

Improving Children's Mental Health in Tennessee

Senate Joint Resolution 799
Public Chapter 1062

Public Chapter 1062 Amendment

- Presents information about the need to improve the children's mental health system in "Whereas" clauses.
- Includes definitions related to improving the children's mental health system.
- Places responsibility for continuing the process begun by SJR 799 in TCA Title 37, Chapter 3, which is the Chapter for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

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- ▶ Establishes a “Council on Children’s Mental Health” co-chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

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- ▶ Provides for representation on the Council by a broad base of stakeholders in children’s mental health services.
- ▶ Includes provisions for replacing members who do not participate.
- ▶ Designates executive director of Commission on Children and Youth as chief administrative officer of the council.

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- ▶ Requires Council to develop a plan for a statewide system of care where children's mental health care is child-centered, family-driven, and culturally and linguistically competent and that provides a coordinated system of care for children's mental health needs in the state.

Council Members include but not limited to:

- ▶ Department of Children's Services
Commissioner or designee
- ▶ Department of Finance and Administration
Commissioner or designee
- ▶ Department of Health Commissioner or
designee
- ▶ Department of Human Services
Commissioner or designee
- ▶ Department of Education Commissioner or
designee

- ▶ TennCare Bureau director or designee
- ▶ Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities representatives familiar with children and youth services and alcohol and drug abuse services
- ▶ Commission on Children and Youth chairman or designee
- ▶ Member of Governor's staff
- ▶ Senator
- ▶ Representative
- ▶ Comptroller of the Treasury representative

Council Members include but not limited to:

- ▶ Four (4) parents of children who have received mental health services
- ▶ Two (2) persons under 24 years of age who are receiving or have received mental health services
- ▶ Three (3) reps of community services agencies
- ▶ Two (2) representatives of a statewide organization that advocates for children's mental health needs
- ▶ Two (2) representatives of providers of children's mental health services
- ▶ Three (3) juvenile court judges, one from each grand division

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- ▶ Requires the plan to provide a service delivery system that focuses on the principles of care for a system of care and enumerates those principles.
- ▶ Requires the plan to include a core set of services and supports that appropriately and effectively address the mental health needs of children and families.

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- ▶ Requires the Council to develop a financial resource map and cost analysis of all federal and state funded programs for children's mental health, updated on an annual basis, to guide and support the plan.
- ▶ Sets out requirements for the financial resource map and cost analysis.

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Provides for other Council duties related to:

- ▶ Facilitating interagency work;
- ▶ Defining accountability standards;
- ▶ Encouraging matching federal funds;
- ▶ Serving as an advocate;

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Provides for other Council duties related to:

- ▶ Stimulating more effective use of resources;
- ▶ Assisting in developing interagency agreements;
- ▶ Determining whether programs are evidence-based, research-based and theory-based and submitting those findings.

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Authorizes the Council to:

- ▶ Establish by-laws and operational matters;
- ▶ Request/receive cooperation from agencies;
- ▶ Enter into contracts;
- ▶ Advise governor and heads of departments;
- ▶ Hold hearings, conduct research, etc.
- ▶ Review relevant data, research, etc.

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Establishes reporting requirements:

- ▶ By February 1, 2009 report timeline for development of the overall plan; barriers; programs currently in place and whether evidence-, research- or theory-based; interagency cooperation; financial resource map; cost analysis; and recommendations for improving children's mental health.

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Additional reporting requirements:

- ▶ By July 1, 2010 a plan for implementing demonstration sites in at least three areas of the state, at least one in each grand division;
- ▶ If 2010 plan is funded by the legislature, a plan to expand to ten areas by July 1, 2012;
- ▶ If 2012 plan is funded by the legislature, a plan to expand statewide by July 1, 2013.

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Reporting Requirements – Plan, budget and report to :

- Governor;
- House and Senate Judiciary Committees;
- Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Services Committee;
- House and Senate Education Committees;
- House Health and Human Resources;
- House Children and Family Affairs Committees;
- Select Committee on Children and Youth; and
- Select Oversight Committee on TennCare.

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Sections 2 through 12 and Section 14 require departments of state government to assist the council in developing the children's mental health plan and establishing the demonstration sites:

- Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities;
- Children's Services;
- Education;
- Human Services;
- Health

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- ▶ Section 13 sunsets the Council on 6/30/2010.
- ▶ Section 15 provides the act is effective upon becoming law for the purpose of making appointments to the Council and for promulgating rules and regulations, and July 1, 2008 for all other purposes.