



504398

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/02/2025	.	
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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Leek)
recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Section 394.6581, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

394.6581 Crisis Care Coordination Pilot Programs.—

(1) Subject to a specific appropriation, the department
shall establish and implement Crisis Care Coordination Pilot
Programs in Polk and Volusia Counties. The purpose of the pilot



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programs is to reduce repeat involuntary examinations initiated by law enforcement, provide persons who are experiencing an acute mental health crisis an option for crisis intervention other than the use of law enforcement, reduce their level of follow-up interaction with law enforcement officers post crisis, and assist them with engagement in behavioral health care.

(a) The pilot programs shall facilitate partnerships between law enforcement agencies in Polk and Volusia Counties and organizations in the coordinated system of care under s. 394.4573 that are operating in those counties by placing crisis counselors within law enforcement agencies to intervene with and provide follow-up care for persons who are experiencing or have experienced an acute mental health crisis and their families and support networks.

(b) The pilot programs shall be implemented by nationally accredited community mental health centers in partnership with local law enforcement.

(2) Crisis counselors placed in law enforcement agencies shall provide support and assistance to persons who are experiencing or have experienced an acute mental health crisis, connecting them to the coordinated system of care. Duties of crisis counselors shall include:

(a) Intervening when law enforcement is contacted relating to a person experiencing an acute mental health crisis to make observations and provide information to responding officers, conduct assessments, de-escalate the crisis situation, or provide referrals, as appropriate.

(b) Follow up with such persons following an acute mental health crisis involving law enforcement, such as an involuntary



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examination as defined in s. 394.455 initiated by law enforcement. A person's involvement with follow-up care is voluntary. Such follow-up care by crisis counselors may include, but is not limited to:

1. Conducting assessments.
2. Providing individualized safety planning tailored to the person's needs and risks.
3. Providing supportive counseling.
4. Assisting persons in accessing recommended mental health services and substance abuse services.
5. Assisting persons in adhering to discharge plans.
6. Providing care coordination as defined in s. 394.4573, unless a person is already receiving that service from another organization.

(3) The pilot programs shall establish formal partnerships through written referral agreements and information exchange procedures with, at a minimum, providers of mental health services and substance abuse services, local hospitals licensed under chapter 395, and not-for-profit agencies and other organizations which can be of assistance to persons who are experiencing or have experienced an acute mental health crisis and their families and support networks. Such agreements must, at a minimum, facilitate timely access to community-based behavioral health services and other local systems and entities as provided in the person's discharge plan.

(4) The department shall contract for an independent evaluation of the pilot programs regarding, at a minimum, their effectiveness and return on investment. By January 15, 2029, the department shall submit a report of the findings of the



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evaluation of the pilot programs to the Governor, the President
of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
which must include, at a minimum:

(a) The amount of time that law enforcement officers were
engaged in responses to persons who were experiencing or had
experienced an acute mental health crisis.

(b) Repeat involuntary examinations initiated by law
enforcement.

(c) Engagement in post-crisis mental health and substance
abuse services among persons served by the programs.

(d) The effectiveness of the pilot program services.

(e) Recommendations regarding enhancements to, and
continuation and expansion of, the pilot programs.

(5) The department may adopt rules to implement this
section.

(6) This section expires June 30, 2029.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause
and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to crisis care coordination; creating
s. 394.6581, F.S.; requiring the Department of
Children and Families to implement, subject to
appropriation, Crisis Care Coordination Pilot Programs
in specified counties for certain purposes; providing
requirements for the pilot programs; requiring the



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98 department to contract for an independent evaluation
99 of the pilot programs and submit a report to the
100 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
101 providing rulemaking authority; providing for
102 expiration of the pilot programs; providing an
103 effective date.