STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1021 By: Hamilton (Jeff)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

A Concurrent Resolution relating to violence and public health; creating the Violence and Public Health Committee; providing for membership, officers, meetings, quorums, reimbursement, staffing and duties and responsibilities of such Committee; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, violent and abusive behavior is one of the most compelling public health problems of this decade; and

WHEREAS, thirteen of the nation's twenty most populated cities have endured double-digit increases in violent crimes in 1992 as crime statistics reflect a twenty percent rise over the figures for 1989; and

WHEREAS, an article published in the Journal of the National Medical Association, "Violence: A Challenge to the Public Health Community", states:

"The increasing violence indicates that Americans are growing angrier and a lot more willing to use something other than nonviolent, rational discussion to settle disputes and to relieve inner anxieties, frustration, and tensions caused by a broad range of social and economic pressures. These developments are exposing today's children to violence in their homes, on the streets, at school, and in the community at large. Thus, there is a new generation that is more fearful, more cynical, and dangerously numbed to the health and social consequences of violent acts."; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the possibility of a public health catastrophe and of community deterioration may be greater than most citizens expect; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State of Oklahoma to recognize that violence, whether domestic violence or violence on city streets or in rural areas, is a public health issue and needs to be examined by professionals representing all areas of health, public health, mental health, education and criminal justice working together to help resolve this public health issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT there is hereby created until July 1, 1994, the "Violence and Public Health Committee". The Committee shall be composed of ten (10) members as follows:

1. The State Commissioner of Health, or designee;

2. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, or designee;

3. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or designee;

4. The Director of the Department of Corrections, or designee;

5. The Dean of the College of Public Health of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center;

6. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee;

7. The Director of the School of Social Work of the University of Oklahoma, or designee;

8. The Dean of the College of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, or designee;

9. The Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, or designee; and

10. The Director of the Department of Public Safety, or designee.

The Dean of the College of Public Health shall be designated the Chairperson of the Committee, and the Vice-chairperson shall be elected from the other members of the Committee.

Meetings shall be held at the call of the Chairperson and a quorum of members appointed shall be necessary to conduct all business. Members of the Committee shall receive no compensation for work on the Committee but shall receive travel reimbursement in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act. It is the intent of the Legislature that staff be provided as needed by the College of Public Health of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

The duties and responsibilities of the Committee shall include but not be limited to:

1. Establishing as the state goal the reduction of violence in Oklahoma;

2. Examining and studying the causes of violence in Oklahoma;

3. Communicating with public health specialists, medical care specialists, and other specialists and professionals in the area of violence in order to become better informed on the issues of violence;

4. Making recommendations for the providing of violence prevention services in the various urban and rural communities in this state;

5. Forming and maintaining effective alliances with consumer and professional groups throughout the state to ensure that appropriate resources are available and allocated by the private and public sector for violence prevention services and for training of personnel;

6. Developing strategies of public health models for reducing violence in Oklahoma;

7. Recommending adjustments to the health and medical research system's domain to include more areas of direct relevance to the violence epidemic; and

8. Filing a report on its findings and recommendations prior to July 1, 1994, with the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the State Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Director of the Department of Human Services, the Director of the Department of Corrections, the Dean of the College of Public Health of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the School of Social Work of the University of Oklahoma, the Dean of the College of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Director of the Department of Public Safety.

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