

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY REPRESENTATIVES DIXON, ANDERS, BROWN, BURRELL, CARMODY, FANNIN, GUILLORY, HARRIS, HAZEL, HILL, HOWARD, HUNTER, KATRINA JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, THIERRY, AND PATRICK WILLIAMS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request that the hospitals and behavioral health treatment facilities in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 report to the speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare information regarding the quantity of behavioral health treatment, including both mental illness and substance abuse, sought in the three behavioral health services regions during specific time frames.

WHEREAS, the state is divided into behavioral health services regions as follows: region 6 serving residents of Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, and Winn parishes; region 7 serving Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, and Webster parishes; and region 8 serving residents of Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, and West Carroll parishes.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana in the parishes served by behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 who require inpatient care for behavioral health issues, including mental illness and substance abuse, particularly when experiencing an initial acute crisis and during any follow-up inpatient treatment are facing substantial reductions in the access to inpatient beds available as a result of reductions in funding to various agencies of the state, particularly the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and its affiliated hospitals and clinics in the three behavioral health services regions; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the funding reductions proposed in the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year budget will cause the elimination of available mental health and substance abuse

inpatient beds and related behavioral health treatment services which will adversely affect the citizens in the parishes served by behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8; and

WHEREAS, these reductions in patient care dollars from the state will impose hardships on municipalities and parish governments in dealing with citizens with mental health and substance abuse issues on the streets rather than in appropriate inpatient facilities; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in funding for treating those with behavioral health issues will further stress limited local response mechanisms, services, and supports, including local emergency services which have been unduly burdened since 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

WHEREAS, it is feared that the safety of the general population will be placed at greater risk as a result of the scarcity of treatment options for those with mental health and substance abuse issues.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 monitor the inflow and outflow of patients seeking behavioral health treatment, both mental health and substance abuse, in emergency rooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 provide information relative to the decline in the number of patients being treated at the facilities in their respective regions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 monitor the number of hours, to the nearest quarter hour, the duration of inpatient treatment for patients in need of inpatient or residential care for behavioral health, both mental health or substance abuse, treatment in acute psychiatric units and licensed substance abuse treatment facilities for those in need of inpatient or residential care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 monitor the average length

of stay in these facilities for those seeking treatment in acute psychiatric units and licensed substance abuse facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 monitor the number of citizens who seek treatment for mental health or substance abuse issues outside their respective parish and the distance traveled from home by each patient seeking such services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 monitor the availability of mental health services in their respective regions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 monitor their hospitalization and substance abuse facility rates per patient per day and prepare a monthly compilation of those costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 report all these findings monthly in an easy-to-follow report to be issued by way of both electronic mail and United States mail to the following:

- (1) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives.
- (2) The chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare to be distributed to all committee members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each licensed hospital and behavioral health treatment facility in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8 seek the advice and input from their regional advisory council and behavioral health coordinators in studying the effects of the reduction of state funds to inpatient behavioral health facilities on the treatment of individuals suffering from mental illness and substance abuse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a comprehensive report, reporting on the period from the time of the adoption of this Resolution through December 31, 2012, be delivered to all the above no later than March 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such reporting shall continue throughout the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year and be compiled in a comprehensive report of the numbers from both 2012 and 2013 and presented to the above by February 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health and Hospitals to notify all licensed hospitals and behavioral health treatment facilities, including those for both mental illness and substance abuse treatment in behavioral health services regions 6, 7, and 8, to the speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES