

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 788
May 3, 2021
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30287-MRa-113

Short Title: Achieve Better Mental Health Recovery Results. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Autry.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ACHIEVE BETTER MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY RESULTS BY
3 SUPPORTING PEER-RUN RECOVERY WELLNESS CENTERS, BY CREATING A
4 NORTH CAROLINA MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY AGENDA,
5 AND BY REQUIRING A MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY POLICY CHIEF WITHIN
6 THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND
7 SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
8 SERVICES.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
11 Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
12 Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS), the sum of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000)
13 in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be allocated to the Promise Resource
14 Network for the establishment of four peer-run wellness centers to address mental health crisis
15 prevention and post-crisis response. These four peer-run wellness centers shall be located in two
16 different urban locations and two different rural locations in this State.

17 **SECTION 1.(b)** No later than September 1, 2022, DMH/DD/SAS shall report on the
18 status of the establishment of the four peer-run wellness centers under subsection (a) of this
19 section to the Joint Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services. The report shall
20 include an estimated time line for the centers to be fully operational and an estimate of the number
21 of individuals each center will have the capacity to serve.

22 **SECTION 2.(a)** The title of Part 4 of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General
23 Statutes reads as rewritten:

24 "Part 4. Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse
25 Services."

26 **SECTION 2.(b)** Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by
27 adding a new Part to read:

28 "Part 37. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse
29 Services.

30 "**§ 143B-216.90. Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief.**

31 (a) The position of Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief is established in the Division
32 of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services of the Department
33 of Health and Human Services.

34 (b) The role of Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief shall only be held by an individual
35 certified as a peer support specialist.



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1 (c) The Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief shall ensure that mental health recovery
2 values and outcomes are drivers of State policy and work to engage knowledgeable individuals
3 who have experienced mental health recovery and external experts to inform the Division of
4 Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.

5 **"§ 143B-216.91. NC Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda.**

6 (a) No later than January 31 of each odd calendar year, the Division of Mental Health,
7 Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Health and
8 Human Services shall publish a biennial NC Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda on
9 its website.

10 (b) The NC Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda shall set Department of
11 Health and Human Services objectives for mental health recovery outcomes. The NC Mental
12 Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda shall provide both short-term and long-term objectives
13 and track work done by the Department of Health and Human Services to meet the objectives
14 from the prior Agenda.

15 (c) The Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief established under this Part shall ensure that
16 individuals with personal experiences of mental health recovery inform the development of each
17 NC Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Agenda."

18 **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 143B-150.1 is recodified as G.S. 143B-216.92, under Part 37
19 of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, as enacted by subsection (b) of this section.

20 **SECTION 2.(d)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
21 Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and
22 Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS), the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
23 in recurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and the sum of one hundred thousand dollars
24 (\$100,000) in recurring funds for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to be used to fund the salary and
25 benefits for the Mental Health Recovery Policy Chief position within DMH/DD/SAS, required
26 under G.S. 143B-216.90, as enacted by subsection (b) of this section.

27 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.