

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1018 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MURT, MCGEEHAN, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, DIGIROLAMO,
COHEN, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, THOMAS, KIRKLAND, KINSEY,
D. MILLER, DONATUCCI, PARKER, READSHAW, GODSHALL, FREEMAN,
SCHLOSSBERG, WATSON, LONGIETTI, DAVIDSON, MAHONEY, PAINTER,
GINGRICH, MIRABITO, DAVIS AND SABATINA, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a comprehensive study and make a report on the impact
3 of the 10% reduction in funding for county-managed community
4 mental health services implemented during fiscal year 2013 on
5 the availability of mental health treatment and services; and
6 establishing an advisory committee.

7 WHEREAS, One in five persons in the United States needs
8 treatment for mental illness during his or her lifetime; and

9 WHEREAS, Fifty percent of mental health cases in our nation
10 begin by 14 years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of these cases begin by 24
12 years of age; and

13 WHEREAS, Delayed treatment of mental disorders increases
14 severity of symptoms and difficulty of treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, Each year tens of thousands of families in this
16 Commonwealth struggle to access services and supports for family
17 members with serious mental illness; and

18 WHEREAS, Since 1966, county-managed community mental health

1 agencies have established community-based residential
2 rehabilitation and a range of other support and treatment
3 services in response to the closure of beds in the State mental
4 hospital system; and

5 WHEREAS, The cost of providing treatment and services in
6 community-based settings is significantly less than the cost of
7 treatment in State mental hospitals or private psychiatric
8 hospitals; and

9 WHEREAS, Without sufficient residential rehabilitation and
10 mental health treatment services in our communities, people with
11 serious mental illness all too often become homeless or become
12 inmates in county jails; and

13 WHEREAS, Funding for county-managed community mental health
14 services was frozen for several years prior to fiscal year 2012,
15 in spite of increasing demands for mental health treatment and
16 services; and

17 WHEREAS, Funding for county-managed community mental health
18 services was reduced by 10%, or more than \$60 million, for
19 fiscal year 2013; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
21 conduct a comprehensive study of the impact resulting from the
22 10% reduction in funding for county-managed community mental
23 health services implemented during fiscal year 2013 on the
24 availability of mental health treatment and services; and be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That, in furtherance of its study, the Legislative
27 Budget and Finance Committee determine, at a minimum, the
28 following:

29 (1) the amount allocated by each county for contracted
30 services in fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 for each of

1 the major community mental health services, including, but
2 not limited to, community residential rehabilitation,
3 inpatient psychiatric services, emergency and crisis
4 intervention, peer counseling, drop-in centers, outpatient
5 services, partial hospitalization, day treatment, community
6 employment, facility-based vocational rehabilitation,
7 psychiatric rehabilitation, long-term residential services,
8 social rehabilitation, intensive case management, community
9 treatment teams, family-based services and family support
10 services, and set forth a Statewide summary of this data;

11 (2) the number of units of service provided by each
12 contracted entity in each county in fiscal year 2012 and
13 fiscal year 2013 for each of the above community mental
14 health services and set forth a Statewide summary of this
15 data;

16 (3) the number of people receiving each of the above
17 community mental health services in each county in fiscal
18 year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 and set forth a Statewide
19 summary of this data;

20 (4) the amount spent by each county mental health agency
21 to administer the county mental health program in fiscal year
22 2012 and fiscal year 2013;

23 (5) follow-up information on the living conditions and
24 mental health status of individuals transferred out of
25 community residential rehabilitation services as a result of
26 the reduction in funding for county-managed community mental
27 health services in each county and set forth a Statewide
28 summary of this data;

29 (6) information on the use of short-term private
30 psychiatric facilities in fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year

2013;

(7) information on delays, if any, in access to intake for new admissions to mental health treatment services and delays, if any, in access to psychiatric evaluations and medications in each county's community mental health system; and

(8) data on the number of inmates with mental illness incarcerated in county jails in fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee seek information regarding access in mental health treatment and services, comparing fiscal years 2012 and 2013, from the following entities in each county:

(1) county jail wardens;

(2) county probation officers;

(3) school superintendents;

(4) county homeless program managers;

(5) representatives of mental health consumer groups;

(6) representatives of mental health associations;

(7) local representatives of the National Alliance for Mental Illness;

(8) local representatives of psychiatric associations;

(9) local representatives of pediatric associations; and

(10) representatives of primary care physicians;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee be authorized to establish an advisory committee of stakeholders, including, but not limited to:

(1) county mental health administrators;

1 (2) providers of community-based mental health services;
2 (3) advocates for people with mental illness; and
3 (4) members of families that include people with mental
4 illness;

5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
7 submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives
8 by May 1, 2015.