

SUBJECT: Requiring Medicaid reimbursement for multisystemic therapy services

COMMITTEE: Youth Health & Safety, Select — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — S. Thompson, Allison, Dutton, A. Johnson, T. King, Landgraf, Lozano

1 nay — Hull

1 absent — Capriglione

WITNESSES: For — Marcellina Melvin, The Hackett Center at Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (*Registered, but did not testify*: Omodele Ojomo, Autism Society of Texas; Andrea Sparks, Buckner International; Mandi Kimball, Children At Risk; Michaela Bennett, Children's Health; Christina Hoppe, Children's Hospital Association of Texas; Georgia Bates, City of Uvalde; 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; 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; 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 13 individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Carly Blaine)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Veronica Delgado-Savage, Southwest Key Programs)

**BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that because multisystemic therapy services, which provide intensive family and community-based treatment that addresses the multiple causes of serious antisocial behavior in juvenile offenders, cannot receive Medicaid reimbursement, these services are not available to all at-risk youth who need them.

**DIGEST:** HB 2638 would require that Medicaid reimbursement be given to a health care provider who provided multisystemic therapy services to Medicaid recipients. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission would be required to establish a separate provider type for multisystemic therapy providers for a provider enrolling for reimbursement.

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.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

**NOTES:** According to the Legislative Budget Board, HB 2638 would have a negative impact of about \$8 million for fiscal 2024-25 on general revenue related funds.