

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 574

DATE: February 19, 2007

Version: As introduced

Authors: Loeffler and others

Subject: Children's mental health

Analyst: Lynn Aves, 651-296-8079

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill contains miscellaneous children's mental health provisions: mental health grants; trauma-focused, evidence-based practice grants; provides state reimbursement to counties for the cost of respite care; convenes a work group to study funding needs for wrap around services; and removes the four-month waiting period for MinnesotaCare.

Section

1 Children's mental health grants. Adds § 245.4889.

Subd. 1. Establishment and authority. Provides that the commissioner of human services may make grants from available appropriations to assist counties, Indian tribes, children's collaboratives, or mental health providers to provide services to children with emotional disturbances and their families. Allows grants for programs to assist young adults who meet the criteria for transition services and their families. The purpose of the grants to help children function and remain in the community.

Subd. 2. Grant application and reporting requirements. Requires applicants to submit, in the form specified by the commissioner, an application and budget. Grantees must be approved by the commissioner. Instructs the commissioner to give priority to applicants that plan to collaborate with other agencies in the local system of care. Requires the commissioner to specify requirements for reports, including quarterly fiscal reports and reports necessary to measure program effectiveness.

Section

- 2 Other health coverage.** Amends § 256L.07, subdivision 3. Removes the four-month waiting period for MinnesotaCare. Adds child coverage under MinnesotaCare if current insurance lacks mental health coverage, among other things.
- 3 Children mental health work group; report.** Instructs the commissioner of human services to convene a work group to study the unmet needs for funding wrap around services. Identifies members to be included in the work group, and requires a report to the legislature no later than January 1, 2008.
- 4 Trauma-focused, evidence-based practices to children.** Provides that organizations certified to provide children's therapeutic services and supports are eligible to apply for a grant to provide trauma-focused, evidence-based services to children who are living in a battered women's shelter, homeless shelter, transitional housing, or supported housing. Children served must have been exposed to, or witnessed, domestic violence, community violence, or be refugees.
- 5 Respite care.** Requires the commissioner of human services to reimburse counties for their costs of funding respite care for children who have a diagnosis of emotional disturbance or severe emotional disturbance. Respite care includes day, night, overnight, and summer of vacation care. The commissioner is to convene a work group to study issues related to funding, eligibility to provide respite care, and outcome data.
- 6 Appropriations.**

Subd. 1. Evidence-based practice. Appropriates funds to the commissioner of human services to develop and implement evidence-based practice in children's mental health care and treatment.

Subd. 2. Childhood trauma; grants. Appropriates funds to the commissioner of human services to make grants for services to children who have been exposed to violence or are refugees.

Subd. 3. Respite care. Appropriates funds to the commissioner of human services to fund respite care for children.