACKSON, LEGER, LYONS, MACK, MAGEE, MORENO, PYLANT, SCHEXNAYDER, SMITH, STOKES, WILLMOTT, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to develop and maintain on the internet a list of behavioral health facilities and other pertinent information for persons seeking behavioral healthcare services.

WHEREAS, access to health care, including behavioral healthcare services, is a major public health concern throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, despite the increased awareness of behavioral health issues, many individuals are still not getting the services they desperately need; and

WHEREAS, after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it became increasingly difficult for residents of Louisiana to access behavioral healthcare services, especially inpatient facilities; and

WHEREAS, individuals in need of behavioral healthcare services and their family members and friends are not always aware of where to access appropriate care; and

WHEREAS, individuals living with behavioral health challenges and their families soon discover that the illness affects many aspects of their lives and that they need more than medical help; and

WHEREAS, many loved ones are discouraged by the limited prospects for accessing effective and appropriate treatment for their family members who suffer from behavioral health conditions; and

WHEREAS, efficient access to behavioral healthcare services is often a critical factor in achieving a positive patient outcome; and

WHEREAS, it is the aim of the Department of Health and Hospitals to protect and promote health and to ensure access to preventative and rehabilitative healthcare services for all Louisiana residents; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is committed to caring for all residents suffering from behavioral health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the need for greater access to behavioral healthcare services in this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to develop and maintain on the internet a list of behavioral health facilities and other pertinent information for persons seeking behavioral healthcare services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information to be made public and maintained by the department shall include all of the following:

(1) A list of behavioral health facilities by region in the state including the following information about each facility:

(a) A physical address.

(b) A phone number at which callers may access appropriate personnel seven days a week and twenty-four hours per day who provide information regarding bed availability.

(c) The types of beds and services available.

(2) Phone numbers such as the National Suicide Prevention Hotline which provide information regarding access to local facilities.

(3) Any other information the department deems necessary to assist those persons seeking behavioral healthcare services.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES