

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 580

Introduced by Campbell, 25; Davis, 43.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the reform effort of Nebraska's behavioral health system since the enactment of LB1083 in 2004. Since 2004, the state regional centers have been reduced in size and services at the centers have changed. However, while plans were made to make changes in the community, it appears to many observers that these plans impacting community-based services were either not implemented or not fully implemented. As a result, mental health boards, law enforcement agencies, courts, providers, and the medical community face difficulties in finding appropriate services for people who are mentally ill. The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following issues:

- (1) How resources liberated by LB1083 have been spent;
- (2) Who is responsible for statewide mental health services;
- (3) Recommendations as to the optimal government-administrative model for Nebraska's mental health services, including whether or not the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services need to merge or change their existing relationship;
- (4) Whether or not the private sector has developed community-based alternatives for Nebraska's most severely disabled and vulnerable citizens;

(5) How people enter and exit the regional centers and whether the changes made since 2004 have resulted in more people with a mental illness entering the criminal justice system; and

(6) Whether regulatory and administrative practices have allowed or encouraged inappropriate practices by providers and practitioners, including multiple overlapping service contracts, insufficiently specified work requirements, and disproportionate practitioner-to-patient ratios.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.