

MEDICAID WAIVER FOR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

SERVICES

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason

Senate Sponsor: Daniel W. Thatcher

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill requires the Department of Health to seek a Medicaid waiver for certain mental health crisis resources.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms; and
- ▶ requires the Department of Health to seek a Medicaid waiver for certain mental health crisis resources.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

26-18-415, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **26-18-415** is enacted to read:

26-18-415. Medicaid waiver for mental health crisis lines and mobile crisis outreach teams.

(1) As used in this section:

30 (a) "Local mental health crisis line" means the same as that term is defined in Section
31 63C-18-102.

32 (b) "Mental health crisis" means:

33 (i) a mental health condition that manifests itself in an individual by symptoms of
34 sufficient severity that a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of mental
35 health issues could reasonably expect the absence of immediate attention or intervention to
36 result in:

37 (A) serious danger to the individual's health or well-being; or

38 (B) a danger to the health or well-being of others; or

39 (ii) a mental health condition that, in the opinion of a mental health therapist or the
40 therapist's designee, requires direct professional observation or the intervention of a mental
41 health therapist.

42 (c) (i) "Mental health crisis services" means direct mental health services and on-site
43 intervention that a mobile crisis outreach team provides to an individual suffering from a
44 mental health crisis, including the provision of safety and care plans, prolonged mental health
45 services for up to 90 days, and referrals to other community resources.

46 (ii) "Mental health crisis services" includes:

47 (A) local mental health crisis lines; and

48 (B) the statewide mental health crisis line.

49 (d) "Mental health therapist" means the same as that term is defined in Section
50 58-60-102.

51 (e) "Mobile crisis outreach team" or "MCOT" means a mobile team of medical and
52 mental health professionals that, in coordination with local law enforcement and emergency
53 medical service personnel, provides mental health crisis services.

54 (f) "Statewide mental health crisis line" means the same as that term is defined in
55 Section 63C-18-102.

56 (2) In consultation with the Department of Human Services and the Mental Health
57 Crisis Line Commission created in Section 63C-18-202, the department shall develop a

58 proposal to amend the state Medicaid plan to include mental health crisis services, including
59 the statewide mental health crisis line, local mental health crisis lines, and mobile crisis
60 outreach teams.

61 (3) By January 1, 2019, the department shall apply for a Medicaid waiver with the
62 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services within the United States Department of Health
63 and Human Services, if necessary to implement, within the state Medicaid program, the mental
64 health crisis services described in Subsection (2).