

ENROLLED HOUSE
JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 1056

BY: HAMILTON (Jeff), FALLIN,
MONSON, HOLT and NIEMI
of the HOUSE

and

BROWN and CAIN of the
SENATE

A JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO MENTALLY ILL HOMELESS PERSONS; CREATING THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR SERVICES TO MENTALLY ILL HOMELESS PERSONS; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP, OFFICERS, MEETINGS, TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT; PROVIDING FOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; REQUIRING REPORTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; DIRECTING DISTRIBUTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, there are an estimated six to eight thousand mentally ill homeless persons in the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, services to mentally ill persons who are homeless are provided through both state and local governmental agencies and numerous private agencies, leading to fragmentation, lack of coordination and gaps in the delivery of services to prevent or reduce homelessness among mentally ill persons, and also contributing to unnecessary and burdensome "red tape" for persons seeking to obtain services; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma desires to obtain federal grant funds which are available for services to mentally ill and homeless persons. Successful attainment of such federal grant funds will enable the state to improve distribution and dissemination of information and technical assistance, and to reduce duplication of effort and unnecessary competition among applicants for federal grants; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate distribution of state and federal funds is critical to effective delivery of services to mentally ill and homeless persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 43RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-250 of Title 43A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until February 1, 1996, the Interagency Council for Services to Mentally Ill Homeless Persons.

B. The Interagency Council for Services to Mentally Ill Homeless Persons shall be composed of thirteen (13) members as follows:

1. Two persons representing the Department of Human Services, one of whom shall be the Director of the Department of Human Services, or his designee, and one of whom shall be a person designated by the Director to represent the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Human Services;

2. Two persons representing the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, one of whom shall be the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, or his designee, and one of whom shall be a person designated by the Commissioner to represent individuals having knowledge of and experience in services for homeless mentally ill persons;

3. The Director of the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency, or his designee;

4. The Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, or his designee;

5. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, or his designee;

6. Two persons appointed by the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education; and

7. Four persons representing private agencies or organizations providing services to homeless mentally ill persons, appointed by the Governor from a list of not less than eight persons submitted by the Oklahoma Homeless Network.

C. The chairperson and any other officers of the Interagency Council for Services to Mentally Ill Homeless Persons shall be elected by the membership of the council during its first meeting and upon a vacancy of any office. The Interagency Council for Services to Mentally Ill Homeless Persons shall meet at least monthly, and may meet more often as necessary. Members of the Council shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

D. Administrative support for the Interagency Council for Services to Mentally Ill Homeless Persons, including but not limited to personnel necessary to ensure the proper performance of the duties and responsibilities of the Council, shall be provided by the Department of Human Services. The Department may provide for such administrative support through interagency agreements with other state agencies represented on the Council, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Section 1001 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

E. The Interagency Council for Services to Mentally Ill Homeless Persons shall:

1. Develop and implement a plan for the cooperative and coordinated delivery of services by the public and private agencies responsible for services to mentally ill and homeless persons. Such plan shall specify the respective roles, duties and responsibilities of said public and private agencies, the policies and procedures to be implemented, and methods to ensure the accountability of the respective agencies for the proper implementation of the plan. The policies and procedures included in the plan shall be designed to reduce or eliminate barriers to services. The provisions of the plan shall be implemented through interagency agreements pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act or by contract, as appropriate;

2. Establish a central grants clearinghouse for:

- a. the distribution of information regarding available public and private grants for services to mentally ill and homeless persons,
- b. the provision of technical assistance to public and private agencies making applications for such grants, and
- c. coordination of the preparation of grant applications to ensure the maximum effectiveness of such grants as may be awarded to a public or private agency; and

3. Investigate and make recommendations regarding methods of ensuring the equitable distribution of state and federal funds for services to mentally ill and homeless persons.

F. The Interagency Council for Services to Mentally Ill Homeless Persons shall make regular, but not less than quarterly, reports to each agency affected by the report, and annual reports to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to distribute copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Oklahoma; the Commission for Human Services; the Director of the Department of Human Services; the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; the Director of the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency; the Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission; the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; and the State Board of Vocational and Technical Education.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 28th day of April, 1992.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 20th day of April, 1992.

President of the Senate