

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0340

Mental health and substance abuse systems.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Simpson, Childers, Cohee,
Gingery and Luthi and Senator(s) Coe and
Schiffer

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the legislature; providing for a select
2 committee on mental health and substance abuse services;
3 providing for membership of the select committee; providing
4 for studies and legislative recommendations; providing an
5 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) There is appropriated from the general fund to
12 the legislative service office thirty-five thousand dollars
13 (\$35,000.00) to be used for the select committee on mental
14 health and substance abuse services delivery in this state.
15 The committee shall study issues and propose legislation to
16 provide more cost effective and accessible delivery of

1 mental health and substance abuse services, including
2 recommendations regarding a regional approach to providing
3 those services.

4

5 (b) The committee shall consist of twelve (12)
6 members as follows:

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8 (i) Six (6) members of the house of
9 representatives, with not more than four (4) members from
10 the same political party. The members shall be appointed
11 by the speaker of the house, who shall also appoint one (1)
12 of the members as cochairman of the committee;

13

14 (ii) Six (6) members of the senate, with not
15 more than four (4) members from the same political party.
16 The members shall be appointed by the president of the
17 senate, who shall also appoint one (1) of the members as
18 cochairman of the committee.

19

20 (c) State agencies shall provide information and
21 other support to the committee as requested. The
22 legislative service office shall staff the committee. The
23 committee shall meet as necessary and shall report to the
24 joint judiciary interim committee, the joint appropriations

1 interim committee and the joint labor health and social
2 services interim committee its findings and recommendations
3 for statutory changes not later than November 1, 2005. The
4 findings and recommendations shall address:

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6 (i) Funding sources and levels of funding for
7 mental health and substance abuse services in the state,
8 including levels of funding from federal, state, local and
9 private sources;

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11 (ii) Availability of and access to mental health
12 and substance abuse services in the state, including but
13 not limited to:

14

15 (A) The number of beds available in
16 institutions and hospitals for mental health and substance
17 abuse treatment;

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19 (B) The training available for and levels
20 of training achieved by health care providers providing
21 mental health and substance abuse services; and

22

23 (C) The number of persons utilizing health
24 care and substance abuse services annually in this state

1 and estimates of the number of persons needing those
2 services but not utilizing the services.

3

4 (iii) The mental health and substance abuse
5 system of care to assess service continuum within
6 prescribed regions of the state, including but not be
7 limited to:

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9 (A) Child, adolescent and family mental
10 health and substance abuse clinical and support services,
11 including a Medicaid waiver;

12

13 (B) Adult mental health and substance abuse
14 clinical and support services;

15

16 (C) Recruitment and retention of
17 psychiatrists and other clinical and support staff.

18

19 (iv) Cost effective alternatives to current
20 methods of substance abuse and mental health services
21 delivery;

22

23 (v) Funding issues including incremental and
24 significant erosion of ability to compete for clinical and

1 support staff and evaluate funding and program issues
2 related to vocational and educational services;

3
4 (vi) Accountability activities with respect to
5 comprehensiveness and appropriateness including standards,
6 contracting, data collection, report generation and fiscal
7 management procedures as appropriate;

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9 (vii) Assessment of progress made and
10 sufficiency of mental health and substance abuse services;

11
12 (viii) Possible revisions of title 25 of the
13 Wyoming statutes concerning involuntary commitments
14 pertaining to persons with mental illness to achieve the
15 following:

16
17 (A) Improvement to procedures to assure that
18 the most appropriate assessments, evaluations and
19 treatments are available, in the shortest possible time and
20 in the most appropriate location, for persons detained
21 under this statute, while protecting all rights of
22 individuals involved and considering the best value to the
23 state;

24

1 (B) Cost management challenges to be met
2 between the state and each county.

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4 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
5 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
6 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
7 Constitution.

8

9 (END)