

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and
Senator Leek

586-03171-25

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

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

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
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

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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 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.

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59 3. Providing supportive counseling.

60 4. Assisting persons in accessing recommended mental health
61 services and substance abuse services.

62 5. Assisting persons in adhering to discharge plans.

63 6. Providing care coordination as defined in s. 394.4573,
64 unless a person is already receiving that service from another
65 organization.

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

77 (4) The department shall contract for an independent
78 evaluation of the pilot programs regarding, at a minimum, their
79 effectiveness and return on investment. By January 15, 2029, the
80 department shall submit a report of the findings of the
81 evaluation of the pilot programs to the Governor, the President
82 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
83 which must include, at a minimum:

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

87 (b) Repeat involuntary examinations initiated by law

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88 enforcement.

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

91 (d) The effectiveness of the pilot program services.

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

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

96 (6) This section expires June 30, 2029.

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