

SUBJECT: Integrated health and human services delivery system

COMMITTEE: Human Services - committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Hilderbran, Naishtat, Davila, Denny, J. Jones, Krusee, Maxey, Park, Wohlgemuth
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Nancy Epstein, Disability Policy Consortium; Heather Fenstermaker, Texas Association of Home Care; Mary Jo Magruder, Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities; Barrett Markland, Advocacy, Inc.
Against — None

DIGEST: CSHB 869 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to identify human service agencies that coordinate the delivery of health and human services in different regions, counties and municipalities in the state. CSHB 869 would require that HHSC ask these agencies to take the following steps:

- identify the health and human service priorities in their area and their recommendation for the most effective ways to deliver and coordinate services to that region;
- develop a coordinated plan for the delivery of health and human services including transitional services for school-age students;
- make available to HHSC their existing strategic plans and their priorities and plans. HHSC would then be required to consider the health and human services priorities and plans submitted to HHSC by the local agencies.

The commissioner of HHSC would be required, at the request of a local governmental entity, to assist the entity in implementing a coordinated plan for the delivery of human services. This plan could include the co-location of services, integrated intake and coordinated referral and case management, tailored to meet the needs and priorities of the entity.

The commissioner of HHSC would be required to develop automation standards with the Department of Information Resources in order for agencies located at the local level to share information with other health and human services agencies.

CSHB 869 would require that existing health and human services agency staff be assigned to perform the functions under this article.

This bill would take immediate effect if approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 869 would create an important tool in providing an efficient and effective human services delivery system. Agencies at the state and local level must work together to identify the most effective ways in which to deliver human services in the least costly manner.

In 1991 the Legislature adopted a "systems approach" to integrated health and human services delivery. Three pilot projects were authorized in various parts of the state to demonstrate and evaluate the effects of integrated service delivery through streamlined client processing and improved client access to "one-stop shopping" centers.

For "one-stop" health and human services delivery to work, all health and human services staffs at the state and local levels must participate in the development of priorities and plans designed to accomplish the successful delivery of health and human service programs to each community in the state.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition

NOTES:

The committee substitute added a provision to ensure that transition services for school-age children would be included in coordinated health and human services plans. It also included provisions on compliance with the coordinated strategic plan and to allow HHSC to use other agency employees to assist in implementing the bill.