

By Senator Margolis

35-516-07

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to a mental health advisory
3 task force; creating the Criminal Justice Task
4 Force within the Substance Abuse and Mental
5 Health Corporation to identify barriers to
6 providing comprehensive mental health and
7 substance abuse treatment services to children,
8 youth, and adults who are in the criminal
9 justice system; providing for membership and
10 duties; providing for members of the task force
11 to be reimbursed for per diem and travel
12 expenses; requiring the task force to prepare a
13 report by a specified date; specifying a date
14 for the abolishment of the task force;
15 providing an effective date.

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17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19 Section 1. (1) Contingent upon appropriations, the
20 Criminal Justice Task Force is created within the Substance
21 Abuse and Mental Health Corporation for the purpose of
22 identifying barriers to providing comprehensive mental health
23 and substance abuse treatment services to children, youth, and
24 adults who are in the criminal justice system and making
25 recommendations to improve mental health and substance abuse
26 treatment services.

27 (2) The task force shall be comprised of the following
28 16 members:

29 (a) The chairperson of the corporation.

30 (b) The Secretary of Children and Family Services.

31 (c) The Secretary of Corrections.

- 1 (d) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice.
- 2 (e) The Secretary of Health Care Administration.
- 3 (f) The Commissioner of Education.
- 4 (g) A member of the Senate, appointed by the President
5 of the Senate.
- 6 (h) A member of the House of Representatives,
7 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 8 (i) The Executive Director of the Correctional Medical
9 Authority.
- 10 (j) A circuit judge, appointed by the Chief Justice of
11 the Supreme Court.
- 12 (k) A superintendent of a school district, appointed
13 by the Commissioner of Education.
- 14 (l) A sheriff, selected by the Florida Sheriffs
15 Association.
- 16 (m) A representative of providers of substance abuse
17 treatment services, appointed by the Secretary of Children and
18 Family Services.
- 19 (n) A representative of providers of mental health
20 services, appointed by the Secretary of Children and Family
21 Services.
- 22 (o) A representative of providers of juvenile justice
23 services, providers appointed by the Secretary of Juvenile
24 Justice.
- 25 (p) A specialist in the field of forensic mental
26 health, appointed by the Secretary of Children and Family
27 Services.
- 28 (3)(a) Members of the task force shall be
29 representative of the geographic regions and ethnic and gender
30 diversity of the state. The members of the task force shall
31 select a chairperson by majority vote.

1 (b) The task force shall meet at the call of the
2 chairperson and shall conduct at least three public meetings
3 in geographically and demographically diverse areas of the
4 state. The first meeting of the task force shall be conducted
5 no later than October 1, 2007.

6 (c) All recommendations of the task force shall be by
7 a majority vote.

8 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without
9 compensation, but are entitled to receive reimbursement for
10 per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061,
11 Florida Statutes, while in the performance of their duties.

12 (e) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation
13 shall provide administrative support for the task force. Each
14 state agency member of the task force shall designate a member
15 of its staff to assist, under the direction of the
16 corporation, in coordinating administrative support for the
17 task force.

18 (4) The task force shall:

19 (a) Determine the feasibility of including within the
20 Social Services Estimating Conference the development of
21 official forecasts of admissions to civil and forensic mental
22 health treatment facilities and juvenile justice treatment
23 facilities and determine the capacity requirements for
24 purposes of state planning and budgeting.

25 (b) Assess the medication formularies used in county
26 detention facilities and determine the extent to which the
27 current medications contribute to adult and juvenile
28 defendants being readmitted to state mental health and
29 juvenile justice treatment facilities.

30 (c) Make an inventory of and assess the availability
31 of community-based diversion programs and treatment beds that

1 are designed to keep persons who have mental illness and who
2 are homeless out of the criminal justice and juvenile justice
3 system.

4 (d) Identify innovative local community partnerships
5 and funding strategies in the state which successfully divert
6 persons who have mental illness from the criminal justice and
7 juvenile justice systems.

8 (e) Make advisory recommendations of strategies and
9 programs to improve the community response to children, youth,
10 and adults who have mental illness and who are in the criminal
11 and juvenile justice system.

12 (5) The task force shall submit a report of its
13 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of
14 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
15 October 1, 2008. All meetings of the task force and all
16 business of the task force for which reimbursement may be
17 requested must be concluded before the report is filed. The
18 task force is abolished on June 30, 2009.

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
20 law.

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23 SENATE SUMMARY

24 Creates the Criminal Justice Task Force within the
25 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation to identify
26 barriers to providing comprehensive mental health and
27 substance abuse services to children, youth, and adults
28 who are in the criminal justice system. Provides for
29 membership and duties of the task force. Requires the
30 task force to prepare a report by October 1, 2008.
31 Provides for the task force to be abolished on June 30,
2009.