

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

HOUSE BILL 1997

By: Goodwin

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to a pilot program establishing a facility for treating individuals experiencing mental health symptoms; creating a pilot program implemented by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; providing the purpose of the pilot program; making appropriations to the Department; providing amount; identifying source; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an 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 2-170 of Title 43A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shall design and implement a pilot program to provide greater access to an underserved, lower-income community with the funds appropriated specifically for a county in Oklahoma with a population at no more than seven hundred thousand (700,000) people and also shall conduct a survey to determine the need between mental health patients and the availability of mental health beds to better

1 align resources and ensure mental health services are efficiently
2 provided to improve the mental health of the population most in
3 need.

4 B. The purpose of the program is to provide a facility that is
5 available twenty-four (24) hours a day and seven (7) days a week to
6 provide treatment for those individuals experiencing symptoms of
7 mental illness. The pilot program's purpose is to provide
8 assessments, psychiatric evaluations, therapy medication monitoring,
9 individual and group counseling, and case management. The goal for
10 the pilot program is to provide immediate support for individuals
11 with symptoms of mental health illness and to avoid psychiatric
12 hospitalization. The pilot program shall include a support team,
13 including, but not limited to, a psychiatric nurse practitioner,
14 registered nurse, licensed therapist, substance abuse counselor, and
15 a case manager. The pilot program shall be in partnership with a
16 psychiatrist to provide supervision. The facility the program
17 establishes for its use is to be furnished as a therapeutic living
18 room environment, and shall accept Medicaid insurance and provide
19 walk-in services. The pilot program will provide wraparound
20 services including, but not limited to, substance abuse counseling,
21 twenty-five (25) beds on-site, and transportation as appropriate and
22 needed. The facility will be designed structurally to provide
23 separate, dual, and safe accommodations, for both adolescent and
24 adult populations. There shall be soundproofing for more private

1 conversations, flexible walls, and portable beds may be utilized.
2 Individuals experiencing symptoms of mental health illness shall be
3 provided with care including, but not limited to, an assessment with
4 a psychiatric nurse practitioner under psychiatric supervision and a
5 plan for recovery. The pilot program will offer education related
6 to brain function, a healthy diet, effects of light, exercise,
7 vitamins, nutrition, meditation, yoga, and positive thinking. The
8 pilot program will establish partnerships with family, faith-based
9 organizations, and schools to foster education, outreach, advocacy
10 and the de-stigmatization of emotional and mental disorders in the
11 larger community.

12 1. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
13 Services shall be authorized to construct, lease, renovate, or
14 repurpose such real property and acquire personal property as may be
15 necessary to create, implement, and operate a program to reduce the
16 number of individuals who are experiencing exacerbated symptoms of
17 mental illness and to provide support and treatment; or

18 2. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
19 may enter into contract with any lawfully recognized business entity
20 for the construction, lease, renovation, or repurpose of required
21 facilities and for the acquisition of personal property as may be
22 necessary to create, implement, and operate a program to reduce the
23 number of individuals who are experiencing exacerbated symptoms of
24 mental illness and to provide support and treatment.

SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the sum of Twenty-five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to perform the duties imposed upon the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services by law.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or 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.

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