

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0030

Behavioral health services task force.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim
Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the legislature; creating the behavioral
2 health services task force; providing for membership on the
3 task force; assigning duties and study topics to the task
4 force; requiring a report; providing appropriations; and
5 providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.**

10

11 (a) There is created the behavioral health services
12 task force consisting of the following members:

13

14 (i) Three (3) members of the senate chosen from
15 members of the senate labor, health and social services

1 committee and senate judiciary committee, with not more
2 than two (2) members from the same political party. The
3 members shall be appointed by the president of the senate,
4 one (1) of whom shall be appointed as a cochairman of the
5 committee;

6

7 (ii) Three (3) members of the house of
8 representatives chosen from members of the house labor,
9 health and social services committee and house judiciary
10 committee, with not more than two (2) members from the same
11 political party. The members shall be appointed by the
12 speaker of the house, one (1) of whom shall be appointed as
13 a cochairman of the committee;

14

15 (iii) One (1) member who shall be the director
16 of the department of health or his designee;

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18 (iv) Three (3) members who shall be mental
19 health care providers specializing in mental health and
20 substance abuse, appointed by the governor with
21 consideration given to geographic distribution;

22

1 (v) One (1) member who shall be a law
2 enforcement officer, appointed by the governor;

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4 (vi) One (1) member of the public who is a
5 consumer of mental health or substance abuse services,
6 appointed by the governor.

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8 (b) The task force shall be staffed by the
9 legislative service office. State and local agencies shall
10 provide information and assistance to the task force as
11 requested by the task force.

12

13 (c) The task force shall continue and update the
14 findings and work of the 2005 select committee on mental
15 health and substance abuse services, created by 2005
16 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 195, and shall endeavor to
17 provide recommendations for the delivery of high quality,
18 cost effective and accessible community mental health
19 services, substance abuse services and prevention
20 programming to Wyoming's citizens. As part of its work,
21 the task force shall consider and study:

22

1 (i) Changes to or gaps within the findings and
2 recommendations of the 2005 select committee;

3
4 (ii) Necessary and advisable changes to
5 Wyoming's statutory law;

6
7 (iii) The availability of and access to a
8 continuum of mental health services, substance abuse
9 services and prevention programming in the state, including
10 but not limited to:

11
12 (A) The number of beds available in
13 institutions and hospitals for mental health and substance
14 abuse treatment;

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16 (B) The training available for and levels
17 of training achieved by health care providers who provide
18 mental health services, substance abuse services and
19 prevention programming;

20
21 (C) Recruitment and retention of
22 psychiatrists and other clinical and support staff;

23

1 (D) The number of persons utilizing health
2 care services, substance abuse services and prevention
3 programming in this state and estimates of the number of
4 persons needing those services but who are not receiving
5 the services;

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7 (E) Adolescent and child mental health and
8 substance abuse clinical services, including residential
9 care;

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11 (F) Posthospital and postincarceration
12 continuum of care and reintegration into communities.

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14 (iv) Funding for the mental health, substance
15 abuse and prevention systems of care, including but not
16 limited to:

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18 (A) Funding sources and levels of funding
19 from federal, state, local and private sources; and

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21 (B) Use of a Medicaid behavioral health
22 waiver.

23

1 (v) The costs of providing effective substance
2 use services, mental health services and prevention
3 programing and any alternatives available in Wyoming to
4 lower costs or improve quality;

5

6 (vi) Statutory authorization for prevention
7 services and services provided by community behavioral
8 health providers.

9

10 (d) The task force shall meet as necessary and shall
11 report its findings and recommendations to the joint labor,
12 health and social services interim committee not later than
13 October 1, 2020. If necessary to complete its work, the
14 task force may submit a preliminary report on October 1,
15 2020 in anticipation of conducting additional studies and
16 submitting a final report to the joint labor, health and
17 social services interim committee not later than October 1,
18 2021. Upon receiving a final report from the task force,
19 the joint labor, health and social services interim
20 committee shall consider any recommendations in the report
21 and develop any legislation it deems appropriate for
22 consideration by the legislature.

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1 (e) The task force shall terminate on December 31,
2 2021.

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4 (f) When performing official duties as members of the
5 task force, legislative members of the task force shall be
6 paid salary, mileage and per diem in the amount and manner
7 provided for members of an interim committee under W.S.
8 28-5-101 and 28-5-102 but shall earn no salary for
9 preparation. Chairmen of the task force shall not earn any
10 chairmen salary for their chairmanship of the task force.
11 Members of the task force who are not government employees,
12 government officials or legislators shall not receive a
13 separate salary but shall be paid expenses in the amount
14 provided by W.S. 9-3-102 and 9-3-103 for their official
15 duties as members of the task force. A government employee
16 or official who is a member of the task force shall be
17 considered to be acting within the scope of regular
18 employment when conducting the official business of the
19 task force and shall receive their regular pay without
20 additional compensation except they shall receive mileage
21 and per diem as provided under this subsection if they are
22 not reimbursed by their employer.

23

1 **Section 2.**

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3 (a) There is appropriated twenty-five thousand
4 dollars (\$25,000.00) from the general fund to the
5 legislative service office for the purpose of providing
6 payments to legislative members of the behavioral health
7 services task force as authorized by section 1(f) of this
8 act and for other expenses of the task force authorized by
9 law or policy of the legislature. This appropriation shall
10 be for the period beginning with the effective date of this
11 act and ending June 30, 2022. This appropriation shall not
12 be transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
13 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
14 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
15 2022.

16

17 (b) There is appropriated thirteen thousand dollars
18 (\$13,000.00) from the general fund to the governor's office
19 for the purpose of providing payments to nonlegislative
20 members of the behavioral health services task force as
21 authorized by section 1(f) of this act. This appropriation
22 shall be for the period beginning with the effective date
23 of this act and ending June 30, 2022. This appropriation

1 shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose
2 and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
3 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
4 2022.

5

6 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
7 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
8 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
9 Constitution.

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11

(END)