SLS 19RS-1020 **ORIGINAL**

2019 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY SENATORS APPEL, PETERSON AND GARY SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVES BILLIOT, CONNICK, GISCLAIR, HENRY, HILFERTY, LEOPOLD AND STOKES

MEDICAID. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to take all steps necessary to approve peer support services as a Medicaid covered service.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to take all steps necessary to approve peer support services as a Medicaid covered service.

WHEREAS, peer support services are a United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration best practice wherein a peer support specialist that has personal experience with mental illness or addictive disorder provides an array of personal recipient care; and

WHEREAS, peer support services include sharing personal experiences to engage service recipients in their recovery and advocating on their behalf when necessary, facilitating support groups, helping those in recovery navigate community resources, and participating in care coordination team efforts to help service recipients meet their recovery goals and avoid relapse; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 Georgia implemented Medicaid peer support services and based on demonstrated outcomes, by 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance to states endorsing the provision of peer support services; and

WHEREAS, CMS has approved Medicaid reimbursement for peer support services in thirty-nine states; and

WHEREAS, data from states where peer support services are covered by Medicaid

have demonstrated a quantifiable reduction in hospitalization rates, substance abuse, and recipient involvement in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, as of February 2019, there were one million five hundred thousand people enrolled in Louisiana Medicaid whose care is being managed by Medicaid managed care organizations that are paid a per member per month rate for the provision of services, including behavioral healthcare; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that in February 2019, sixteen thousand Medicaid recipients received specialized substance abuse residential services at an average cost of two hundred fifteen dollars per day and eighteen thousand adults received inpatient mental health services at a psychiatric facility at an average cost of five hundred ninety-five dollars per day, which is significantly higher than the cost that would be incurred for the provision of peer support services for the same population; and

WHEREAS, data from states currently providing Medicaid reimbursement for peer support services demonstrate an average of four dollars and fifty cents per fifteen minute increment for group services and an average of fifteen dollars per fifteen minute increment for individual services, which compared to the costs of residential and inpatient services could yield significant cost savings for Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to take all steps necessary to approve peer support services as a Medicaid covered service.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

DIGEST

SCR 84 Original 2019 Regular Session Appel

Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to take all steps necessary to approve peer support services as a Medicaid covered service.