

RESOLUTION NO. R-14-139

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING PASSAGE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELPING FAMILIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS ACT OF 2013 (H.R. 3717); SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE VERN BUCHANAN IN CO-SPONSORING THE ACT; DIRECTING THE CLERK TO FORWARD A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2013, U.S. Representative Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania introduced a bill in Congress entitled the “Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013” (H.R. 3717) (the Act); and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Vern Buchanan of Florida is a co-sponsor of the Act, which is intended to make available needed psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services for individuals diagnosed with mental illness and families in mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Act creates an Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (Assistant Secretary) in the Department of Health and Human Services whose duties encompass (1) promoting the coordination of service programs conducted by other departments, agencies, organizations, and individuals related to the problems of individuals suffering from substance abuse and mental illness; (2) carrying out the administrative and financial management, policy development and planning, evaluation, knowledge dissemination, and public information functions required for the implementation of mental health programs, including block grants, treatments, and data collection; and (3) overseeing and coordinating all programs and activities relating to the prevention of, or treatment or rehabilitation for, mental health or substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Act provides for the establishment of a National Mental Health Policy Laboratory to (1) identify and implement policy changes and other trends likely to have the most significant impact on mental health services; (2) collect information from grantees under programs funded by the Act and other mental health programs; and (3) evaluate and disseminate to such grantees evidence-based practices and services delivery models using the best available science shown to reduce program expenditures while enhancing the quality of care furnished to individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the award of grants to counties, cities, mental health systems, mental health courts, and other entities to implement, monitor, and oversee assisted outpatient treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the award of planning grants for demonstration programs to improve the provision of behavioral health services provided by federally qualified community

behavioral health clinics; and

WHEREAS, the Act modifies various programs to provide (1) grants for mental health programs and operations by law enforcement or corrections officers; (2) specialized training for law enforcement officers to recognize and properly intervene with individuals who have mental illness, and programs that enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to address the mental health, behavioral, and substance abuse problems of individuals encountered in the line of duty; (3) specialized training to enhance the ability of corrections officers to address the mental health of individuals under the care and custody of jails and prisons; and (4) specialized training for paramedics, emergency medical services workers, and other first responders to recognize and properly intervene with individuals who have mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes the award of grants to (1) establish or expand veterans treatment court programs and peer to peer services or programs for veterans; and (2) enhance the capabilities of a correctional facility to identify, screen, and treat inmates with a mental illness, as well as develop and implement post-release transition plans for such inmates; and

WHEREAS, the Act amends the Social Security Act to provide coverage for prescription drugs used to treat mental health disorders under Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the organization of a national awareness campaign to assist secondary school students and postsecondary students in (1) reducing the stigma associated with serious mental illness; (2) understanding how to assist an individual demonstrating signs of a serious mental illness; and (3) understanding the importance of seeking treatment from a physician, clinical psychologist, or licensed mental health professional for a student suffering from a serious mental illness or behavioral health disorder; and

WHEREAS, the Act provides liability protections for health care professional volunteers at community mental health centers and federally qualified community behavioral health clinics; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes a Center for Mental Health Services to (1) aid the Assistant Secretary in designing national goals and setting national priorities for the prevention and treatment of mental illness and the promotion of mental health; (2) assist local communities in addressing violence among children and adolescents related to mental illness; (3) deploy improved methods of treating individuals with mental health problems and assisting the families of such individuals; (4) foster independence and protect the legal rights of persons with mental illness; and (5) provide technical assistance to public and private entities that are providers of mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the award of a grant for the operation and maintenance of a research, training, and technical assistance resource center to provide information, training, and technical support to states, political subdivisions, institutions of higher education, public organizations, or private nonprofit organizations concerning the prevention of suicide among all ages, particularly among groups at high risk for suicide; and

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WHEREAS, the Act requires the award of grants or cooperative agreements with eligible entities to develop and implement youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies in schools, educational institutions, juvenile justice systems, substance abuse disorder programs, mental health programs, foster care systems, and other child and youth support organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the award of grants to enhance services for students with mental health or substance use disorders at institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that it is in the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Manatee County to support passage and implementation of the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners supports passage and implementation of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 (H.R. 3717).

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners supports the efforts of U.S. Representative Vern Buchanan in co-sponsoring the Act and raising awareness about mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and behavioral health issues.

Section 3. The Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the office of U.S. Representative Vern Buchanan.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 23rd day of September, 2014.

ATTEST: R. B. SHORE
Clerk of the Circuit Court

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Rubin Liberty DC
Deputy Clerk



By: Larry Bustle
Chairman