

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 4092

6 By: Norwood

7  
8 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

9 An Act relating to 988 Mental Health Lifeline;  
10 defining terms; designating the Department of Mental  
11 Health and Substance Abuse Services to oversee the  
12 suicide prevention and crisis service activities;  
13 providing for performance and clinical standards;  
14 providing for promulgation of rules; creating the 988  
15 Trust Fund; stating purpose; providing for adequate  
16 funding; providing for enforcement; providing for  
17 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 12-200 of Title 43A, unless  
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 As used in this section:

23 1. "911" means any telephone system whereby telephone  
24 subscribers may utilize a three-digit number (9-1-1) for reporting  
an emergency to the appropriate public agency providing law  
enforcement, fire, medical or other emergency services, including

1 ancillary communications systems and personnel necessary to pass the  
2 reported emergency to the appropriate emergency service and which  
3 the wireless service provider is required to provide pursuant to the  
4 Federal Communications Commission Order 94-102, 961 Federal Register  
5 40348;

6 2. "988" means the universal telephone number within the United  
7 States designated by the Federal Communications Commission for the  
8 purpose of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program  
9 operating through the 988 Mental Health Lifeline (988 Lifeline), or  
10 its successor maintained by the Assistant Secretary for Mental  
11 Health and Substance Use under Section 520E-3 of the Public Health  
12 Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 290bb-36c;

13 3. "988 Trust Fund" means the 988 Mental Health Lifeline  
14 program fund created pursuant to Section 3 of this act;

15 4. "Behavioral health crisis services" are intensive services  
16 that are provided to address or prevent behavioral health symptoms,  
17 situations, or events that may negatively impact an individual's  
18 ability to function within his or her current family or caregiver  
19 and living situation, school, workplace, or community. Behavioral  
20 health crisis services are for anyone, anywhere, and at any time and  
21 can be provided in a variety of settings, including via text or  
22 telephone, face-to-face at an individual's home, or in the  
23 community;

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1       5. "Behavioral health crisis system" is an organized set of  
2 structures, processes, and services in place to meet all types of  
3 urgent and emerging mental health and substance use needs in a  
4 defined population or community, effectively and efficiently.  
5 Essential elements of a behavioral health crisis system include 988  
6 crisis lines that accept all calls and texts, and provide support  
7 and referrals based on the needs of the individual or family member  
8 or caregiver; mobile crisis teams that respond to the location of  
9 need in the community; and crisis stabilization facilities that  
10 serve everyone who enters its doors from all referral sources.

11 Comprehensive behavioral health crisis systems:

- 12       a. address recovery needs, significant use of peers, and  
13       trauma-informed care,
- 14       b. ensure safety and security for staff and those in  
15       crisis, and
- 16       c. involve collaboration with law enforcement and  
17       emergency medical services;

18       6. "Certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHC)" are  
19 facilities as defined under Section 1913(c) of the Public Health  
20 Services Act or Section 223(d) of the Protecting Access to Medicare  
21 Act of 2014 (PAMA). CCBHC's are also certified by the Department of  
22 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services;

23       7. "Co-response" is a collaborative approach to behavioral  
24 health crisis developed in response to the need for local adaptation

1 in which first responders, sometimes including law enforcement  
2 officers, are partnered with behavioral health professionals as an  
3 effective way to respond to behavioral health crises and other  
4 situations involving unmet behavioral health needs;

5 8. "Crisis stabilization services" reflect a range of models  
6 and care to support individuals through emergent and urgent  
7 behavioral health needs. Crisis stabilization services involve  
8 facility-, home-, and community-based services that provide access  
9 to care and stabilization for adults and youth in crisis. Crisis  
10 stabilization services are delivered across a continuum of care that  
11 includes no barrier, low barrier, and referral-based services;

12 9. "Mobile crisis team" means a multidisciplinary behavioral  
13 health team that includes at least one behavioral health care  
14 professional who is capable of conducting an assessment of the  
15 individual, in accordance with the professional's permitted scope of  
16 practice under state law, and other professionals or  
17 paraprofessionals with appropriate expertise in behavioral health or  
18 mental health crisis response, including nurses, social workers,  
19 peer support specialists, and others, whose members are trained in  
20 trauma-informed care, de-escalation strategies, and harm reduction;  
21 that is able to respond in a timely manner and, where appropriate,  
22 provide screening and assessment; stabilization and de-escalation;  
23 and coordination with, and referrals to, health, social, and other

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1 services and supports as needed; that maintains relationships with  
2 relevant community partners, including medical and behavioral; and

3 10. "Urgent Recovery Center" is an ambulatory setting that  
4 offers safe and time-limited services and supports to individuals  
5 experiencing behavioral health crisis. This setting is an  
6 alternative to the use of hospital emergency departments or more  
7 intensive crisis services.

8 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 12-201 of Title 43A, unless  
10 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 A. The State of Oklahoma shall designate the Department of  
12 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to have primary oversight  
13 over the suicide prevention and crisis service activities and  
14 essential coordination with designated 988 Lifeline Crisis Centers  
15 to provide crisis intervention services and crisis care coordination  
16 to individuals accessing the 988 Mental Health Lifeline program from  
17 any jurisdiction within Oklahoma twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven  
18 (7) days a week.

19 B. The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
20 Services (ODMHSAS) shall have primary oversight of suicide  
21 prevention and crisis service activities.

22 C. The designated 988 Lifeline Crisis Centers shall meet 988  
23 Lifeline Program requirements and best practices guidelines for  
24 operational, performance and clinical standards.

1 D. The ODMHSAS shall use its authority to promulgate rules and  
2 regulations to allow appropriate information sharing and  
3 communication between and across crisis and emergency response  
4 systems for the purpose of real-time crisis care coordination  
5 including, but not limited to, deployment of crisis and outgoing  
6 services and linked, flexible services specific to crisis response.

7 E. The state or related public health authority shall assure  
8 active collaborations and coordination of service linkages between  
9 the designated centers and crisis receiving and stabilization  
10 services for individuals accessing the 988 Lifeline through  
11 appropriate information sharing regarding availability of services.

12 F. The state or related public health authority and designated  
13 988 Lifeline Crisis Centers shall utilize technology to enhance  
14 communication and coordination in the delivery of behavioral health  
15 crisis services, and for data collection, analysis and sharing.

16 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 12-202 of Title 43A, unless  
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 The State of Oklahoma shall establish a statewide 988 Trust Fund  
20 for the following purposes:

21 1. To create and maintain a statewide 988 Lifeline system  
22 pursuant to the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020,  
23 the Federal Communication Commission's rules adopted July 16, 2020,  
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1 and October 17, 2024, and the National Guidelines For A Behavioral  
2 Health Coordinated System Of Crisis Care;

3 2. To support or enhance 988 services, including state  
4 designated 988 Lifeline Crisis Centers, and mobile crisis, co-  
5 response and outreach services in specified circumstances;

6 3. The fund shall consist of:

7 a. appropriations made by the Legislature,

8 b. available federal funding that has been allocated by  
9 the state for the purposes of 988 Lifeline  
10 implementation,

11 c. grants and gifts intended for deposit in the fund,

12 d. interest, premiums, gains, or other earnings of the  
13 fund, and

14 e. monies from any other source deposited in or  
15 transferred to the fund;

16 4. The fund shall be created and administered by the Department  
17 of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and money in the fund  
18 shall be expended to offset costs that are or can be reasonably  
19 attributed to:

20 a. implementing, maintaining, and improving the 988  
21 Mental Health Lifeline including staffing and  
22 technological infrastructure enhancements necessary to  
23 achieve operational and clinical standards and best  
24 practices set forth by the state, the Department of

1 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, or 988  
2 Lifeline administrator,

3 b. provision of acute behavioral health, crisis outreach,  
4 and receiving and stabilization services by directly  
5 responding to the 988 Mental Health Lifeline, or

6 c. personnel for the 988 Mental Health Lifeline centers;

7 5. Money in the fund:

8 a. does not revert at the end of any state fiscal year  
9 and shall remain available for the purposes of the  
10 fund in subsequent state fiscal years,

11 b. is not subject to transfer to any other fund or to  
12 transfer, assignment, or reassignment for any other  
13 use or purpose outside of those specified in this  
14 section,

15 c. is continuously appropriated for the purposes of the  
16 fund,

17 d. to the extent that the 988 Mental Health Lifeline  
18 centers are fully funded, the expansion and ongoing  
19 funding of mobile crisis teams, co-response, and  
20 outreach teams,

21 e. to the extent that the 988 Mental Health Lifeline  
22 centers and the mobile crisis teams are fully funded,  
23 remaining revenues in the Trust Fund shall be used for  
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1 a variety of crisis receiving and stabilization  
2 services, including services provided by:  
3 (1) crisis stabilization settings,  
4 (2) residential settings,  
5 (3) additional behavioral health stabilization  
6 services and supports, and

7 f. mobile crisis teams shall operate in compliance with  
8 rules adopted by relevant agencies.

9 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 12-203 of Title 43A, unless  
11 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 The State of Oklahoma shall implement strategies to ensure that  
13 the behavioral health crisis service system is adequately funded,  
14 including mechanisms for reimbursement of behavioral health crisis  
15 response, but not limited to:

16 1. Ensuring that to the extent available any necessary federal  
17 approvals are obtained and federal financial participation is  
18 available and is not otherwise jeopardized, seeking to maximize all  
19 available federal funding sources for the purposes of behavioral  
20 health crisis services and administrative activities related to 988  
21 implementation, including:

- 22 a. federal Medicaid reimbursement for services,
- 23 b. federal Medicaid reimbursement for administrative  
24 expenses, including the development and maintenance of

1 information technology; and supporting implementation  
2 of the behavioral health crisis continuum through  
3 Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program  
4 (CHIP) through Section 5124 of the Consolidated  
5 Appropriations Act of 2023 (CAA, 2023), and

6 c. federal grants;

7 2. Exercising the full authority of the Oklahoma Insurance  
8 Department and Oklahoma Health Care Authority to verify  
9 reimbursement to certified community behavioral health clinics and  
10 state-operated urgent recovery centers and crisis stabilization  
11 units for medically necessary behavioral health crisis services,  
12 like mobile crisis response and crisis stabilization services, by  
13 health care service plans and disability insurers, and consistent  
14 with the requirements of the federal Mental Health Parity and  
15 Addiction Equity Act of 2008 in accordance with the amendments made  
16 to the law in 2021, and pursuant to the No Surprises Act and its  
17 implementing regulations.

18 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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