

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Capital Area Human Services District to develop and operate a crisis stabilization unit to serve the Capital Region and to urge community leaders, local governments of the Capital Region, the state, and healthcare providers to collaborate, identify, and develop a blended approach to finance services provided by the crisis stabilization unit to individuals without a payor source or a means to pay for their mental health care.

WHEREAS, the closure of the mental health emergency room extension (MHERE) in the Capital Region has had an extensive impact on numerous public and private services in the region; and

WHEREAS, the MHERE was a specialized unit that was a national model for stabilizing individuals in a mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, inherent in the design of the MHERE was the goal of stabilizing the crisis and linking the individual to ongoing care in the community; and

WHEREAS, the MHERE was developed in collaboration with several knowledgeable community groups; and

WHEREAS, the MHERE unit consisted of an average ten beds to stabilize individuals in behavioral health crises (mental health, addictive disorders, and developmental disabilities); and

WHEREAS, once an individual was medically cleared in the main emergency department, specialized staff screened, assessed, stabilized, and initiated treatment in the MHERE; and

WHEREAS, the MHERE provided clinicians time for diagnostic clarity, observation, developing alternatives to inpatient admission, medication management, and time to develop a discharge plan for ongoing treatment in the community; and

WHEREAS, the MHERE unit outperformed expectations and served three thousand four hundred individuals; and

WHEREAS, the closure of the MHERE unit last year had immediate repercussions on Capital Region hospitals and negatively impacted local and state budgets; and

WHEREAS, hospital emergency departments, law enforcement, the judiciary, and others are attempting to keep up with an increased demand now placed on them; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent of the individuals utilizing the MHERE had Medicaid or private insurance, and the other fifty percent were indigent; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Human Services District believes a replacement for the MHERE is necessary and seeks to create a crisis stabilization unit to replace the MHERE; and

WHEREAS, the crisis stabilization unit will coordinate services, transfer and discharge planning to ensure an individual's compliance with continued care, and assign a contract monitor to ensure services are provided within established licensure guidelines and appropriate billing standards; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Human Services District will monitor the services for compliance and will provide a crisis stabilization team to coordinate discharge or transfer to the appropriate level of care and referrals to community resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Capital Area Human Services District to develop and operate a crisis stabilization unit to serve the Capital Region and to urge community leaders, local governments of the Capital Region, the state, and healthcare providers to collaborate to identify and develop a blended approach to finance services provided by the crisis stabilization unit to individuals without a payor source or a means to pay for their care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Capital Area Human Services District and the Capital Region Legislative Delegation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES