

House Human Services

March 14, 2023



Roll Call

Frank, James B. - Chair - Present

Rose, Toni - Vice Chair - Present

Frank, James B. - Present

Klick, Stephanie - Present

Noble, Candy - Present

Campos, Elizabeth - Present

"Liz" Hull, Lacey - Present

Manuel, Christian - Present

Ramos, Ana-Maria - Present

Shaheen, Matt - Present

Resources

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Testimony/bills

HB 728

Rep. Rose (07:00)

Number of those ages 65+ will triple by 2050. Texas will soon have the second largest aging population in the nation. Demand will increase for aging services.

Establishes a statewide coordinating council to ensure a strategic approach to interagency aging services. Agencies included: Office of Gov, Veterans Commission, HHS, Family and Protective Services, Texas Workforce Commission, UTHSCSA, OAG, etc.

The council will include demographics data and develop a 5-year strategic plan and an annual list of state-funded interagency aging programs and services, including a description of how those programs and services further the purpose of the council's strategic plan.

Working on committee substitute establishing timeline for council to submit strategic plan, ties council to HHSC sunset timeline.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS

Meeting Update–March 14, 2023

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Jon Weizenbaum (11:10)

Support. Beauty of this bill is that it acknowledges a lot of agencies/systems. This is good government.

Oliverson: Any idea what recommendations might come out of this?

Weizenbaum: Medicaid is the biggest cost driver for the state. This will probably reduce costs for the dual-eligible population. Hope the focus will be on reducing costs, hospitalizations, etc.

Eddie Orum, AARP Executive Council member (15:32)

Support. We know the demographic is shifting to older ages. Those over 65 will triple by 2050, as Rep. Rose said. Texans ages 50+ are contributors to society through innovation, etc. This council is critical to supporting the population.

Orum: Is there another state with an agency similar to this one?

Noble: Not that I know of.

Orum: AARP has an interest in bills such as this. As caregivers, we want to begin the process early.

Rep. Rose (20:50)

Establishing this council doesn't mean we spend more money. This is us making the most of our resources.

Oliverson: This is put under HHSC typically, to be able to coordinate. Wording suggestion from other studies I've seen; within 90 days (or other timeframe), they have to respond in writing. Doesn't mean they have to take it all, confirms they see it. Just a suggestion.

Rose: Interested in this.

Bill left pending.

729

Rep. Rose (23:05)

People with intellectual developmental disabilities experience chronic conditions, due to mental and physical impairments. Policy experts and caregivers need to come together to

improve the lives of this community. Texas ranked 49th in efforts to serve this community. Medicaid services and programs in other states have created councils. Bill establishes a statewide intellectual and developmental disability coordinating council to ensure a strategic approach for IDD services. The council must develop a 5-year IDD strategic plan, publish available services and programs, and share the number of individuals on the waitlists. Currently working on committee substitute.

Noble: There is the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, and other councils, are we duplicating efforts?

Rose: Are these agencies in this bill, in that council?

Noble: Worth looking to see. Could we give what is already out there, these tasks?

Rose: Can look closer, but we have already done our research. But putting these specific agencies together is what would help.

Oliverson: Do you know details of TCDD, and have answers for Noble?

Clare Beneteze, HHSC: Not sure about TCDD, but know that the Governors Committee is dissimilar from the proposed council.

Ashley Ford, ARC of Texas (30:52)

Support. This proposed council has differences from TCDD and the Governors Council. I worked on the DD council for 5 years, so I'm charged to talk about this. DD council was established through the Developmental Disabilities Act from JFK's time as president; created system change through funding innovative grants. All of these members are appointed by the governor. The Governor's Council is different because they have a cross disability focus and look at the big definition of disability, globally. Not looking at coordination of services across, for example, HHSC or Texas Juvenile Justice Department. This bill is critical for making sure we have a sustainable future.

Bill left pending.