

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

HOUSE BILL NO. 2395

By: Voskuhl

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to poor persons; providing legislative intent for respite care; providing for projects to expand respite care network; specifying purposes of project; requiring certain criteria; restricting use of funds; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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 1021 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature that mentally retarded Oklahomans have a greater opportunity to live independently or with their families thereby retaining their dignity as independent human beings and relieving the state and its institutions from additional dependent clients in an effort to reduce the state's Medicaid liabilities and requirements. Therefore, there is established within the Department of Human Services, from any funds available to the Department, a respite care

program in order to support caregivers in their responsibilities for care of the mentally retarded.

B. To effectuate the program, the Department shall establish up to thirty-six projects to expand the respite care network in the state to provide respite care for caregivers of mentally retarded persons which will provide live-in or part-time assistance on an occasional basis to relieve such caregivers providing care to the mentally retarded persons in their homes. The purpose of each project shall be to:

1. Establish a local coordinated network of volunteer and paid respite workers;
2. Coordinate assignment of respite workers to clients and care receivers and assure the health and safety of the client; and
3. Provide training for caregivers and ensure that support groups are available in the community.

C. The Department shall solicit proposals from public or private nonprofit agencies for the projects.

D. The Department shall select grantees based on the following criteria:

1. The ability of the proposal to demonstrate need in the area served, as evidenced by a community needs assessment or other demographic data;
2. The ability of the proposal to clearly describe how the project will achieve respite care to caregivers pursuant to this section;
3. The ability of the proposal to reach underserved populations;
4. The ability of the proposal to demonstrate community commitment to the project, as evidenced by letters of support and cooperation as well as formation of a community task force;
5. The ability of the proposal to clearly describe the process for recruiting, training, and retraining volunteers; and

6. The inclusion in the proposal of the plan to promote the project in the community, including outreach to persons needing the services.

E. Funds for all projects under this section may be used to:

1. Hire a coordinator to develop a coordinated network of volunteer and paid respite care services and assign workers to clients;

2. Recruit and train volunteer providers;

3. Train caregivers;

4. Ensure the development of support groups for caregivers;

5. Advertise the availability of the caregiver support and respite care project; and

6. Purchase equipment to maintain a system of assigning workers to clients.

F. Project funds shall not be used to supplant existing funding sources.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1998.

46-2-9115

KSM