

- SUBJECT:** Requiring Medicaid reimbursement for functional family therapy
- COMMITTEE:** Youth Health & Safety, Select — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — S. Thompson, Allison, Capriglione, Dutton, A. Johnson, T. King, Landgraf, Lozano
- 1 nay — Hull
- WITNESSES:** For — Veronica Delgado-Savage, Southwest Key Programs; Harold Arant, Claudia Moreno Villanueva, VisionQuest (*Registered, but did not testify*); Omodele Ojomo, Autism Society of Texas; Andrea Sparks, Buckner International; Michaela Bennett, Children’s Health; Christina Hoppe, Children’s Hospital Association of Texas; Georgia Bates, City of Uvalde; Dennis Borel, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Lindsay Lanagan, Legacy Community Health; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Lyssette Galvan, NAMI Texas; Bryan Mares, National Association of Social Workers-Texas; Elizabeth Henry, RecoveryPeople; Zoë Jones-Walton, Texans Care for Children; Alejandro Pena, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Martin Martinez, Texas Appleseed; Jessica Lynch, Texas Association of Health Plans; Amanda Afifi, Texas Association of School Psychologists; Meredith Cooke, Texas Children’s Health Plan; Carrie Kroll, Texas Hospital Association; Caitlin Flanders, Texas Medical Association; Lauren Rose, Texas Network of Youth Services; Clayton Travis, Texas Pediatric Society; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; Carrie Griffith, Texas State Teachers Association; Kerrie Judice, TexProtects; Brittany McAllister, The National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Tiffany Patterson, United Ways of Texas; and 20 individuals)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Carly Blaine)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that the lack of Medicaid reimbursement for functional family therapy makes it difficult for some at-risk youth to gain access to these services.

**DIGEST:** HB 2404 would define “functional family therapy” as an intensive, short-term, family-based therapeutic treatment designed to improve family dynamics, communication, and support for children who were at risk of involvement with the child welfare system, the criminal justice system, or the juvenile justice system.

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) would be required to ensure that Medicaid reimbursement was given to a provider who provided functional family therapy services to a recipient under Medicaid.

If a state agency determined that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency was necessary to implement the bill, the agency would be required to request the waiver and could delay implementation until the waiver or authorization was granted.

**NOTES:** According to the Legislative Budget Board, HB 2404 would have a positive impact of \$259,468 on general revenue related funds for fiscal 2024-25.