

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 977

(Senator Klausmeier)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Behavioral Health Services and Voluntary Placement Agreements - Children and
Young Adults - Reports

This bill requires the Director of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), by December 1 of each year, to submit a specified report on behavioral health services for children and young adults in the State. The Social Services Administration (SSA) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) must also, by December 1 of each year, submit a specified report on voluntary placement agreements for children and young adults in the State. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: BHA's annual report must include, for children and young adults, (1) the number and percentage who, during the reported year, were eligible for and used specified public behavioral health services; (2) the total expenditure and expenditure per individual for specified services; (3) the total cost per individual for all behavioral health services provided to the individual; (4) the average length of time individuals spent in emergency rooms pending psychiatric inpatient hospitalization or waiting for placement in a

residential treatment center; (5) the number of 30-day readmissions at specified facilities; (6) the average length of stay at specified facilities; and (7) the number of discharges and residents at residential treatment centers. The report must group the required information by jurisdiction and by specified age groups.

SSA's annual report must include (1) the total number of voluntary placement agreements for children and young adults in the State that were approved, denied, and requested for specified reasons; (2) the reason for any denials; and (3) the type of initial placements for approved agreements. The report must group the required information into specified regions.

Both annual reports must be prepared in consultation with interested stakeholders and submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Current Law/Background: BHA publishes several reports regarding behavioral health service utilization on its [website](#), including:

- *State Psychiatric Inpatient Facility Monthly Reports:* Includes maximum and average occupancy rates; average number of hospitalized patients; total number of patients under care; average number of patients on hospital books; total net release of patients; total admissions; first admissions; readmissions; total live discharges; total deaths; and monthly client movement statistics (e.g., conditional release, foster care, unauthorized leave).
- *Average Length of Stay (Inpatient Care) Annual Reports:* Includes average length of stay; discharges; and percentage of 30-day readmissions.
- *Outcomes Measurement System (OMS):* Interactive data search tool with survey information regarding number of youth and adults receiving mental health and/or substance use treatment per calendar or fiscal year. Includes survey results regarding living situation; psychiatric symptoms; substance use; level of function; school status; and other demographic information.

According to OMS, for mental health services in fiscal 2017, there were (1) 7,394 intakes for children ages 6 through 10; (2) 4,336 intakes for children ages 11 through 13; and (3) 5,745 intakes for children ages 14 through 17.

Voluntary Placement Agreements

Under the Family Law Article, SSA must establish a program for out-of-home placement for minor children (1) who are placed in the custody of a local department, for a period of up to 180 days, by a parent or legal guardian under a voluntary placement agreement; (2) who are abused, abandoned, neglected, or dependent, subject to specified juvenile court

determinations; or (3) who are placed in an out-of-home placement by a local department under a voluntary placement agreement due to a developmental disability or mental illness.

A local department may not seek legal custody of a child under a voluntary placement agreement if the child has a developmental disability or a mental illness and the purpose of the voluntary placement agreement is to obtain treatment or care related to the child's disability that the parent is unable to provide. Each local department must report annually to SSA on the number of requests for voluntary placement agreements for children with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses that have been received, the outcome of each request, and the reason for each denial.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1517 (Delegate Sample-Hughes, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

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