

**Adopted  
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill No. 2610**

**BY: Senator(s) Bryan, McLendon, Jordan, Jackson  
(11th), Butler, Thomas, Witherspoon**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

41        SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
42 Rose Isabel Williams Mental Health Reform Act of 2020. The goal  
43 of the act is to reform the current Mississippi mental health  
44 delivery system so that necessary services, supports and  
45 operational structures for all its citizens with mental illness  
46 and/or alcohol and drug dependence and/or comorbidity, whether  
47 children, youth or adults, are accessible and delivered preferably  
48 in the communities where these citizens live. To accomplish this  
49 goal, this act provides for a Coordinator of Mental Health  
50 Accessibility with the power and duties set forth in this act.



51           **SECTION 2.** As used in this act, the following terms shall  
52 have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates  
53 a different meaning:

54           (a) "Community mental health center" means a facility  
55 authorized under Section 41-19-33.

56           (b) "Mental health services" shall include all services  
57 offered by the mental health system in Mississippi, including, but  
58 not limited to, the following:

59           (i) Community mental health services, including:

- 60                   1. Programs of assertive community treatment;
- 61                   2. Mobile crisis response services;
- 62                   3. Crisis stabilization units;
- 63                   4. Community support services;
- 64                   5. Peer support services;
- 65                   6. Supported employment; and
- 66                   7. Permanent supported housing; and

67           (ii) Institutional mental health services which  
68 are services that encompass civil commitment or hospitalization in  
69 a psychiatric hospital;

70           (iii) Mental health services provided in  
71 facilities authorized in Title 47, Mississippi Code of 1972;

72           (iv) Core adult mental health services;

73           (v) Child mental health services;

74           (vi) Intellectual/developmental disability  
75 services;



76 (vii) Substance abuse prevention and  
77 treatment/rehabilitation services; and

78 (viii) Any combination of the services defined in  
79 this paragraph (b).

80 (c) "Mental health system" means the facilities,  
81 institutions, centers, entities, persons and providers that  
82 provide mental health services in Mississippi.

83 (d) "Regional commission" means a commission  
84 established in Section 41-19-33.

85 **SECTION 3.** (1) (a) There is created within the Department  
86 of Finance and Administration a temporary position to be known as  
87 the "Coordinator of Mental Health Accessibility."

88 (b) (i) The Governor, with the advice and consent of  
89 the Senate, shall appoint the Coordinator of Mental Health  
90 Accessibility by April 20, 2020.

91 (ii) In making the appointment, the Governor shall  
92 consult with the Department of Mental Health, the Division of  
93 Medicaid, the regional commissions and any advocacy groups that he  
94 determines to be necessary.

95 (c) The temporary position of Coordinator of Mental  
96 Health Accessibility shall dissolve on June 30, 2023.

97 (2) The temporary position shall be a subdivision housed  
98 within, but independent of, the Department of Finance and  
99 Administration. The coordinator shall maintain complete and  
100 exclusive operational control of the subdivision's functions.



101 (3) The coordinator shall have a master's degree, doctoral  
102 degree or juris doctorate from an accredited institution of higher  
103 learning and not have less than five (5) years of professional  
104 experience.

105 (4) All of the expenses of the coordinator's office,  
106 including the coordinator's salary and the salaries of any staff,  
107 shall be paid out of funds specifically appropriated for this  
108 purpose.

109 (5) The Department of Finance and Administration shall  
110 provide certain administrative support of the coordinator such as  
111 payroll, purchasing, personnel support and clerical and reception  
112 functions.

113 **SECTION 4.** The coordinator shall have the following powers  
114 and duties:

115 (a) To perform a comprehensive review of Mississippi's  
116 mental health system to determine whether the mental health  
117 services, including community mental health services, are offered  
118 in each county and available to the entire population of each  
119 county, especially to those with serious and persistent mental  
120 illness.

121 (b) To analyze and review the structure of the mental  
122 health system.

123 (c) To review the adequacy and quality of the  
124 individualized supports and services provided to persons



125 discharged from the state hospitals or to persons at risk of  
126 institutionalization throughout the state.

127 (d) To review the quarterly financial statements and  
128 status reports of the individual community mental health centers  
129 described in Section 41-19-33(3)(b).

130 (e) To consult with the Special Master appointed in the  
131 United States of America v. State of Mississippi, No.  
132 3:16-CV-622-CWR-FKB (S.D. Miss. Feb. 25, 2020) or any monitor or  
133 other person appointed by the court, the Department of Mental  
134 Health, the Division of Medicaid, the Department of Rehabilitation  
135 Services, the Department of Health, county boards of supervisors,  
136 regional commissions, community mental health centers, mental  
137 health advocates, community leaders and any other necessary  
138 parties or entities, both private and governmental, regarding the  
139 status of the services offered by Mississippi's mental health  
140 system.

141 (f) To determine where in any county, or geographic  
142 area within a county, the delivery or availability of mental  
143 health services are inadequate.

144 (g) To determine whether each community mental health  
145 center has sufficient funds to provide the required mental health  
146 services.

147 (h) To report on the status of the mental health system  
148 quarterly to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of  
149 the House, the Department of Mental Health, the regional



150 commissions, the Division of Medicaid, the Department of  
151 Rehabilitative Services, the Department of Health, the Department  
152 of Finance and Administration, the PEER Committee and the  
153 Legislative Budget Office. The coordinator shall deliver the  
154 quarterly status report to the Secretary of the Senate and the  
155 Clerk of the House who shall disseminate the report to the  
156 appropriate members.

157 **SECTION 5.** In fulfilling the responsibilities of this act,  
158 the coordinator may, subject to federal law:

159 (a) Hire the deputies, assistants and staff needed for  
160 the performance of his or her duties under this act. The  
161 coordinator, in consultation with the State Personnel Board, shall  
162 set the compensation of any hired employees from any funds made  
163 available for that purpose. The Department of Mental Health, upon  
164 request from the coordinator, may supplement the administrative  
165 and support staff of the subdivision. The coordinator shall have  
166 complete and exclusive operational control over any staff provided  
167 by the Department of Mental Health under this paragraph (a);

168 (b) Enter any part of the mental health system,  
169 including any facility or building used to provide mental health  
170 services.

171 (c) Interview, on a confidential basis or otherwise,  
172 persons and employees in the mental health system.



173 (d) Access services, documents, records, programs and  
174 materials as necessary to assess the status of the mental health  
175 system.

176 (e) Recommend changes to any portion of the mental  
177 health system either in the coordinator's status reports or to the  
178 board(s) of supervisors or regional commissions or to the  
179 Department of Mental Health or as otherwise determined to be  
180 necessary by the coordinator.

181 (f) Develop and implement a plan to provide access to  
182 mental health services in any county, or geographic area within a  
183 county, where services are determined to be inadequate, if  
184 required by Section 5 of this act.

185 (g) Communicate with any governmental entity as is  
186 necessary to fulfill the coordinator's duties under this act.

187 (h) Perform any other actions as the coordinator deems  
188 necessary to fulfill the coordinator's duties under this act.

189 **SECTION 6.** (1) When the coordinator determines that a  
190 county or a geographic area within a county offers inadequate  
191 mental health services, the coordinator shall inform the board(s)  
192 of supervisors and the regional commission of the geographic areas  
193 where the services are inadequate.

194 (2) When the coordinator determines services are inadequate,  
195 the coordinator shall determine if there is a plan in place or a  
196 plan being developed to increase access to mental health services  
197 in that county or the geographic area of the county where mental



198 health services are inadequate and shall assess the viability of  
199 the plan, including its sufficiency to address the inadequacy of  
200 the available mental health services.

201 (3) If there is no plan in place or being developed, the  
202 coordinator may allow the county board of supervisors or the  
203 regional commission a reasonable time to develop and implement a  
204 plan.

205 (4) If the coordinator determines that the plan is or will  
206 be insufficient to provide mental health services to the  
207 population of the county or the geographic area within the county,  
208 the coordinator shall develop and implement a plan to facilitate  
209 an increased access to mental health services by:

210 (a) Preferably requiring the regional commission to  
211 reassign the county that has inadequate mental health services to  
212 a different regional commission if that regional commission is  
213 willing to accept the county; or

214 (b) Requiring the regional commission to reassign the  
215 county or geographic area that has inadequate mental health  
216 services to the Board of Mental Health for the provision of mental  
217 health services; or

218 (c) Arranging for a nonprofit entity to provide  
219 sufficient mental health services to individuals in the county or  
220 the geographic area that has inadequate mental health services,  
221 regardless of the individual's ability to pay.





222           **SECTION 7.** The Department of Mental Health, the regional  
223 commissions, the Division of Medicaid, the Department of  
224 Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Health, the Department  
225 of Finance and Administration, the PEER Committee, and the  
226 Legislative Budget Office shall cooperate with the coordinator  
227 under this act and shall allow the coordinator or his or her staff  
228 to, as it relates to the performing of his or her duties:

229           (a) Enter any part of the mental health system,  
230 including any facility or building used to provide mental health  
231 services;

232           (b) Interview any person employed by or receiving  
233 services from the respective entity; and

234           (c) Access services, documents, records, programs and  
235 materials as necessary to assess the status of the mental health  
236 system.

237           **SECTION 8.** Section 41-4-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
238 amended as follows:

239           41-4-7. The State Board of Mental Health shall have the  
240 following powers and duties:

241           (a) To appoint a full-time Executive Director of the  
242 Department of Mental Health, who shall be employed by the board  
243 and shall serve as executive secretary to the board. The first  
244 director shall be a duly licensed physician with special interest  
245 and competence in psychiatry, and shall possess a minimum of three  
246 (3) years' experience in clinical and administrative psychiatry.



247 Subsequent directors shall possess at least a master's degree or  
248 its equivalent, and shall possess at least ten (10) years'  
249 administrative experience in the field of mental health. The  
250 salary of the executive director shall be determined by the board;

251 (b) To appoint a Medical Director for the Department of  
252 Mental Health. The medical director shall provide clinical  
253 oversight in the implementation of evidence-based and best  
254 practices; provide clinical leadership in the integration of  
255 mental health, intellectual disability and addiction services with  
256 community partners in the public and private sectors; and provide  
257 oversight regarding standards of care. The medical director shall  
258 serve at the will and pleasure of the board, and will undergo an  
259 annual review of job performance and future service to the  
260 department;

261 (c) To cooperate with the Strategic Planning and Best  
262 Practices Committee created in Section 41-4-10, Mississippi Code  
263 of 1972, in establishing and implementing its state strategic  
264 plan;

265 (d) To develop a strategic plan for the development of  
266 services for persons with mental illness, persons with  
267 developmental disabilities and other clients of the public mental  
268 health system. Such strategic planning program shall require that  
269 the board, acting through the Strategic Planning and Best  
270 Practices Committee, perform the following functions respecting  
271 the delivery of services:



272 (i) Establish measures for determining the  
273 efficiency and effectiveness of the services specified in Section  
274 41-4-1(2);

275 (ii) Conducting studies of community-based care in  
276 other jurisdictions to determine which services offered in these  
277 jurisdictions have the potential to provide the citizens of  
278 Mississippi with more effective and efficient community-based  
279 care;

280 (iii) Evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness  
281 of the services specified in Section 41-4-1(2);

282 (iv) Recommending to the Legislature by January 1,  
283 2014, any necessary additions, deletions or other changes  
284 necessary to the services specified in Section 41-4-1(2);

285 (v) Implementing by July 1, 2012, a system of  
286 performance measures for the services specified in Section  
287 41-4-1(2);

288 (vi) Recommending to the Legislature any changes  
289 that the department believes are necessary to the current laws  
290 addressing civil commitment;

291 (vii) Conducting any other activities necessary to  
292 the evaluation and study of the services specified in Section  
293 41-4-1(2);

294 (viii) Assisting in conducting all necessary  
295 strategic planning for the delivery of all other services of the  
296 department. Such planning shall be conducted so as to produce a



297 single strategic plan for the services delivered by the public  
298 mental health system and shall establish appropriate mission  
299 statements, goals, objectives and performance indicators for all  
300 programs and services of the public mental health system. For  
301 services other than those specified in Section 41-4-1(2), the  
302 committee shall recommend to the State Board of Mental Health a  
303 strategic plan that the board may adopt or modify;

304 (e) To set up state plans for the purpose of  
305 controlling and treating any and all forms of mental and emotional  
306 illness, alcoholism, drug misuse and developmental disabilities;

307 (f) [Repealed]

308 (g) To enter into contracts with any other state or  
309 federal agency, or with any private person, organization or group  
310 capable of contracting, if it finds such action to be in the  
311 public interest;

312 (h) To collect reasonable fees for its services;  
313 however, if it is determined that a person receiving services is  
314 unable to pay the total fee, the department shall collect any  
315 amount such person is able to pay;

316 (i) To certify, coordinate and establish minimum  
317 standards and establish minimum required services, as specified in  
318 Section 41-4-1(2), for regional mental health and intellectual  
319 disability commissions and other community service providers for  
320 community or regional programs and services in adult mental  
321 health, children and youth mental health, intellectual



322 disabilities, alcoholism, drug misuse, developmental disabilities,  
323 compulsive gambling, addictive disorders and related programs  
324 throughout the state. Such regional mental health and  
325 intellectual disability commissions and other community service  
326 providers shall, on or before July 1 of each year, submit an  
327 annual operational plan to the State Department of Mental Health  
328 for approval or disapproval based on the minimum standards and  
329 minimum required services established by the department for  
330 certification and itemize the services specified in Section  
331 41-4-1(2). As part of the annual operation plan required by this  
332 paragraph (i) submitted by any regional community mental health  
333 center or by any other reasonable certification deemed acceptable  
334 by the department, the community mental health center shall state  
335 those services specified in Section 41-4-1(2) that it will provide  
336 and also those services that it will not provide. If the  
337 department finds deficiencies in the plan of any regional  
338 commission or community service provider based on the minimum  
339 standards and minimum required services established for  
340 certification, the department shall give the regional commission  
341 or community service provider a six-month probationary period to  
342 bring its standards and services up to the established minimum  
343 standards and minimum required services. After the six-month  
344 probationary period, if the department determines that the  
345 regional commission or community service provider still does not  
346 meet the minimum standards and minimum required services



347 established for certification, the department may remove the  
348 certification of the commission or provider and from and after  
349 July 1, 2011, the commission or provider shall be ineligible for  
350 state funds from Medicaid reimbursement or other funding sources  
351 for those services. However, the department shall not mandate a  
352 standard or service, or decertify a regional commission or  
353 community service provider for not meeting a standard or service,  
354 if the standard or service does not have funding appropriated by  
355 the Legislature or have a state, federal or local funding source  
356 identified by the department. No county shall be required to levy  
357 millage to provide a mandated standard or service above the  
358 minimum rate required by Section 41-19-39. After the six-month  
359 probationary period, the department may identify an appropriate  
360 community service provider to provide any core services in that  
361 county that are not provided by a community mental health center.  
362 However, the department shall not offer reimbursement or other  
363 accommodations to a community service provider of core services  
364 that were not offered to the decertified community mental health  
365 center for the same or similar services. The State Board of  
366 Mental Health shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to  
367 implement the provisions of this paragraph (i), in accordance with  
368 the Administrative Procedures Law (Section 25-43-1.101 et seq.);  
369 (j) To establish and promulgate reasonable minimum  
370 standards for the construction and operation of state and all  
371 Department of Mental Health certified facilities, including



372 reasonable minimum standards for the admission, diagnosis, care,  
373 treatment, transfer of patients and their records, and also  
374 including reasonable minimum standards for providing day care,  
375 outpatient care, emergency care, inpatient care and follow-up  
376 care, when such care is provided for persons with mental or  
377 emotional illness, an intellectual disability, alcoholism, drug  
378 misuse and developmental disabilities;

379           (k) To implement best practices for all services  
380 specified in Section 41-4-1(2), and to establish and implement all  
381 other services delivered by the Department of Mental Health. To  
382 carry out this responsibility, the board shall require the  
383 department to establish a division responsible for developing best  
384 practices based on a comprehensive analysis of the mental health  
385 environment to determine what the best practices for each service  
386 are. In developing best practices, the board shall consider the  
387 cost and benefits associated with each practice with a goal of  
388 implementing only those practices that are cost-effective  
389 practices for service delivery. Such best practices shall be  
390 utilized by the board in establishing performance standards and  
391 evaluations of the community mental health centers' services  
392 required by paragraph (d) of this section;

393           (l) To assist community or regional programs consistent  
394 with the purposes of this chapter by making grants and contracts  
395 from available funds;



396 (m) To establish and collect reasonable fees for  
397 necessary inspection services incidental to certification or  
398 compliance;

399 (n) To accept gifts, trusts, bequests, grants,  
400 endowments or transfers of property of any kind;

401 (o) To receive monies coming to it by way of fees for  
402 services or by appropriations;

403 (p) To serve as the single state agency in receiving  
404 and administering any and all funds available from any source for  
405 the purpose of service delivery, training, research and education  
406 in regard to all forms of mental illness, intellectual  
407 disabilities, alcoholism, drug misuse and developmental  
408 disabilities, unless such funds are specifically designated to a  
409 particular agency or institution by the federal government, the  
410 Mississippi Legislature or any other grantor;

411 (q) To establish mental health holding centers for the  
412 purpose of providing short-term emergency mental health treatment,  
413 places for holding persons awaiting commitment proceedings or  
414 awaiting placement in a state mental health facility following  
415 commitment, and for diverting placement in a state mental health  
416 facility. These mental health holding facilities shall be readily  
417 accessible, available statewide, and be in compliance with  
418 emergency services' minimum standards. They shall be  
419 comprehensive and available to triage and make appropriate  
420 clinical disposition, including the capability to access inpatient





421 services or less restrictive alternatives, as needed, as  
422 determined by medical staff. Such facility shall have medical,  
423 nursing and behavioral services available on a  
424 twenty-four-hour-a-day basis. The board may provide for all or  
425 part of the costs of establishing and operating the holding  
426 centers in each district from such funds as may be appropriated to  
427 the board for such use, and may participate in any plan or  
428 agreement with any public or private entity under which the entity  
429 will provide all or part of the costs of establishing and  
430 operating a holding center in any district;

431 (r) To certify/license case managers, mental health  
432 therapists, intellectual disability therapists, mental  
433 health/intellectual disability program administrators, addiction  
434 counselors and others as deemed appropriate by the board. Persons  
435 already professionally licensed by another state board or agency  
436 are not required to be certified/licensed under this section by  
437 the Department of Mental Health. The department shall not use  
438 professional titles in its certification/licensure process for  
439 which there is an independent licensing procedure. Such  
440 certification/licensure shall be valid only in the state mental  
441 health system, in programs funded and/or certified by the  
442 Department of Mental Health, and/or in programs certified/licensed  
443 by the State Department of Health that are operated by the state  
444 mental health system serving persons with mental illness, an



445 intellectual disability, a developmental disability or addictions,  
446 and shall not be transferable;

447 (s) To develop formal mental health worker  
448 qualifications for regional mental health and intellectual  
449 disability commissions and other community service providers. The  
450 State Personnel Board shall develop and promulgate a recommended  
451 salary scale and career ladder for all regional mental  
452 health/intellectual disability center therapists and case managers  
453 who work directly with clients. The State Personnel Board shall  
454 also develop and promulgate a career ladder for all direct care  
455 workers employed by the State Department of Mental Health;

456 (t) The employees of the department shall be governed  
457 by personnel merit system rules and regulations, the same as other  
458 employees in state services;

459 (u) To establish such rules and regulations as may be  
460 necessary in carrying out the provisions of this chapter,  
461 including the establishment of a formal grievance procedure to  
462 investigate and attempt to resolve consumer complaints;

463 (v) To grant easements for roads, utilities and any  
464 other purpose it finds to be in the public interest;

465 (w) To survey statutory designations, building markers  
466 and the names given to mental health/intellectual disability  
467 facilities and proceedings in order to recommend deletion of  
468 obsolete and offensive terminology relative to the mental  
469 health/intellectual disability system. Based upon a



470 recommendation of the executive director, the board shall have the  
471 authority to name/rename any facility operated under the auspices  
472 of the Department of Mental Health for the sole purpose of  
473 deleting such terminology;

474           (x) To ensure an effective case management system  
475 directed at persons who have been discharged from state and  
476 private psychiatric hospitals to ensure their continued well-being  
477 in the community;

478           (y) To develop formal service delivery standards  
479 designed to measure the quality of services delivered to community  
480 clients, as well as the timeliness of services to community  
481 clients provided by regional mental health/intellectual disability  
482 commissions and other community services providers;

483           (z) To establish regional state offices to provide  
484 mental health crisis intervention centers and services available  
485 throughout the state to be utilized on a case-by-case emergency  
486 basis. The regional services director, other staff and delivery  
487 systems shall meet the minimum standards of the Department of  
488 Mental Health;

489           (aa) To require performance contracts with community  
490 mental health/intellectual disability service providers to contain  
491 performance indicators to measure successful outcomes, including  
492 diversion of persons from inpatient psychiatric hospitals,  
493 rapid/timely response to emergency cases, client satisfaction with  
494 services and other relevant performance measures;



495           (bb) To enter into interagency agreements with other  
496 state agencies, school districts and other local entities as  
497 determined necessary by the department to ensure that local mental  
498 health service entities are fulfilling their responsibilities to  
499 the overall state plan for behavioral services;

500           (cc) To establish and maintain a toll-free grievance  
501 reporting telephone system for the receipt and referral for  
502 investigation of all complaints by clients of state and community  
503 mental health/intellectual disability facilities;

504           (dd) To establish a peer review/quality assurance  
505 evaluation system that assures that appropriate assessment,  
506 diagnosis and treatment is provided according to established  
507 professional criteria and guidelines;

508           (ee) To develop and implement state plans for the  
509 purpose of assisting with the care and treatment of persons with  
510 Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. This plan shall include  
511 education and training of service providers, caregivers in the  
512 home setting and others who deal with persons with Alzheimer's  
513 disease and other dementia, and development of adult day care,  
514 family respite care and counseling programs to assist families who  
515 maintain persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia in  
516 the home setting. No agency shall be required to provide any  
517 services under this section until such time as sufficient funds  
518 have been appropriated or otherwise made available by the



519 Legislature specifically for the purposes of the treatment of  
520 persons with Alzheimer's and other dementia;

521           (ff) Working with the advice and consent of the  
522 administration of Ellisville State School, to enter into  
523 negotiations with the Economic Development Authority of Jones  
524 County for the purpose of negotiating the possible exchange, lease  
525 or sale of lands owned by Ellisville State School to the Economic  
526 Development Authority of Jones County. It is the intent of the  
527 Mississippi Legislature that such negotiations shall ensure that  
528 the financial interest of the persons with an intellectual  
529 disability served by Ellisville State School will be held  
530 paramount in the course of these negotiations. The Legislature  
531 also recognizes the importance of economic development to the  
532 citizens of the State of Mississippi and Jones County, and  
533 encourages fairness to the Economic Development Authority of Jones  
534 County. Any negotiations proposed which would result in the  
535 recommendation for exchange, lease or sale of lands owned by  
536 Ellisville State School must have the approval of the State Board  
537 of Mental Health. The State Board of Mental Health may and has  
538 the final authority as to whether or not these negotiations result  
539 in the exchange, lease or sale of the properties it currently  
540 holds in trust for persons with an intellectual disability served  
541 at Ellisville State School.

542           If the State Board of Mental Health authorizes the sale of  
543 lands owned by Ellisville State School, as provided for under this



544 paragraph (ff), the monies derived from the sale shall be placed  
545 into a special fund that is created in the State Treasury to be  
546 known as the "Ellisville State School Client's Trust Fund." The  
547 principal of the trust fund shall remain inviolate and shall never  
548 be expended. Any interest earned on the principal may be expended  
549 solely for the benefits of clients served at Ellisville State  
550 School. The State Treasurer shall invest the monies of the trust  
551 fund in any of the investments authorized for the Mississippi  
552 Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program under Section 37-155-9,  
553 and those investments shall be subject to the limitations  
554 prescribed by Section 37-155-9. Unexpended amounts remaining in  
555 the trust fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into  
556 the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in the  
557 trust fund shall be deposited to the credit of the trust fund.  
558 The administration of Ellisville State School may use any interest  
559 earned on the principal of the trust fund, upon appropriation by  
560 the Legislature, as needed for services or facilities by the  
561 clients of Ellisville State School. Ellisville State School shall  
562 make known to the Legislature, through the Legislative Budget  
563 Committee and the respective Appropriations Committees of the  
564 House and Senate, its proposed use of interest earned on the  
565 principal of the trust fund for any fiscal year in which it  
566 proposes to make expenditures thereof. The State Treasurer shall  
567 provide Ellisville State School with an annual report on the  
568 Ellisville State School Client's Trust Fund to indicate the total



569 monies in the trust fund, interest earned during the year,  
570 expenses paid from the trust fund and such other related  
571 information.

572         Nothing in this section shall be construed as applying to or  
573 affecting mental health/intellectual disability services provided  
574 by hospitals as defined in Section 41-9-3(a), and/or their  
575 subsidiaries and divisions, which hospitals, subsidiaries and  
576 divisions are licensed and regulated by the Mississippi State  
577 Department of Health unless such hospitals, subsidiaries or  
578 divisions voluntarily request certification by the Mississippi  
579 State Department of Mental Health.

580         All new programs authorized under this section shall be  
581 subject to the availability of funds appropriated therefor by the  
582 Legislature;

583             (gg) Working with the advice and consent of the  
584 administration of Boswell Regional Center, to enter into  
585 negotiations with the Economic Development Authority of Simpson  
586 County for the purpose of negotiating the possible exchange, lease  
587 or sale of lands owned by Boswell Regional Center to the Economic  
588 Development Authority of Simpson County. It is the intent of the  
589 Mississippi Legislature that such negotiations shall ensure that  
590 the financial interest of the persons with an intellectual  
591 disability served by Boswell Regional Center will be held  
592 paramount in the course of these negotiations. The Legislature  
593 also recognizes the importance of economic development to the



594 citizens of the State of Mississippi and Simpson County, and  
595 encourages fairness to the Economic Development Authority of  
596 Simpson County. Any negotiations proposed which would result in  
597 the recommendation for exchange, lease or sale of lands owned by  
598 Boswell Regional Center must have the approval of the State Board  
599 of Mental Health. The State Board of Mental Health may and has  
600 the final authority as to whether or not these negotiations result  
601 in the exchange, lease or sale of the properties it currently  
602 holds in trust for persons with an intellectual disability served  
603 at Boswell Regional Center. In any such exchange, lease or sale  
604 of such lands owned by Boswell Regional Center, title to all  
605 minerals, oil and gas on such lands shall be reserved, together  
606 with the right of ingress and egress to remove same, whether such  
607 provisions be included in the terms of any such exchange, lease or  
608 sale or not.

609       If the State Board of Mental Health authorizes the sale of  
610 lands owned by Boswell Regional Center, as provided for under this  
611 paragraph (gg), the monies derived from the sale shall be placed  
612 into a special fund that is created in the State Treasury to be  
613 known as the "Boswell Regional Center Client's Trust Fund." The  
614 principal of the trust fund shall remain inviolate and shall never  
615 be expended. Any earnings on the principal may be expended solely  
616 for the benefits of clients served at Boswell Regional Center.  
617 The State Treasurer shall invest the monies of the trust fund in  
618 any of the investments authorized for the Mississippi Prepaid





619 Affordable College Tuition Program under Section 37-155-9, and  
620 those investments shall be subject to the limitations prescribed  
621 by Section 37-155-9. Unexpended amounts remaining in the trust  
622 fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State  
623 General Fund, and any earnings on amounts in the trust fund shall  
624 be deposited to the credit of the trust fund. The administration  
625 of Boswell Regional Center may use any earnings on the principal  
626 of the trust fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as  
627 needed for services or facilities by the clients of Boswell  
628 Regional Center. Boswell Regional Center shall make known to the  
629 Legislature, through the Legislative Budget Committee and the  
630 respective Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate, its  
631 proposed use of the earnings on the principal of the trust fund  
632 for any fiscal year in which it proposes to make expenditures  
633 thereof. The State Treasurer shall provide Boswell Regional  
634 Center with an annual report on the Boswell Regional Center  
635 Client's Trust Fund to indicate the total monies in the trust  
636 fund, interest and other income earned during the year, expenses  
637 paid from the trust fund and such other related information.

638       Nothing in this section shall be construed as applying to or  
639 affecting mental health/intellectual disability services provided  
640 by hospitals as defined in Section 41-9-3(a), and/or their  
641 subsidiaries and divisions, which hospitals, subsidiaries and  
642 divisions are licensed and regulated by the Mississippi State  
643 Department of Health unless such hospitals, subsidiaries or



644 divisions voluntarily request certification by the Mississippi  
645 State Department of Mental Health.

646 All new programs authorized under this section shall be  
647 subject to the availability of funds appropriated therefor by the  
648 Legislature;

649 (hh) Notwithstanding any other section of the code, the  
650 Board of Mental Health shall be authorized to fingerprint and  
651 perform a criminal history record check on every employee or  
652 volunteer. Every employee and volunteer shall provide a valid  
653 current social security number and/or driver's license number  
654 which shall be furnished to conduct the criminal history record  
655 check. If no disqualifying record is identified at the state  
656 level, fingerprints shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of  
657 Investigation for a national criminal history record check;

658 (ii) The Department of Mental Health shall have the  
659 authority for the development of a consumer friendly single point  
660 of intake and referral system within its service areas for persons  
661 with mental illness, an intellectual disability, developmental  
662 disabilities or alcohol or substance abuse who need assistance  
663 identifying or accessing appropriate services. The department  
664 will develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation procedure  
665 ensuring that, where appropriate, the affected person or their  
666 parent or legal guardian will be involved in the assessment and  
667 planning process. The department, as the point of intake and as  
668 service provider, shall have the authority to determine the



669 appropriate institutional, hospital or community care setting for  
670 persons who have been diagnosed with mental illness, an  
671 intellectual disability, developmental disabilities and/or alcohol  
672 or substance abuse, and may provide for the least restrictive  
673 placement if the treating professional believes such a setting is  
674 appropriate, if the person affected or their parent or legal  
675 guardian wants such services, and if the department can do so with  
676 a reasonable modification of the program without creating a  
677 fundamental alteration of the program. The least restrictive  
678 setting could be an institution, hospital or community setting,  
679 based upon the needs of the affected person or their parent or  
680 legal guardian;

681 (jj) To have the sole power and discretion to enter  
682 into, sign, execute and deliver long-term or multiyear leases of  
683 real and personal property owned by the Department of Mental  
684 Health to and from other state and federal agencies and private  
685 entities deemed to be in the public's best interest. Any monies  
686 derived from such leases shall be deposited into the funds of the  
687 Department of Mental Health for its exclusive use. Leases to  
688 private entities shall be approved by the Department of Finance  
689 and Administration and all leases shall be filed with the  
690 Secretary of State;

691 (kk) To certify and establish minimum standards and  
692 minimum required services for county facilities used for housing,  
693 feeding and providing medical treatment for any person who has



694 been involuntarily ordered admitted to a treatment center by a  
695 court of competent jurisdiction. The minimum standard for the  
696 initial assessment of those persons being housed in county  
697 facilities is for the assessment to be performed by a physician,  
698 preferably a psychiatrist, or by a nurse practitioner, preferably  
699 a psychiatric nurse practitioner. If the department finds  
700 deficiencies in any such county facility or its provider based on  
701 the minimum standards and minimum required services established  
702 for certification, the department shall give the county or its  
703 provider a six-month probationary period to bring its standards  
704 and services up to the established minimum standards and minimum  
705 required services. After the six-month probationary period, if  
706 the department determines that the county or its provider still  
707 does not meet the minimum standards and minimum required services,  
708 the department may remove the certification of the county or  
709 provider and require the county to contract with another county  
710 having a certified facility to hold those persons for that period  
711 of time pending transportation and admission to a state treatment  
712 facility. Any cost incurred by a county receiving an  
713 involuntarily committed person from a county with a decertified  
714 holding facility shall be reimbursed by the home county to the  
715 receiving county \* \* \*; and

716 (11) To provide mental health services to persons  
717 within the counties and geographic areas assigned to the  
718 department by the coordinator under Section 6(4) of this act. The



719 State Board of Mental Health shall promulgate any rules and  
720 regulations:

721 (i) Necessary to implement this paragraph (11);  
722 and

723 (ii) Requested by the coordinator in the  
724 fulfillment of his or her duties under Sections 1 through 7 of  
725 this act.

726 **SECTION 9.** Section 41-19-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
727 amended as follows:

728 41-19-33. (1) Each region so designated or established  
729 under Section 41-19-31 shall establish a regional commission to be  
730 composed of members appointed by the boards of supervisors of the  
731 various counties in the region. It shall be the duty of such  
732 regional commission to administer mental health/intellectual  
733 disability programs certified and required by the State Board of  
734 Mental Health and as specified in Section 41-4-1(2). In addition,  
735 once designated and established as provided hereinabove, a  
736 regional commission shall have the following authority and shall  
737 pursue and promote the following general purposes:

738 (a) To establish, own, lease, acquire, construct,  
739 build, operate and maintain mental illness, mental health,  
740 intellectual disability, alcoholism and general rehabilitative  
741 facilities and services designed to serve the needs of the people  
742 of the region so designated, provided that the services supplied  
743 by the regional commissions shall include those services



744 determined by the Department of Mental Health to be necessary and  
745 may include, in addition to the above, services for persons with  
746 developmental and learning disabilities; for persons suffering  
747 from narcotic addiction and problems of drug abuse and drug  
748 dependence; and for the aging as designated and certified by the  
749 Department of Mental Health. Such regional mental health and  
750 intellectual disability commissions and other community service  
751 providers shall, on or before July 1 of each year, submit an  
752 annual operational plan to the Department of Mental Health for  
753 approval or disapproval based on the minimum standards and minimum  
754 required services established by the department for certification  
755 and itemize the services as specified in Section 41-4-1(2). As  
756 part of the annual operation plan required by Section 41-4-7(h)  
757 submitted by any regional community mental health center or by any  
758 other reasonable certification deemed acceptable by the  
759 department, the community mental health center shall state those  
760 services specified in Section 41-4-1(2) that it will provide and  
761 also those services that it will not provide. If the department  
762 finds deficiencies in the plan of any regional commission or  
763 community service provider based on the minimum standards and  
764 minimum required services established for certification, the  
765 department shall give the regional commission or community service  
766 provider a six-month probationary period to bring its standards  
767 and services up to the established minimum standards and minimum  
768 required services. After the six-month probationary period, if



769 the department determines that the regional commission or  
770 community service provider still does not meet the minimum  
771 standards and minimum required services established for  
772 certification, the department may remove the certification of the  
773 commission or provider, and from and after July 1, 2011, the  
774 commission or provider shall be ineligible for state funds from  
775 Medicaid reimbursement or other funding sources for those  
776 services. After the six-month probationary period, the Department  
777 of Mental Health may identify an appropriate community service  
778 provider to provide any core services in that county that are not  
779 provided by a community mental health center. However, the  
780 department shall not offer reimbursement or other accommodations  
781 to a community service provider of core services that were not  
782 offered to the decertified community mental health center for the  
783 same or similar services.

784 (b) To provide facilities and services for the  
785 prevention of mental illness, mental disorders, developmental and  
786 learning disabilities, alcoholism, narcotic addiction, drug abuse,  
787 drug dependence and other related handicaps or problems (including  
788 the problems of the aging) among the people of the region so  
789 designated, and for the rehabilitation of persons suffering from  
790 such illnesses, disorders, handicaps or problems as designated and  
791 certified by the Department of Mental Health.

792 (c) To promote increased understanding of the problems  
793 of mental illness, intellectual disabilities, alcoholism,



794 developmental and learning disabilities, narcotic addiction, drug  
795 abuse and drug dependence and other related problems (including  
796 the problems of the aging) by the people of the region, and also  
797 to promote increased understanding of the purposes and methods of  
798 the rehabilitation of persons suffering from such illnesses,  
799 disorders, handicaps or problems as designated and certified by  
800 the Department of Mental Health.

801 (d) To enter into contracts and to make such other  
802 arrangements as may be necessary, from time to time, with the  
803 United States government, the government of the State of  
804 Mississippi and such other agencies or governmental bodies as may  
805 be approved by and acceptable to the regional commission for the  
806 purpose of establishing, funding, constructing, operating and  
807 maintaining facilities and services for the care, treatment and  
808 rehabilitation of persons suffering from mental illness, an  
809 intellectual disability, alcoholism, developmental and learning  
810 disabilities, narcotic addiction, drug abuse, drug dependence and  
811 other illnesses, disorders, handicaps and problems (including the  
812 problems of the aging) as designated and certified by the  
813 Department of Mental Health.

814 (e) To enter into contracts and make such other  
815 arrangements as may be necessary with any and all private  
816 businesses, corporations, partnerships, proprietorships or other  
817 private agencies, whether organized for profit or otherwise, as  
818 may be approved by and acceptable to the regional commission for





819 the purpose of establishing, funding, constructing, operating and  
820 maintaining facilities and services for the care, treatment and  
821 rehabilitation of persons suffering from mental illness, an  
822 intellectual disability, alcoholism, developmental and learning  
823 disabilities, narcotic addiction, drug abuse, drug dependence and  
824 other illnesses, disorders, handicaps and problems (including the  
825 problems of the aging) relating to minimum services established by  
826 the Department of Mental Health.

827 (f) To promote the general mental health of the people  
828 of the region.

829 (g) To pay the administrative costs of the operation of  
830 the regional commissions, including per diem for the members of  
831 the commission and its employees, attorney's fees, if and when  
832 such are required in the opinion of the commission, and such other  
833 expenses of the commission as may be necessary. The Department of  
834 Mental Health standards and audit rules shall determine what  
835 administrative cost figures shall consist of for the purposes of  
836 this paragraph. Each regional commission shall submit a cost  
837 report annually to the Department of Mental Health in accordance  
838 with guidelines promulgated by the department.

839 (h) To employ and compensate any personnel that may be  
840 necessary to effectively carry out the programs and services  
841 established under the provisions of the aforesaid act, provided  
842 such person meets the standards established by the Department of  
843 Mental Health.



844 (i) To acquire whatever hazard, casualty or workers'  
845 compensation insurance that may be necessary for any property,  
846 real or personal, owned, leased or rented by the commissions, or  
847 any employees or personnel hired by the commissions.

848 (j) To acquire professional liability insurance on all  
849 employees as may be deemed necessary and proper by the commission,  
850 and to pay, out of the funds of the commission, all premiums due  
851 and payable on account thereof.

852 (k) To provide and finance within their own facilities,  
853 or through agreements or contracts with other local, state or  
854 federal agencies or institutions, nonprofit corporations, or  
855 political subdivisions or representatives thereof, programs and  
856 services for persons with mental illness, including treatment for  
857 alcoholics, and promulgating and administering of programs to  
858 combat drug abuse and programs for services for persons with an  
859 intellectual disability.

860 (l) To borrow money from private lending institutions  
861 in order to promote any of the foregoing purposes. A commission  
862 may pledge collateral, including real estate, to secure the  
863 repayment of money borrowed under the authority of this paragraph.  
864 Any such borrowing undertaken by a commission shall be on terms  
865 and conditions that are prudent in the sound judgment of the  
866 members of the commission, and the interest on any such loan shall  
867 not exceed the amount specified in Section 75-17-105. Any money  
868 borrowed, debts incurred or other obligations undertaken by a



869 commission, regardless of whether borrowed, incurred or undertaken  
870 before or after March 15, 1995, shall be valid, binding and  
871 enforceable if it or they are borrowed, incurred or undertaken for  
872 any purpose specified in this section and otherwise conform to the  
873 requirements of this paragraph.

874 (m) To acquire, own and dispose of real and personal  
875 property. Any real and personal property paid for with state  
876 and/or county appropriated funds must have the written approval of  
877 the Department of Mental Health and/or the county board of  
878 supervisors, depending on the original source of funding, before  
879 being disposed of under this paragraph.

880 (n) To enter into managed care contracts and make such  
881 other arrangements as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by  
882 the regional commission in order to participate in any managed  
883 care program. Any such contract or arrangement affecting more  
884 than one (1) region must have prior written approval of the  
885 Department of Mental Health before being initiated and annually  
886 thereafter.

887 (o) To provide facilities and services on a discounted  
888 or capitated basis. Any such action when affecting more than one  
889 (1) region must have prior written approval of the Department of  
890 Mental Health before being initiated and annually thereafter.

891 (p) To enter into contracts, agreements or other  
892 arrangements with any person, payor, provider or other entity,  
893 under which the regional commission assumes financial risk for the



894 provision or delivery of any services, when deemed to be necessary  
895 or appropriate by the regional commission. Any action under this  
896 paragraph affecting more than one (1) region must have prior  
897 written approval of the Department of Mental Health before being  
898 initiated and annually thereafter.

899 (q) To provide direct or indirect funding, grants,  
900 financial support and assistance for any health maintenance  
901 organization, preferred provider organization or other managed  
902 care entity or contractor, where such organization, entity or  
903 contractor is operated on a nonprofit basis. Any action under  
904 this paragraph affecting more than one (1) region must have prior  
905 written approval of the Department of Mental Health before being  
906 initiated and annually thereafter.

907 (r) To form, establish, operate, and/or be a member of  
908 or participant in, either individually or with one or more other  
909 regional commissions, any managed care entity as defined in  
910 Section 83-41-403(c). Any action under this paragraph affecting  
911 more than one (1) region must have prior written approval of the  
912 Department of Mental Health before being initiated and annually  
913 thereafter.

914 (s) To meet at least annually with the board of  
915 supervisors of each county in its region for the purpose of  
916 presenting its total annual budget and total mental  
917 health/intellectual disability services system. The commission  
918 shall submit an annual report on the adult mental health services,



919 children mental health services and intellectual disability  
920 services required by the State Board of Mental Health.

921 (t) To provide alternative living arrangements for  
922 persons with serious mental illness, including, but not limited  
923 to, group homes for persons with chronic mental illness.

924 (u) To make purchases and enter into contracts for  
925 purchasing in compliance with the public purchasing law, Sections  
926 31-7-12 and 31-7-13, with compliance with the public purchasing  
927 law subject to audit by the State Department of Audit.

928 (v) To \* \* \* ensure that all available funds are used  
929 for the benefit of persons with mental illness, persons with an  
930 intellectual disability, substance abusers and persons with  
931 developmental disabilities with maximum efficiency and minimum  
932 administrative cost. At any time a regional commission, and/or  
933 other related organization whatever it may be, accumulates surplus  
934 funds in excess of one-half (1/2) of its annual operating budget,  
935 the entity must submit a plan to the Department of Mental Health  
936 stating the capital improvements or other projects that require  
937 such surplus accumulation. If the required plan is not submitted  
938 within forty-five (45) days of the end of the applicable fiscal  
939 year, the Department of Mental Health shall withhold all state  
940 appropriated funds from such regional commission until such time  
941 as the capital improvement plan is submitted. If the submitted  
942 capital improvement plan is not accepted by the department, the  
943 surplus funds shall be expended by the regional commission in the



944 local mental health region on group homes for persons with mental  
945 illness, persons with an intellectual disability, substance  
946 abusers, children or other mental health/intellectual disability  
947 services approved by the Department of Mental Health.

948 (w) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, to  
949 fingerprint and perform a criminal history record check on every  
950 employee or volunteer. Every employee or volunteer shall provide  
951 a valid current social security number and/or driver's license  
952 number that will be furnished to conduct the criminal history  
953 record check. If no disqualifying record is identified at the  
954 state level, fingerprints shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau  
955 of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.

956 (x) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, each  
957 regional commission shall have the authority to create and operate  
958 a primary care health clinic to treat (i) its patients; and (ii)  
959 its patients' family members related within the third degree; and  
960 (iii) its patients' household members or caregivers, subject to  
961 the following requirements:

962 (i) The regional commission may employ and  
963 compensate any personnel necessary and must satisfy applicable  
964 state and federal laws and regulations regarding the  
965 administration and operation of a primary care health clinic.

966 (ii) A Mississippi licensed physician must be  
967 employed or under agreement with the regional commission to  
968 provide medical direction and/or to carry out the physician



969 responsibilities as described under applicable state and/or  
970 federal law and regulations.

971 (iii) The physician providing medical direction  
972 for the primary care clinic shall not be certified solely in  
973 psychiatry.

974 (iv) A sliding fee scale may be used by the  
975 regional commission when no other payer source is identified.

976 (v) The regional commission must ensure services  
977 will be available and accessible promptly and in a manner that  
978 preserves human dignity and assures continuity of care.

979 (vi) The regional commission must provide a  
980 semiannual report to the Chairmen of the Public Health Committees  
981 in both the House of Representatives and Senate. At a minimum,  
982 for each reporting period, these reports shall describe the number  
983 of patients provided primary care services, the types of services  
984 provided, and the payer source for the patients. Except for  
985 patient information and any other information that may be exempt  
986 from disclosure under the Health Information Portability and  
987 Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Mississippi Public Records Act,  
988 the reports shall be considered public records.

989 (vii) The regional commission must employ or  
990 contract with a core clinical staff that is multidisciplinary and  
991 culturally and linguistically competent.

992 (viii) The regional commission must ensure that  
993 its physician as described in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph



994 (x) has admitting privileges at one or more local hospitals or has  
995 an agreement with a physician who has admitting privileges at one  
996 or more local hospitals to ensure continuity of care.

997 (ix) The regional commission must provide an  
998 independent financial audit report to the State Department of  
999 Mental Health and, except for patient information and any other  
1000 information that may be exempt from disclosure under HIPAA and the  
1001 Mississippi Public Records Act, the audit report shall be  
1002 considered a public record.

1003 For the purposes of this paragraph (x), the term "caregiver"  
1004 means an individual who has the principal and primary  
1005 responsibility for caring for a child or dependent adult,  
1006 especially in the home setting.

1007 (y) In general to take any action which will promote,  
1008 either directly or indirectly, any and all of the foregoing  
1009 purposes.

1010 (2) The types of services established by the State  
1011 Department of Mental Health that must be provided by the regional  
1012 mental health/intellectual disability centers for certification by  
1013 the department, and the minimum levels and standards for those  
1014 services established by the department, shall be provided by the  
1015 regional mental health/intellectual disability centers to children  
1016 when such services are appropriate for children, in the  
1017 determination of the department.





1018       (3) (a) Upon an instruction from the coordinator pursuant  
1019 to Section 6(4) of this act, a regional commission shall reassign  
1020 any of its regions to another regional commission, to the  
1021 Department of Mental Health, or to a nonprofit entity for the  
1022 provision of mental health services.

1023       (b) Each regional commission shall compile quarterly  
1024 financial statements and status reports from each individual  
1025 community health center. The compiled reports shall be submitted  
1026 to the coordinator quarterly. The reports shall contain a:

1027               (i) Balance sheet;

1028               (ii) Statement of operations;

1029               (iii) Statement of cash flows; and

1030               (iv) Description of the status of individual

1031 community health center's actions taken to increase access to and  
1032 availability of community mental health services.

1033       **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
1034 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1       AN ACT TO ENACT THE ROSE ISABEL WILLIAMS MENTAL HEALTH REFORM  
2 ACT OF 2020; TO CREATE THE TEMPORARY POSITION OF THE COORDINATOR  
3 OF MENTAL HEALTH ACCESSIBILITY AS A SUBDIVISION WITHIN, BUT  
4 INDEPENDENT OF, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION; TO  
5 DEFINE TERMS; TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A COORDINATOR  
6 OF MENTAL HEALTH ACCESSIBILITY; TO REQUIRE THE COORDINATOR TO  
7 PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM, TO  
8 CONSULT WITH CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS AND ENTITIES, AND TO REVIEW THE  
9 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATUS REPORTS OF THE  
10 INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS; TO REQUIRE THE



11 COORDINATOR TO DETERMINE WHERE IN ANY COUNTY, OR GEOGRAPHIC AREA  
12 WITHIN A COUNTY, THE DELIVERY OR AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH  
13 SERVICES ARE INADEQUATE AND TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE MENTAL  
14 HEALTH SYSTEM TO CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES; TO AUTHORIZE  
15 THE COORDINATOR TO HIRE STAFF; TO AUTHORIZE THE COORDINATOR TO  
16 INSPECT FACILITIES WITHIN THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM, TO INTERVIEW  
17 CERTAIN PERSONS, AND TO ACCESS CERTAIN PROGRAMS, SERVICES,  
18 DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS; TO AUTHORIZE THE COORDINATOR TO APPOINT A  
19 COMMITTEE; TO REQUIRE THE COORDINATOR TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE  
20 COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
21 COUNTY OR GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE  
22 INADEQUATE TO DETERMINE IF A PLAN IS BEING EXECUTED OR DEVELOPED  
23 TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES; TO HAVE THE  
24 COORDINATOR ASSESS THE VIABILITY OF ANY PLAN; TO REQUIRE THE  
25 COORDINATOR, WHEN A PLAN IS DETERMINED TO BE INSUFFICIENT, TO  
26 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT HIS OR HER OWN PLAN TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH  
27 SERVICES TO THE COUNTY OR GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE MENTAL HEALTH  
28 SERVICES ARE INADEQUATE; TO AUTHORIZE THE COORDINATOR TO REASSIGN  
29 THE COUNTY OR GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE  
30 INADEQUATE TO ANOTHER REGIONAL COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
31 MENTAL HEALTH, OR A NONPROFIT ENTITY FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL  
32 HEALTH SERVICES; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN AGENCIES AND THE REGIONAL  
33 COMMISSIONS TO COOPERATE WITH THE COORDINATOR; TO AMEND SECTION  
34 41-4-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF  
35 MENTAL HEALTH TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO ANY COUNTY OR  
36 GEOGRAPHIC AREA REASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE COORDINATOR  
37 AND TO PROMULGATE ANY RULES AND REGULATIONS REQUESTED BY THE  
38 COORDINATOR; TO AMEND SECTION 41-19-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
39 TO CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

