



Championed Bills for the 86th Legislative Session

Mental Health System Capacity

HB 1792 (Klick) - Relating to the authority of certain advanced practice registered nurses.

- Permits advanced practice nurses to provide treatment or medication.
- Permits advanced practice nurses who meet specific requirements to work as licensed independent practitioners.

Children/Youth

HB 18 (Price) - Relating to consideration of the mental health of public school students in training requirements for certain school employees, curriculum requirements, counseling programs, educational programs, state and regional programs and services, and health care services for students and to mental health first aid program training and reporting regarding local mental health authority and school district personnel.

- Requires certain school employees to receive trauma-informed and grief-informed care training to better serve students dealing with substance use disorders and other behavioral health challenges.
- Encourages best practice methods for training, such as positive behavior interventions and support.
- Requires appropriate mental health education for students according to grade level.

HB 1602 (Hernandez) - Relating to the time at which instruction may begin in public schools; making an appropriation.

- Prohibits school districts from starting classroom instruction before 8am.
- Designates appropriation to offset transportation costs to districts.

HB 2080 (Coleman) - Relating to family partners, family partner peer support services, and the provision of those services under the medical assistance program.

- Defines certified family partner in state code, including training and certification requirements and scope of practice.
- Establishes stakeholder workgroup to provide input for development of these rules.
- Creates Medicaid reimbursement code for certified family partners.

HB 3888 (Ramos) - Relating to a school district's plan for parental involvement concerning mental health and substance use issues and suicide prevention.

- Requires School Health Advisory Councils to develop strategies to increase parental awareness of risk factors, warning signs, and resources that address and treat child mental health issues, substance abuse, and suicide.
- Allows school districts to develop plans to provide all families in the district with educational materials on risk factors, warning signs, resources on and off campus that address and treat child mental health issues, substance abuse, and suicide.

- Requires Title I schools to develop and implement a plan to educate and engage with students and parents on mental health, substance use, suicide, and trauma-related issues using any promising practices they choose.

HB 4138 (Klick)/SB 2110 (Watson) - Relating to the process for determining the Medicaid eligibility of certain former foster care youth.

- Requires HHSC to develop and implement a streamlined process for to auto-renew Medicaid for youth who have aged out of foster care.
- Currently, former foster youth are eligible for Medicaid until age 26 as long as they stay in Texas, but the renewal process can be so challenging that many youth are dropped from Medicaid over paperwork issues.

Integration, Co-occurring, and Specialty Populations

HB 2707 (Price) - Relating to the expansion of the community mental health grant program to include services to and treatment of individuals with substance use disorders.

- Expands community mental health grant program (HB 13 from 85th) to include treatment of substance use disorders.

Insurance

SB 580 (Campbell)/ HB 2099 (Lambert) - Relating to modification of certain prescription drug benefits and coverage offered by certain health benefit plans.

- Nonmedical switching reform.
- Requires health plan to provide notification and explanation on any changes to medication.
- Restricts when and what type of modifications can be made to benefit levels and coverage.

SB 1145 (Johnson) - Relating to reports on the prevalence of eating disorders and eating disorder-related deaths in this state.

- Requires DSHS to prepare a report on eating disorder prevalence and related deaths in the state of Texas, national trends, and state-funded treatment options available.
- Requires DSHS to submit report and recommendations to legislature.

SB 2218 (Zaffirini) - Relating to coverage for serious mental illness, other disorders, and chemical dependency under certain health benefit plans.

- Broadens coverage requirements for serious mental illness (parity issues) to include individual health plans, small employer health benefit plan, blanket and franchise health plans.

HB 1511 (Coleman) - Relating to required coverage for eating disorders under group health benefit plans.

- Requires group health plans to cover eating disorders.
- Defines eating disorders in state code and outlines coverage requirements.

HB 2507 (Lucio) - Relating to the regulation of short-term limited-duration health insurance policies.

- Requires short-term health plans to include in advertising and sales disclaimers and clear explanations on what they cover from the essential health benefits mandated by the ACA.
- Requires short-term health plans to expire after 90 days and prohibits renewal.
- Allows individuals to cancel short-term health plan every 30 days.

Mental Health Information Disclosure

HB 3519 (Allison) - Relating to disclosure of confidential patient information by a physician or mental health professional.

- Authorizes health professionals to disclose to third parties limited information when doing so is in the best interest of the patient and when there is a serious and imminent threat.
- Reflects federal HIPAA regulations and guidance on communication between providers and third parties.
- Removes barriers to family involvement during an individual's mental health crisis.

Suicide/Public Safety

HB 471 (Thierry) - Relating to required suicide prevention training for certain health care practitioners.

- Requires physical and mental health care practitioners to complete suicide prevention training as part of licensure renewal

HB 3235 (Ramos) - Relating to staff development requirements for public educators regarding suicide prevention training.

- Requires teachers to receive evidence-based training on suicide prevention every other year.
- Currently only a requirement for new teachers.

HB 3411 (Allison) - Relating to suicide prevention in public school curriculum and certain educational programs concerning suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention.

- Requires school districts to develop a plan to address suicide at the prevention, intervention, and postvention (re-entry into school if student survives, grieving support for community if student dies by suicide).
- School districts are not currently required to have district plan for post-vention.

HB 3407 (Jarvis Johnson) - Relating to an alert for a missing person with a guardian.

- Creates an alert system to find individuals who are under guardianship who have gone missing, similar to Amber alerts.

SB 1176 (Menendez)/HB 3980 (Hunter) - Relating to a requirement that the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council prepare a report regarding suicide rates in this state and state efforts to prevent suicides.

- Requires the Statewide Behavioral Health Council in HHSC to study and report on the landscape of suicide in Texas, including prevalence, laws, statewide and agency efforts to address suicide
- Requires report provide recommendations to improve state agency efforts to decrease suicides.

SB 1390 (Menendez)/HB 4193 (Allison) - Relating to suicide prevention in public school curriculum and certain educational programs concerning suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention.

- Requires school districts to develop a plan to address suicide at the prevention, intervention, and postvention (re-entry into school if student survives, grieving support for community if student dies by suicide).
- Requires teachers to receive evidence-based training on suicide prevention every other year.
- Requires mental health, substance abuse, healthy relationships, and suicide prevention to be included in the health curriculum.

- Requires School Health Advisory Councils to develop recommendations on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, and strategies to increase parental awareness of risk factors for suicide.

HB 2693 (Thierry) - Relating to the establishment of a grant program to enhance community-based suicide prevention efforts.

- Creates a grant program for quasi-governmental or nonprofit entities to establish and enhance community-based suicide prevention efforts.
- Includes list of types of work grant program can fund around suicide.
- Will only be established if funding is secured.

Prevention and Trauma

HB 1647 (Deshotel/SB 556 (Kolkhorst) - Relating to Medicaid reimbursement for dental services provided to adults with disabilities.

- Requires Medicaid to reimburse costs for preventative dental care to adults with disabilities.

HB 2618 (Walle)/SB 2301 (Powell) - Relating to the maternal peer support pilot program for perinatal mood disorder.

- Create a peer support pilot program within HHSC located in federally qualified health centers to serve women who are at risk of or who have developed a perinatal mood and anxiety disorder.
- Reviews outcomes of pilot program to determine impact on mental health and substance use disorders.

HB 3003 (Talarico)/SB 2389 (Powell) - Relating to the designation of liaison officers at public institutions of higher education to assist certain students who are parents.

- Designates a liaison from existing employees at institutions of higher education to provide guidance and resource information on social services, benefits, and academic resources specifically to students who are parents of underage children.
- Requires institution to collect data on student parents and their outcomes.
- Liaison officers already exist for former foster youth in this capacity.

HB 3489 (Cole) - Relating to the establishment of a task force on sex-based harassment in public schools.

- Creates a task force within Texas Education Agency to evaluate and develop recommendations on how school districts can improve their response to sex-based harassment (sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, and stalking) in grades K-12.
- Requires evaluation and recommendations on prevalence, current laws, barriers to implementation of policies, programs, and procedures on sex-based harassment, strategies for collecting data on prevalence and response, and best practices on providing guidance and support to schools and students.

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