

**2015 Montana Legislature**

Bill No.

INTRODUCED BY

BY REQUEST OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF 6 PILOT PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY BASED YOUTH CRISIS DIVERSION PROJECTS, PROVIDING FOR A REPORT ON THE PROJECT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$1.2 million from the general fund to the department of public health and human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015. The department shall grant the funds through a competitive process to 6 licensed Montana children's mental health services providers to develop community youth crisis diversion services with a community collation component. Communities will be enabled to develop individualized, local approaches to using crisis diversion using an array of some or all of these services.

- (a) Twenty four (24) hour crisis lines availability and immediate response to de-escalate and provide immediate solutions to resolve crisis, assess for immediate safety and stabilization.
- (b) Crisis case management/facilitation begins with a youth and family in crisis within 24 hours of identification and provides up to 15 hours or 30 days of service.
- (c) Evaluation and assessment includes specialized assessments such as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) or more general assessments to determine risk and eligibility for follow up services. This consists of assessment of strengths and needs, exploration of crisis behavior/situation, development of a safety plan, appropriate referral and linkage, and teaching family skills to anticipate and plan for future crises.
- (d) Short-term residential crisis stabilization consists of placements designed to specifically address crisis and bring the family along to facilitate replacement back home whenever possible. This proposes presumptive eligibility for 3 days to insure safety above all, including financial responsibility, and for a period of up to 14 days if needed in residential crisis stabilization in the community, using existing shelter group homes, therapeutic group homes, or foster care for up to 14 days.
- (e) PT Project Coordinator to assist in coalition building, managing the grant and building referrals for the duration of the grant.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Reporting requirement.** The licensed children's mental health providers selected to receive the funds shall report to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee during the 2015-16 interim on how the funds were used, including but not limited outcome indicator measurements identified by the Department and providers,.

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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