SHORT TITLE: Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services paperwork reduction; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 24 By: Brown of the Senate

and

Culver of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; encouraging the Department to conduct certain review for certain purpose; providing for conduct of review by independent review committee; providing for appointments to and make-up of committee; providing for chairperson of review committee; requiring review committee report of certain findings and recommendations by certain date; requiring the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services give serious consideration to certain recommendations; requiring the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to provide certain services under certain conditions; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the majority of mental health services in this state are provided through service providers such as community-based mental health centers, substance abuse treatment centers, residential care homes, and domestic violence centers; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-306 of Title 43A of the Oklahoma Statutes requires the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to provide technical assistance to service providers; and

WHEREAS, presently, service providers must devote an inordinate amount of time and resources to documenting activities related to service delivery; documenting compliance with rules promulgated by the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Commissioner's numbered memoranda and audit protocols; attending required meetings; and preparing reports, forms and other paperwork; and

WHEREAS, such preoccupation with reports and directives diverts service providers' attention away from the stated objectives and mission of the mental health system; and

WHEREAS, legislative appropriations to the Administrative and Data Processing Divisions of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services have increased an average of ten percent per year in the last seven years, a total of over seventy percent, from $3.68 Million in FY '86 to $6.29 Million in FY '93; and

WHEREAS, such substantial increases in funding should enable the Department to consolidate its information processing and retrieval requirements in such a way as to minimize the time and resources that service providers must devote to reporting and other time-consuming requirements.

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

THAT the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is strongly encouraged to immediately review agency rules and Commissioner's numbered memoranda with which service providers are required to comply, and any reports, forms or other paperwork which service providers are required to complete, and to reduce the amount of time and effort that service providers spend completing paperwork, thus enabling such service providers to redirect the time and effort expended on completion of paperwork to the provision of enhanced clinical services to mental health consumers.

THAT the review process established by this resolution be conducted by an independent review committee, appointed by the Chairperson of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Community Mental Health Planning and Coordination Board, created pursuant to Section 3-303 of Title 43A of the Oklahoma Statutes, and comprised of consumers of mental health services, their families, contract service providers, representatives of the local planning and coordinating council

boards, representatives of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, representatives of the Oklahoma Alliance for the Mentally Ill and similar mental health advocacy groups, and other interested parties.

THAT such review committee be chaired by the Chairperson of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Community Mental Health Planning and Coordination Board, or his or her designee, and that the review committee make a report of its findings and recommendations regarding reduction of reporting and paperwork requirements to the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives not later than January 1, 1994.

THAT the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services give serious consideration to the review committee recommendations.

THAT upon identification by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of problems with reporting or verification of services by any private contractor, or problems regarding compliance with any rule or other requirement, the Department shall provide technical assistance and support to the contractor in the development and implementation of a plan of correction prior to imposing any contract funding reductions.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

44-1-1207 CJ