

HHS INTERIM COMMITTEE SUNSET REVIEW OF Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission

Submitted by Doug Thomas

Date: October 20, 2021

Is the program necessary?

Yes, the program is necessary to ensure that a coordinated statewide crisis response system to behavioral health related crises is coordinated with additional stakeholders during the ramp-up to 988 implementation. The only part of the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission under Sunset Review is related to section 63C-18-202 (2) of the code that states:

“On December 31, 2022:

(a) the number of members described in Subsection (1)(n) and the number of members described in Subsection (1)(o) is reduced to one, with no restriction relating to party membership; and

(b) the members described in Subsections (1)(p) through (u) are removed from the commission.”

This section of the code was added to ensure coordination with 911, telecommunications companies, and other stakeholders, which would be needed to ensure Utah is prepared for 988 implementation by July 1st, 2022 and **should be allowed to sunset.**

Is the program accomplishing its objective?

Yes. Utah is ahead of the curve in its preparedness for a crisis and sub-acute system that will be ready to respond and assist those accessing services when 988 becomes active July 1st, 2022.

Are there ways to improve the program?

Yes. The Behavioral Health Crisis Response Commission seeks input from local governments, local mental health and substance abuse authorities, behavioral health advocates, and community stakeholders to improve services. Best practices in crisis

response and care management, along with innovative solutions, are developed and used to ensure quality crisis response for those in need.