

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

FILED SENATE  
May 19, 2014  
S.B. 804  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE DRS45124-MGz-141A\* (04/07)

Short Title: Strategies for Improving MH-DD-SAS. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hise and Hartsell (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO  
3 DEVELOP AND REPORT ON STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
4 IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL  
5 DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, AS RECOMMENDED BY  
6 THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN  
7 SERVICES.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) shall  
10 submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services  
11 and the Fiscal Research Division by November 1, 2014, that includes all of the following  
12 components:

- 13 (1) A strategy for improving communication and coordination among all  
14 divisions within the Department that administer funds or programs related to  
15 the delivery of behavioral health services, especially regarding the most  
16 appropriate and efficient uses of public and private inpatient behavioral  
17 health services. The Department shall include as part of its strategy a process  
18 to address shortages and deficiencies identified in the annual State Medical  
19 Facilities Plan.
- 20 (2) A plan developed in collaboration with local management entities that have  
21 been approved to operate as managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) to  
22 increase access to, and availability of, community-based outpatient crisis and  
23 emergency services for the stabilization and treatment of individuals  
24 experiencing mental health, developmental disability, or substance abuse  
25 crises in settings other than local hospital emergency departments and  
26 State-operated psychiatric hospitals.
- 27 (3) A plan to ensure that a comprehensive array of outpatient treatment and  
28 crisis prevention and intervention services are available and accessible to  
29 children, adolescents, and adults in every LME/MCO catchment area. The  
30 plan shall ensure that an adequate number of crisis stabilization units are  
31 available in each LME/MCO catchment area.
- 32 (4) Findings and recommendations for increasing the inventory of inpatient  
33 psychiatric and substance abuse services within the State. In developing its  
34 findings and recommendations, the Department shall examine the  
35 advantages and disadvantages of increasing this inventory of services  
36 through (i) additional State-operated facilities, (ii) community hospital beds,



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1 (iii) United States Veterans Administration beds, and (iv) community-based  
2 services that decrease the need for inpatient treatment.

3 (5) A plan for offering hospitals and other entities incentives to apply for  
4 licenses to begin offering new inpatient behavioral health services, or to  
5 begin operating existing licensed beds that are currently unstaffed, or both.

6 (6) Recommendations on the use of the existing Cherry Hospital buildings after  
7 patients and operations are relocated to the replacement facility. In  
8 developing its findings and recommendations, the Department shall conduct  
9 a study that includes development of an inventory and assessment of the  
10 condition of every building located on the existing Cherry Hospital campus.  
11 The study shall include an examination of the feasibility of using the existing  
12 Cherry Hospital facility to provide community-based and facility-based  
13 behavioral health services, including additional child and adolescent  
14 inpatient beds.

15 (7) A method by which the Division of Health Service Regulation can begin  
16 tracking and separately reporting no later than January 1, 2015, on the  
17 inventory of inpatient behavioral health beds for children ages six through  
18 12 and for adolescents over age 12.

19 (8) A status update on the implementation of each component of the 2008  
20 Mental Health Commission Workforce Development Plan.

21 **SECTION 2.** The Department shall submit a report to the House of  
22 Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate  
23 Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight  
24 Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division by March 1,  
25 2015, that includes all of the following components:

26 (1) A comprehensive strategy, developed in collaboration with stakeholders  
27 deemed relevant by the Department, to address the dearth of licensed child  
28 and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds throughout the State. The strategy  
29 shall:

30 a. Ensure that an adequate inventory of child and adolescent beds are  
31 available in each LME/MCO catchment area.

32 b. Include the development and implementation of a child and  
33 adolescent psychiatric bed registry to provide real-time information  
34 on the number of beds available at each licensed inpatient facility in  
35 the State.

36 (2) Recommendations for meaningful outcome measures to be implemented by  
37 State-operated alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers to assess the impact  
38 of inpatient treatment on an individual's substance use following discharge  
39 from a State-operated alcohol and drug abuse treatment center. The  
40 recommendations shall include a proposed time line for implementation of  
41 these outcome measures.

42 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.