

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1943

By: Seikel of the House

and

Williams of the Senate

(children - Coordination of Services for Children Act -
state agencies - codification - emergency)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1508.1 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Coordination of Services for Children Act".

B. The purpose of the Coordination of Services for Children Act is to establish a coordinated system for the delivery of information, referral and follow-up services to children through a process of joint public and private agency planning and collaboration.

C. The system is to be implemented through interagency agreements and will utilize a shared, computerized database in order to reduce duplication and improve efficiency in the delivery of such services. The database is to be jointly developed, implemented and utilized by the public agencies responsible for information, referral and follow-up services to children and private agencies that provide such services pursuant to a contract with a state agency.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1508.2 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The following agencies are directed to jointly design and implement a coordinated system of information, referral and follow-up services for children:

1. The Child Care Office, the Child Support Enforcement Division, the Family Support Services Division and Child Welfare Unit of the Department of Human Services;

2. The State Department of Health;

3. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;

4. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority;

5. The Office of Child Abuse and Neglect within the University Hospitals Authority;

6. The Office of Juvenile Affairs;

7. The Commission on Children and Youth; and

8. The Office of State Finance.

B. 1. The Child Welfare Unit of the Department of Human Services shall be the lead agency for the design and implementation of the system required by the Coordination of Services for Children Act and shall be responsible for convening meetings and providing meeting space, administrative, staff and other necessary support services. The Unit shall convene the first meeting of the agencies on or before July 1, 1997.

2. The remaining agencies listed in subsection A of this section shall be responsible for providing information, staff and other assistance as necessary to design and implement the system required by the Coordination of Services for Children Act.

3. The Child Welfare Unit shall invite representatives of private entities to participate in the design of the system required by the Coordination of Services for Children Act.

4. The Office of State Finance shall provide technical assistance and support necessary for the development of the shared, computerized database required by the Coordination of Services for Children Act.

C. On or before December 1 of each year, the agencies listed in subsection A of this section shall jointly submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A statement on the progress in the design and implementation of the system required by the Coordination of Services for Children Act; and

2. Identification of any statutory changes and funding necessary to implement the system.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1508.3 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The design of a coordinated system of information, referral and follow-up services for children shall:

1. Be based upon the coordination of existing state and local programs that provide information, referral and follow-up services for children;

2. Include, but not be limited to:

- a. delineation of agency responsibilities, and the methods of coordinating the delivery of services,
- b. identification of programs and procedures necessary for implementation, and adoption of such procedures by the responsible agencies,
- c. the adoption of common service procedures across program and agency lines,
- d. the use of common referral and other forms,

- e. the development of a shared, computerized database to identify client information necessary to reduce duplication of effort and improve service delivery, including, but not limited to, a common intake data set,
- f. procedures for sharing of confidential information in accordance with state and federal laws, which shall include, but not be limited to, methods for restricting access to confidential information and for sharing confidential information between public and private agencies and individuals in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in interagency agreements pursuant to the Coordination of Services for Children Act,
- g. joint training of personnel responsible for implementation of the system and delivery of services,
- h. methods for resolving disputes by mediation or other means,
- i. a funding and implementation plan, which may include phased-in implementation, and
- j. procedures for monitoring and improving services and data collection, and continued coordination of services and data.

B. 1. Preliminary recommendations for the database and coordinated system shall be completed on or before October 1, 1997.

2. On or before January 1, 1998, the agencies subject to the provisions of the Coordination of Services for Children Act shall enter into interagency agreements to implement the coordinated system.

The database and coordinated system of information, referral and follow-up shall be fully implemented on or before January 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. 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 act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 1997.

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1997.

President of the Senate