

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 5203 (PCB HCAS 13-02) Community-based Care

SPONSOR(S): Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Hudson

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	Fontaine	Pridgeon
1) Appropriations Committee	23 Y, 0 N	Fontaine	Leznoff

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill conforms statutes to the funding decisions included in the proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

This bill amends the equity allocation model provided in section 409.16713, Florida Statutes, to modify the percentage allocation of existing, recurring child welfare core service funds to Community Based Care (CBC) lead agencies. This modification contained in this bill will change the distribution of funds among CBCs beginning with the 2013-14 fiscal year. This bill also specifies that additional core service funds shall be allocated based upon the equity allocation model, unless otherwise directed by the General Appropriations Act.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2013.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Florida's child welfare services are provided through 20 regional organizations known as Community-Based Care lead agencies (CBC). The 1998 Florida Legislature mandated the outsourcing of foster care and related child welfare services, and by July 2005, the Department of Children and Families transitioned the provision of child welfare services from a department-based operation to community-based care. The allocation of funding among the CBCs was intended to be equitable, with equality being based upon statewide, per-child budgeted amounts as prescribed through proviso language in multiple GAAs. Proviso in the General Appropriations Act for FY 2010-11 departed from these previous methodologies by providing an equity allocation model using weighted factors to indicate the need for child welfare resources.

The equity allocation model first prescribed by proviso language and later codified by the 2011 Florida Legislature into section 409.16713, Florida Statutes, allocates CBCs' core service funds using the following four weighted factors:

- Number of children in poverty (30 percent);
- Number of reports to the department's abuse hotline (30 percent);
- Number of children in care (30 percent); and,
- CBC lead agency contribution in the reduction of out-of-home care (10 percent).

The statute defines "core services funding" as all funds provided to CBCs with the exceptions of independent living, maintenance adoption subsidies, training for child protective investigators, mental health wrap-around services, nonrecurring appropriations, and those designated for a specific project. For Fiscal Year 2012-13, CBCs received \$576.8 million for core service functions.

The current statute allocates 25 percent of CBC core service funds upon the equity allocation model and 75 percent upon the previous year's distribution. This has the effect of transitioning each CBC lead agency's core service allocation towards full utilization of the equity allocation model. This legislation would slow the transition towards the equity allocation model by making 90 percent of CBCs' core service funds be based upon the previous year's distribution and the remaining 10 percent be based upon the equity allocation model. The proposed effects are budget neutral in total, but the allocation of core service funds among the CBCs will be modified. In the event that additional core service funds are provided, the bill specifies the distribution among CBCs be based on the equity allocation model, unless directed otherwise by the General Appropriations Act.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 409.16713, F.S, to modify the equity allocation model that affects the distribution of core service funds among Community-Based Care lead agencies.

Section 2: Providing an effective date of July 1, 2013.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill will realign funding distributions to Community-based Care Organizations.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

This bill is budget neutral. It modifies the equity allocation model that affects the distribution of recurring core service funds among Community-Based Care lead agencies.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Not applicable.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES