

MAY 1 2001
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 750
BY FOEGE

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a children's mental health initiative.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 750

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 28L.1 CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH
2 INITIATIVE.

3 1. The directors of human services and public health, the
4 attorney general, and the director of the department of
5 education shall jointly create and provide staffing for a
6 children's mental health planning group in accordance with
7 this section. All of the following shall be represented on
8 the planning group:

- 9 a. Each of the three departments and the juvenile law
10 section of the office of the attorney general.
- 11 b. Area education agencies.
- 12 c. The division of criminal and juvenile justice planning
13 of the department of human rights.
- 14 d. School counselors, special education program
15 representatives, and other representatives of local school
16 districts.
- 17 e. County mental health, mental retardation, and
18 developmental disabilities services single entry point process
19 administrators.
- 20 f. County medical assistance targeted case management
21 service providers.
- 22 g. Community mental health centers.
- 23 h. Community empowerment area board designees.
- 24 i. Public and private children's mental health services
25 providers and providers of funding for the services.
- 26 j. Family members and others proposed by interested
27 persons and jointly appointed by the state agency heads
28 creating the planning group.

29 2. The planning group shall develop proposals to assist
30 communities in developing a collaborative initiative to
31 improve the availability of mental health services for
32 children using schools as a focal point, by taking a proactive
33 approach to preventing children's problems from becoming more
34 serious and ensuring that the services may be easily accessed.
35 The planning group shall consider the following options in

1 developing proposals:

2 a. Using the child welfare and juvenile justice funding
3 decategorization projects operated under section 232.188 or
4 community empowerment area boards under chapter 28 to employ a
5 person within schools to provide case management and resource
6 and referral for children's mental health services. The
7 person would develop a system of coordination or contracting
8 between service providers, community mental health centers,
9 and schools.

10 b. Coordinating with local mental health service providers
11 to base a mental health professional within the school system
12 to provide services to children which may include case
13 management, referral, and individual and family therapy.

14 c. Assembling key stakeholders to assist schools in
15 developing collaborative efforts between various service
16 providers to make children's mental health services available
17 through schools, which may include any of the following: in-
18 home family therapy, facility-based programming, and in-school
19 therapy or assessments.

20 3. In addition to the proposals developed in accordance
21 with subsection 2, the planning group shall consider other
22 approaches which may be implemented at the state or local
23 level for improving children's mental health services and
24 shall identify any potential funding sources for the proposals
25 and approaches. The planning group shall report any findings
26 and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly.
27 The initial report shall be submitted on or before December
28 20, 2001, and additional reports shall be submitted at least
29 annually by that date until the planning group submits a final
30 report. Notice of submission of the final report shall also
31 be provided to the Code editor.

32 EXPLANATION

33 This bill requires the directors of human services and
34 public health, the attorney general, and the director of the
35 department of education to jointly create and provide staffing

1 for a children's mental health planning group to include
2 various entities that are currently involved with child and
3 adult mental health services.

4 The planning group is to develop proposals to assist
5 communities in developing a collaborative initiative to
6 improve the availability of mental health services for
7 children using schools as a focal point, by taking a proactive
8 approach to preventing children's problems from becoming more
9 serious, and ensuring that the services may be easily
10 accessed. The bill outlines options for the planning group to
11 consider.

12 In addition to the proposals, the planning group is
13 directed to consider other approaches which may be implemented
14 at the state or local level for improving children's mental
15 health services and to identify potential funding sources.
16 The planning group is required to report its findings and
17 recommendations to the governor and general assembly. The
18 initial report is required to be submitted by December 20,
19 2001, and reports are to be submitted annually thereafter
20 until the final report is submitted. In addition, notice of
21 submission of the final report is required to be provided to
22 the Code editor.

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