

HB

152

"An Act relating to a mental health advisory council; and providing for an effective date."

We endorse this legislation and believe that it is required to meet the mandated council requirements of Public Law 94-63. Public Law 94-63 results in \$700,000 in federal funding for the community mental health programs in Anchorage, Kodiak, and Ketchikan and has the potential for federal funding of community mental health programs in Juneau and Fairbanks in the next few years.

The legislation also guarantees adequate mental health representation on the State Health Coordinating Council established by Public Law 93-641. Under the present guidelines of selection of State Health Coordinating Council membership, the general membership of the State Health Coordinating Council would not meet the requirements of Public Law 94-63.

Aside from statutorily providing a funding base for this council, this legislation is also important to provide the necessary citizen manpower and energy to provide a check and balance on the development of mental health programs in this state. They now have advisory input into the community mental health services granting process which would be less meaningful if they were not statutorily designated. They also input into the state plan, state regulations and are actively involved in providing input into a revised mental health statute, a task that is made urgent by the present cloud of unconstitutionality overhanging those statutes.

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities respects and values this council's advice and believes its services are well worth the investment. Although we are concerned about the proliferation of councils, this council will serve multiple purposes and, consequently, avoids duplication and in that sense is cost efficient.

Recommended by:

*Jerry L. Schrader*  
Jerry L. Schrader, M.D. 2/8/77  
Division of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities  
DATE

Approved by:

*Francis S. L. Williamson*  
Francis S. L. Williamson 2/10/77  
Department of Health & Social Services  
DATE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HOUSE BILL No. 152  
 Title MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL  
 Requested by BUDGET & MANAGEMENT Date 12/15/76

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
 Program Category Affected HEALTH  
 Budget Request Unit(s) Affected COMMUNITY OPERATED MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL		17.3	17.5	17.5	18.0	18.0
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL		17.3	17.5	17.5	18.0	18.0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		17.3	17.5	17.5	18.0	18.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

The Mental Health Advisory Council is being requested to be reinstated in this proposed legislation. If it is reinstated, there would be the above travel associated with this group. Personnel are outside advisors, so there will not be personal services expenses.

IV. DATE December 15, 1976 PREPARED BY J. Price  
 AGENCY Mental Health  
 PHONE 465 3368  
 Original: Legislative Finance  
 cc: Budget and Management  
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) Marsha Stewart

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

76 34: 11/21/76

Be it resolved that the Mental Health Advisory Council requests the Commissioner of Health and Social Services to initiate a study of forms currently in use, particularly those distributed in the bush or to citizens outside the State Government. The Council recommends that the Department establish a procedure for the review and revision of such forms on a regular periodic basis together with a program seeking out and encouraging comment and criticism of governmental forms by State employees and citizen consumers with respect to the following points:

1. The Simplification and legibility of such forms.
2. The elimination of needless duplication.
3. Translation into native dialects and major foreign languages utilized in Alaska.
4. Training of personnel to assist citizens in filling out the forms.
5. Clarification and shortening the format.
6. Standardization of forms for use by multiple agencies.
7. The protection of the citizen's right to privacy.
8. Obtaining local input for the consideration of local factors.

S/  
Max F. Gruenberg, Jr.  
Chairman  
Mental Health Advisory Council

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP

Northern Region

Term Ending

Term Ending

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3/10/77

HB 152.

February 1, 1977

The Honorable Hugh Malone  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18 of the Alaska Constitution, and in accordance with AS 24.30.060(b) and the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, I am transmitting a bill which creates a new Mental Health Advisory Council. The former council, created in 1975 (see AS 47.30.605), was to exist only until the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) was created. Sec. 2, ch. 121 SLA 1975. The SHCC was created by sec. 2, ch. 275 SLA 1976, effective September 27, 1976, and was to assume the responsibilities of the Mental Health Advisory Council set out in AS 47.30.-605(b), among others.

The state is currently receiving some \$700,000 in federal funds for mental health services under the Community Mental Health Centers Act, P.L. 94-63. The federal act requires that the state plan designate a state mental health advisory council. P.L. 94-63 and the implementing guidelines of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare require that the state advisory council be composed of certain classes of persons involved in the mental health area.

For example, the council is to consist of representatives of nongovernmental organizations, state agencies concerned with mental health, and both consumers and providers of mental health services. A majority but not more than 60% of the members must be nonproviders of mental health services and not less than 40% must be providers of direct and indirect mental health services. The council's composition must reflect the

social, economic, linguistic, racial, ethnic and geographic composition of the state. The consumer members must include persons who have been users of public mental hospitals or community mental health centers as well as representatives of patient organizations and advocacy groups in the mental health area. A public process for selecting members should be used to the extent possible.

The Statewide Health Coordinating Council cannot meet these compositional requirements if it is to serve its purpose as a comprehensive health planning body. It appears, therefore, that a state mental health advisory body must exist to meet the requirements of P.L. 94-63 as long as the state is receiving federal funds under the Act.

The Division of Mental Health wishes to recreate the council by statute since it believes that funding for members' expenses would be difficult to obtain otherwise. To accomplish this, AS 47.30.605 is repealed and re-enacted, with the new subsections (a), (c), and (d) reading essentially as they did before their repeal at the time the Statewide Health Coordinating Council was created by ch. 275 SLA 1976. Subsection (b) of sec. 605, which was not repealed when the SHCC was created, continues the council's functions as they are currently set out in sec. 605 except that: 1) institutional mental health services as well as community services are specifically included in its area of concern; and 2) the council is designated as a subcommittee of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council to represent the mental health area. These additional functions would not affect the council's compliance with requirements under P.L. 94-63.

Sincerely,

Jay S. Hammond  
Governor

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

• RESOLUTION

76-24 Proposed Legislation.

The Alaska State Community Mental Health Advisory Council urges the enactment of the following legislation by the State of Alaska:

AN ACT AMENDING THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT

Section 1. Section 2, Ch 121 SLA 1975 is repealed.

Section 2. AS 47.30.605 is amended to read as follows:

Mental Health Advisory Council. (a) There shall be a Mental Health Advisory Council appointed by the Governor to advise and assist the department in initiating and implementing mental health services. The council consists of twelve appointed voting members who are interested and knowledgeable in mental health. No more than four members should be providers of direct mental health services.

(b) The council shall

(1) advise the division on the state mental health plans before implementation of these plans.

(2) periodically review all mental health services in the state, reports of which shall be prepared and submitted to the governor, the legislature, the department, and the Statewide Health Coordinating Council;

(3) conduct independent investigations and studies as may be necessary;

(4) recommend rules, regulations and standards and legislation for the administration of community and mental health centers and institutional mental health services;

(5) encourage coordination of community mental health services on a regional basis with each other and with institutional mental health care to insure nonduplication, nonfragmentation and efficiency.

(6) act as a subcommittee of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council in the area of mental health to assist that Council in meeting its responsibilities under federal and state law.

(c) The council shall meet at the call of the chairman, but shall meet at least once quarterly.

(d) Members of the council are not entitled to a salary, but are entitled to per diem, reimbursement for travel, and other expenses authorized by law for other boards (1 Ch 121 SLA 1975).

The Chairman is directly to contact the governor, commissioner of health and social services, and members of the legislature pursuant to this Resolution.

  
Max F. Gruenberg, Jr.

Chairman

Mental Health Advisory Council