

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

HOUSE BILL 2157

By: Echols

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to children; enacting the Family Support Accountability Act; defining terms; directing departments providing home-visiting services to promulgate rules; requiring home-visiting program to conduct visits by trained educators; prescribing programs to work in partnership; mandating program to achieve a minimum of specified outcomes; directing departments to work with listed groups for information sharing; requiring home-visiting program language for contracts and grants; mandating collaboration with the Early Childhood Advisory Council; prescribing development of outcomes measurement plan; providing for submission of plan; directing State Department of Health to submit annual outcomes report; listing contents of annual outcomes report; 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 601.80 of Title 10, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Family Support Accountability Act".

B. As used in the Family Support Accountability Act:

1        1. "Departments" means any state department or agency  
2 implementing home-visiting programs; and

3        2. "Home-visiting program" means a state-funded or state-  
4 administered, standards-based program that:

5            a. is grounded in relevant, empirically based best  
6 practices and knowledge that:

7                (1) has comprehensive home-visiting standards that  
8 ensure high quality service delivery and  
9 continuous quality improvement, and

10               (2) follows with fidelity a program manual or design  
11 that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration  
12 and frequency of services that constitute the  
13 program,

14            b. provides services to families of young children that  
15 elect to participate,

16            c. utilizes a variety of culturally relevant,  
17 developmentally appropriate strategies,

18            d. connects families to additional services that support  
19 parents,

20            e. promotes child well-being and prevents adverse  
21 childhood outcomes,

22            f. promotes parental competence, child health and  
23 development by building long-term relationships with  
24

- families and optimizing the relationships between  
parents and children in their home environments,
- g. provides for the collection and analysis of data about  
program performance and outcomes at the state  
aggregate level, county aggregate level, provider  
level and participant level, and
- h. does not include:
- (1) a one-time home visit or infrequent home visits  
with no intention of long-term services, such as  
a program that provides one home visit for all  
newborn children,
  - (2) services delivered through an individualized  
family service plan or an individualized  
education program under Part B or Part C of the  
federal government's Individuals with  
Disabilities Education Act,
  - (3) services initiated by a report to the Department  
of Human Services Child Welfare Services or by  
court order, or
  - (4) programs in which home visiting is supplemental  
to other services.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 601.81 of Title 10, unless there  
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. The departments that provide home-visiting services may  
2 adopt and promulgate rules by which the home-visiting program shall  
3 operate.

4       B. The departments shall provide a framework for service  
5 delivery and accountability across all home-visiting programs to  
6 promote a continuum of care.

7       C. A home-visiting program shall provide face-to-face visits by  
8 specially trained parent educators to provide home-based family  
9 support services.

10       D. The departments shall ensure home-visiting programs work in  
11 partnership to serve children, thereby maximizing the opportunities  
12 for families to receive services that best fit their needs.

13       E. A home-visiting program shall achieve two or more of the  
14 following:

15       1. Improve prenatal, maternal, infant or child health outcomes,  
16 including, but not limited to, indicators such as preterm birth  
17 rates, substance abuse and tobacco use;

18       2. Reduce entry into the child welfare system;

19       3. Improve positive parenting and relationship skills;

20       4. Improve parental self-sufficiency, including increased  
21 employment and educational attainment;

22       5. Improve children's readiness to succeed in school; and  
23  
24

1       6. Improve children's social-emotional, cognitive and language  
2 and physical development, including efforts at early identification  
3 of delays.

4       F. The departments shall work with community partners,  
5 researchers, model developers, program providers and interested  
6 private entities to develop processes that provide for a greater  
7 ability to collaborate, as well as share best practices and  
8 information as necessary and appropriate.

9       G. When the departments authorize funds through payments,  
10 contracts or grants that are used for home-visiting programs, they  
11 shall include language regarding home visiting in the funding  
12 agreement contract or grant that is consistent with the provisions  
13 of the Family Support Accountability Act.

14       H. State and local agencies administering home-visiting  
15 programs as defined in this act, providers of home-visiting services  
16 and experts in home-visiting program evaluation shall collaborate  
17 with the Early Childhood Advisory Council created in Section 640.1  
18 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes to:

19       1. Jointly develop an outcomes measurement plan which includes  
20 indicators related to the objectives established in subsection E of  
21 this section in order to monitor outcomes for children and families  
22 receiving home-visiting programs;

23       2. Complete and submit the outcomes measurement plan for state-  
24 funded home-visiting programs by January 1, 2016, to the Governor,

1 the Legislature, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth and  
2 the Early Childhood Advisory Council and complete and submit an  
3 updated plan every subsequent five (5) years; and

4 3. Develop a process for collecting and reporting outcomes  
5 measures to maintain privacy and security.

6 I. Beginning December 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the  
7 State Department of Health shall submit an annual outcomes report  
8 prepared by an independent entity with expertise in family support  
9 research or evaluation on the outcomes of state-funded and  
10 administered home-visiting programs to the Governor and the  
11 Legislature.

12 J. The annual outcomes report shall include:

13 1. Achieved outcomes as agreed upon and described in the  
14 previously submitted outcomes measurement plan pursuant to  
15 subsection H of this section for all state-funded family support  
16 programs; and

17 2. Combined program data regarding:

- 18 a. the cost per family served,
- 19 b. the number of families served,
- 20 c. demographic data on families served, and
- 21 d. the number and type of programs that the departments  
22 have funded.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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