

Mental Health Study: Items for Possible Committee Action

Oct. 14, 2008

The following table lists recommendations identified by Chairman Clark and legislative staff as items that hold promise for improvements in the mental health system, that may be achievable in the near term, and that would require legislative action.

In some instances, similar recommendations are consolidated into one item. The table identifies the recommendation and where it is located in the Summary of Recommendations. The table also contains columns to indicate whether the committee wants to take action, as well as the potential actions that the committee could take. It also contains room for committee members to note additional actions they may want to take.

Recommendations: Service Needs and Gaps	Act? Y/N	Statutory Change	Resolution	Letter	Details
1. Request a one-year review of implementation and use of the 72-hour presumptive eligibility program, including information on denials, referrals, and resolution of cases for people served (pp. 1 and 3)					
2. Clarify roles of LACs, SAAs, and KMAs; identify ways to improve and integrate collaboration among the groups and state agencies; identify ways in which these local groups can be involved in developing peer service models (pp. 2, 4, 6)					
3. Monitor effectiveness of pharmacist medication monitoring project developed by the Eastern SAA (p. 2)					
4. Propose legislation to allow the State Hospital to refuse admission for people who can be served safely and appropriately in another location; monitor denials to see how people denied admission are served elsewhere (p. 3)					
5. Appropriate funds to expand Montana's psychiatric Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) program or develop recruiting affiliations with other programs to train more practitioners to be able to prescribe medications (p. 4)					

Recommendations: Financing Options	Act? Y/N	Statutory Change	Resolution	Letter	Details
1. Authorize and fund more competitive Medicaid reimbursement rates for children's psychiatry, case management, and individual and group therapy (p. 4)					
2. Appropriate funds to extend the peer certification program developed in Great Falls to rural and frontier areas (p. 5)					
Recommendations: Organizational Issues	Act? Y/N	Statutory Change	Resolution		
1. Clarify laws governing information sharing among providers, law enforcement, and the courts; revise laws to address HIPAA requirements if necessary (p. 6)					
2. Develop and fund a pilot project for mental health screening for individuals entering jails or prison and develop process for collecting and sharing results (p. 6) <i>May want to consider whether LC 329 by LJIC accomplishes this goal.</i>					
3. Appropriate \$250,000 to the System of Care account to provide each KMA with some flexible funding for children's services (p. 7)					
4. Strengthen linkages between police, jails, prisons, and crisis centers; consider appropriating funds to assist local law enforcement in obtaining crisis intervention training (p. 6 and discussed in Section VI)					