

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
NO FISCAL IMPACT

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Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Tochtrop
Rep. Solano

Bill Status: Senate Health and Human Services

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TITLE: CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS FOR SYSTEM OF CARE FAMILY ADVOCATES.

Summary of Legislation

The bill, recommended by the legislative oversight committee concerning persons with mental illness in the criminal justice system, makes several technical and definition changes to clarify the role of family advocates and to add family system navigators to the juvenile justice family advocacy demonstration program. The bill also adds transition services to the required services provided under the demonstration program.

Under the bill, family advocates and family system navigators are both required to have been trained in a system of care approach to assist families in accessing and receiving services, and to have worked with multiple agencies and providers such as mental health, physical health, substance abuse, juvenile justice, developmental disabilities, education, and other state and local service systems. The bill further specifies that a family advocate is a parent or primary caregiver who has raised or cared for a child with a mental health or co-occurring disorder, whereas a family system navigator is an individual who has the skills, experience, and knowledge to work with children and youth with mental health or co-occurring disorders.

The bill is effective upon signature of the Governor, or becoming law without his signature.

Background

The family advocacy demonstration program was created by House Bill 07-1057 and is currently overseen by the Department of Human Service (DHS), Division of Behavioral Health, which has contracted with three providers to offer family advocacy services. This program serves youth in the juvenile justice system who require services from multiple state and local agencies concerning mental health, physical health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, education, and other areas. The demonstration program is scheduled to end on July 1, 2011.

Assessment

The bill is assessed at no fiscal impact. The technical and definition changes in the bill clarify the role of family advocates and system navigators, and are not expected to increase costs for operating the program. Program providers currently provide transition services under their existing contracts with the DHS. Therefore, additional funding is not required for these services.

Departments Contacted

Human Services