

By: Senator(s) Parker, Boyd, Williams

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2597

1 AN ACT TITLED THE "MISSISSIPPI K-12 AND POSTSECONDARY MENTAL
2 HEALTH ACT OF 2025"; TO ESTABLISH AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
3 INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (ICCCY);
4 TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; TO
5 SPECIFY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITIES
6 RELATED TO THE GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN
7 AND ADOLESCENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF
8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND INFORMATION COMPILED BY THE EXECUTIVE
9 COMMITTEE; TO AMEND SECTION 43-13-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
10 CONFORM; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 43-14-3 AND 43-14-5,
11 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT;
12 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) This section shall be known and may be cited
15 as the "Mississippi K-12 and Postsecondary Mental Health Act of
16 2025."

17 (2) There is hereby established an Executive Committee of
18 the Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth
19 (ICCCY), which shall include the following executive directors or
20 administrators, or their designees, with experience in mental
21 health, student performance or other relevant areas, from the
22 ICCCY as provided in Section 43-14-1:

23 (a) The State Superintendent of Public Education;

33 (3) The ICCCY Executive Committee shall have the following
34 coordinating responsibilities related to the general mental health
35 and well-being of children and adolescents:

36 (a) Evaluating relevant personnel, including, but not
37 limited to, school nurses, counselors and school psychologists,
38 and examining the school's or district's relationship with its
39 community mental health center or other private providers to
40 recommend best practices for mental health resources and
41 infrastructure for underperforming public schools or districts, as
42 identified by the State Superintendent of Public Education;

43 (b) Identifying key public school and district
44 personnel and community college and university personnel,
45 including, but not limited to, teachers, healthcare providers,
46 counselors and resident assistants, to receive mental health first
47 aid training that is evidence-based and approved by the Department
48 of Mental Health;



49 (c) Identifying and developing age-appropriate
50 information and materials to distribute information regarding
51 mental health and well-being at student orientations at public
52 schools, universities and community colleges, or assemblies for
53 parents and caretakers of students and other relevant members of
54 the community who may interact with students;

55 (d) Developing guidance for public schools and
56 districts, universities and community colleges regarding
57 age-appropriate mental health screening resources and other
58 information for students, including 988 suicide and crisis hotline
59 information;

60 (e) Developing guidelines to help public schools and
61 districts, universities and community colleges partner with
62 community mental health centers, including crisis intervention
63 teams, or private providers to provide services to students;

64 (f) Compiling a master report by October 1, 2025, of
65 all partially or fully state-funded programs related to improving
66 the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents. The
67 ICCCCY Executive Committee, working together with other relevant
68 agencies and organizations, shall be responsible for updating the
69 report annually by October 1 of each year. The report shall be
70 transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House,
71 the Chair of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, the
72 Chair of the House Public Health and Human Services Committee, the



73 Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Chair of the
74 House Appropriations "A" Committee by November 1 each year;
75 (g) Developing an internet-based mental health resource
76 guide for public schools by August 1, 2025. Beginning in the
77 2025-2026 school year, public school districts shall include a
78 visible mental health resource navigation link on the home page of
79 their website to include the resource guide developed by the ICCCY
80 Executive Committee; and

81 (h) Engaging in other coordinated efforts from time to
82 time in an effort to update resources and information related to
83 mental health and well-being for students at public schools,
84 universities and community colleges.

85 (4) (a) All recommendations and information compiled by the
86 executive committee shall be provided to the State Board of
87 Education, State Institutions of Higher Learning and Mississippi
88 Community College Board, as appropriate, which shall disseminate
89 such information to relevant employees in public school districts,
90 universities and community colleges.

91 (b) All recommendations and information compiled by the
92 executive committee shall also be provided to the ICCCY,
93 Mississippi State Early Childhood Advisory Council, and any other
94 agency, board, commission or council created by statute which the
95 ICCCY Executive Committee identifies as relevant.

96 **SECTION 2.** Section 43-14-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
97 amended as follows:



98 43-14-1. (1) The purpose of this chapter is to provide for
99 the development, implementation and oversight of a coordinated
100 interagency system of necessary services and care for children and
101 youth, called the Mississippi Statewide System of Care, up to age
102 twenty-one (21) with serious emotional/behavioral disorders
103 including, but not limited to, conduct disorders, or mental
104 illness who require services from a multiple services and multiple
105 programs system, and who can be successfully diverted from
106 inappropriate institutional placement. The Mississippi Statewide
107 System of Care is to be conducted in the most fiscally responsible
108 (cost-efficient) manner possible, based on an individualized plan
109 of care which takes into account other available interagency
110 programs, including, but not limited to, Early Intervention Act of
111 Infants and Toddlers, Section 41-87-1 et seq., Early Periodic
112 Screening Diagnosis and Treatment, Section 43-13-117(A)(5),
113 waivered program for home- and community-based services for
114 developmentally disabled people, Section 43-13-117(A)(29), and
115 waivered program for targeted case management services for
116 children with special needs, Section 43-13-117(A)(31), those
117 children identified through the federal Individuals with
118 Disabilities Education Act of 1997 as having a serious emotional
119 disorder (EMD), the Mississippi Children's Health Insurance
120 Program and waivered programs for children with serious emotional
121 disturbances, Section 43-13-117(A)(46), and is tied to clinically
122 and functionally appropriate outcomes. Some of the outcomes are



123 to reduce the number of inappropriate out-of-home placements
124 inclusive of those out-of-state and to reduce the number of
125 inappropriate school suspensions and expulsions for this
126 population of children. This coordinated interagency system of
127 necessary services and care shall be named the Mississippi
128 Statewide System of Care. Children to be served by this chapter
129 who are eligible for Medicaid shall be screened through the
130 Medicaid Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)
131 and their needs for medically necessary services shall be
132 certified through the EPSDT process. For purposes of this
133 chapter, the Mississippi Statewide System of Care is defined as a
134 coordinated network of agencies and providers working as a team to
135 make a full range of mental health and other necessary services
136 available as needed by children with mental health problems and
137 their families. The Mississippi Statewide System of Care shall
138 be:

139 (a) Child centered, family focused, family driven and
140 youth guided;

141 (b) Community based;

142 (c) Culturally competent and responsive; and shall
143 provide for:

144 (i) Service coordination or case management;
145 (ii) Prevention and early identification and
146 intervention;



147 (iii) Smooth transitions among agencies and
148 providers, and to the transition-age and adult service systems;
149 (iv) Human rights protection and advocacy;
150 (v) Nondiscrimination in access to services;
151 (vi) A comprehensive array of services composed of
152 treatment and informal supports that are identified as best
153 practices and/or evidence-based practices;
154 (vii) Individualized service planning that uses a
155 strengths-based, wraparound process;
156 (viii) Services in the least restrictive
157 environment;
158 (ix) Family participation in all aspects of
159 planning, service delivery and evaluation; and
160 (x) Integrated services with coordinated planning
161 across child-serving agencies.

162 Mississippi Statewide System of Care services shall be
163 timely, intensive, coordinated and delivered in the community.
164 Mississippi Statewide System of Care services shall include, but
165 not be limited to, the following:

- 166 (a) Comprehensive crisis and emergency response
- 167 services;
- 168 (b) Intensive case management;
- 169 (c) Day treatment;
- 170 (d) Alcohol and drug abuse group services for youth;
- 171 (e) Individual, group and family therapy;



172 (f) Respite services;

173 (g) Supported employment services for youth;

174 (h) Family education and support and family partners;

175 (i) Youth development and support and youth partners;

176 (j) Positive behavioral supports (PBIS) in schools;

177 (k) Transition-age supported and independent living

178 services; and

179 (l) Vocational/technical education services for youth.

180 (2) There is established the Interagency Coordinating

181 Council for Children and Youth (hereinafter referred to as the

182 "ICCCY"). The ICCCY shall consist of the following membership:

183 (a) The State Superintendent of Public Education;

184 (b) The Executive Director of the Mississippi

185 Department of Mental Health;

186 (c) The Executive Director of the State Department of

187 Health;

188 (d) The Executive Director of the Department of Human

189 Services;

190 (e) The Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid

191 Office of the Governor;

192 (f) The Executive Director of the State Department of

193 Rehabilitation Services;

194 (g) The Executive Director of Mississippi Families as

195 Allies for Children's Mental Health, Inc.;

196 (h) The Commissioner of Child Protection Services;



(i) The Attorney General;

(j) A family member of a child or youth in the
n named in this chapter designated by Mississippi
s Allies;

(k) A youth or young adult in the population named in
ter designated by Mississippi Families as Allies;

(1) A local MAP team coordinator designated by the
Ministry of Mental Health;

(m) A child psychiatrist experienced in the public health system designated by the Mississippi Psychiatric

(n) An individual with expertise and experience in childhood education designated jointly by the Department of Health and Mississippi Families as Allies;

(o) A representative of an organization that advocates
of disabled citizens in Mississippi designated by the
of Mental Health: * * *

(p) A faculty member or dean from a Mississippi
specializing in training professionals who work in the
Statewide System of Care designated by the Board of
State Institutions of Higher Learning * * *;

(q) The Commissioner of the State Institutions of
uring;

(r) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Community
board; and



(s) An employee of the Mississippi Department of Health, appointed by the State Health Officer, with relevant mental health experience.

If a member of the council designates a representative to attend council meetings, the designee shall bring full decision-making authority of the member to the meeting. The council shall select a chairman, who shall serve for a one-year term and may not serve consecutive terms. The council shall adopt internal organizational procedures necessary for efficient operation of the council. Each member of the council shall designate necessary staff of their departments to assist the ICCCY in performing its duties and responsibilities. The ICCCY shall meet and conduct business at least twice annually. The chairman of the ICCCY shall notify all ICCCY members and all other persons who request such notice as to the date, time, place and draft agenda items for each meeting.

238 (3) The Interagency System of Care Council (ISCC) is created
239 to serve as the state management team for the ICCCY, with the
240 responsibility of collecting and analyzing data and funding
241 strategies necessary to improve the operation of the Mississippi
242 Statewide System of Care, and to make recommendations to the ICCCY
243 and to the Legislature concerning such strategies on, at a
244 minimum, an annual basis. The System of Care Council also has the
245 responsibility of coordinating the local Multidisciplinary
246 Assessment and Planning (MAP) teams and "A" teams and may apply



247 for grants from public and private sources necessary to carry out
248 its responsibilities. The Interagency System of Care Council
249 shall be comprised of one (1) member from each of the appropriate
250 child-serving divisions or sections of the State Department of
251 Health, the Department of Human Services (Division of Youth
252 Services), the Department of Child Protection Services, the State
253 Department of Mental Health (Division of Children and Youth,
254 Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Bureau of Intellectual and
255 Developmental Disabilities), the State Department of Education
256 (Office of Special Education and Office of Healthy Schools), the
257 Division of Medicaid of the Governor's Office, the Department of
258 Rehabilitation Services, and the Attorney General's office.
259 Additional members shall include a family member of a child, youth
260 or transition-age youth representing a family education and
261 support 501(c) (3) organization, working with the population named
262 in this chapter designated by Mississippi Families as Allies, an
263 individual with expertise and experience in early childhood
264 education designated jointly by the Department of Mental Health
265 and Mississippi Families as Allies, a local MAP team
266 representative and a local "A" team representative designated by
267 the Department of Mental Health, a probation officer designated by
268 the Department of Corrections, a family member and youth or young
269 adult designated by Mississippi Families as Allies for Children's
270 Mental Health, Inc., (MSFAA), and a family member other than a
271 MSFAA representative to be designated by the Department of Mental



272 Health and the Director of the Compulsory School Attendance
273 Enforcement of the State Department of Education. Appointments to
274 the Interagency System of Care Council shall be made within sixty
275 (60) days after June 30, 2010. The council shall organize by
276 selecting a chairman from its membership to serve on an annual
277 basis, and the chairman may not serve consecutive terms.

278 (4) (a) As part of the Mississippi Statewide System of
279 Care, there is established a statewide system of local
280 Multidisciplinary Assessment, Planning and Resource (MAP) teams.
281 The MAP teams shall be comprised of one (1) representative each at
282 the county level from the major child-serving public agencies for
283 education, human services, health, mental health and
284 rehabilitative services approved by respective state agencies of
285 the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, the
286 Department of Child Protection Services, the Department of Health,
287 the Department of Mental Health and the Department of
288 Rehabilitation Services. These agencies shall, by policy,
289 contract or regulation require participation on MAP teams and "A"
290 teams at the county level by the appropriate staff. Three (3)
291 additional members may be added to each team, one (1) of which may
292 be a representative of a family education/support 501(c) (3)
293 organization with statewide recognition and specifically
294 established for the population of children defined in Section
295 43-14-1. The remaining members will be representatives of
296 significant community-level stakeholders with resources that can



297 benefit the population of children defined in Section 43-14-1.

298 The Department of Education shall assist in recruiting and

299 identifying parents to participate on MAP teams and "A" teams.

300 (b) For each local existing MAP team that is
301 established pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection, there
302 shall also be established an "A" (Adolescent) team which shall
303 work with a MAP team. The "A" teams shall provide System of Care
304 services for youthful offenders who have serious behavioral or
305 emotional disorders. Each "A" team shall be comprised of, at a
306 minimum, the following five (5) members:

307 (i) A school counselor, mental health therapist or
308 social worker;

309 (ii) A community mental health professional;

310 (iii) A social services/child welfare
311 professional;

312 (iv) A youth court counselor; and

313 (v) A parent who had a child in the juvenile
314 justice system.

315 (c) The Interagency Coordinating Council for Children
316 and Youth and the Interagency System of Care Council shall work to
317 develop MAP teams statewide that will serve to become the single
318 point of entry for children and youth about to be placed in
319 out-of-home care for reasons other than parental abuse/neglect.

320 (5) The Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and
321 Youth may provide input to one another and to the ISCC relative to



322 how each agency utilizes its federal and state statutes, policy
323 requirements and funding streams to identify and/or serve children
324 and youth in the population defined in this section. The ICCCY
325 shall support the implementation of the plans of the respective
326 state agencies for comprehensive, community-based,
327 multidisciplinary care, treatment and placement of these children.

328 (6) The ICCCY shall oversee a pool of state funds that may
329 be contributed by each participating state agency and additional
330 funds from the Mississippi Tobacco Health Care Expenditure Fund,
331 subject to specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature.
332 Part of this pool of funds shall be available for increasing the
333 present funding levels by matching Medicaid funds in order to
334 increase the existing resources available for necessary
335 community-based services for Medicaid beneficiaries.

336 (7) The local interagency coordinating care MAP team or "A"
337 team will facilitate the development of the individualized System
338 of Care programs for the population targeted in this section.

339 (8) Each local MAP team and "A" team shall serve as the
340 single point of entry and re-entry to ensure that comprehensive
341 diagnosis and assessment occur and shall coordinate needed
342 services through the local MAP team and "A" team members and local
343 service providers for the children named in subsection (1). Local
344 children in crisis shall have first priority for access to the MAP
345 team and "A" team processes and local System of Care services.

346 (9) The Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and
347 Youth shall facilitate monitoring of the performance of local MAP
348 teams.

349 (10) Each ICCCCY member named in subsection (2) of this
350 section shall enter into a binding memorandum of understanding to
351 participate in the further development and oversight of the
352 Mississippi Statewide System of Care for the children and youth
353 described in this section. The agreement shall outline the system
354 responsibilities in all operational areas, including ensuring
355 representation on MAP teams, funding, data collection, referral of
356 children to MAP teams and "A" teams, and training. The agreement
357 shall be signed and in effect by July 1 of each year.

358 **SECTION 3.** Section 43-14-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
359 brought forward as follows:

360 43-14-3. In addition to the specific authority provided in
361 Section 43-14-1, the powers and responsibilities of the
362 Interagency Coordinating Council for Children and Youth shall be
363 as follows:

364 (a) To serve in an advisory capacity and to provide
365 state level leadership and oversight to the development of the
366 Mississippi Statewide System of Care; and

367 (b) To insure the creation and availability of an
368 annual pool of funds from each participating agency member of the
369 ICCCY that includes the amount to be contributed by each agency
370 and a process for utilization of those funds.



371 **SECTION 4.** Section 43-14-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
372 brought forward as follows:

373 43-14-5. There is created in the State Treasury a special
374 fund into which shall be deposited all funds contributed by the
375 Department of Human Services, Department of Child Protection
376 Services, State Department of Health, Department of Mental Health
377 and State Department of Rehabilitation Services insofar as
378 recipients are otherwise eligible under the Rehabilitation Act of
379 1973, as amended, and State Department of Education for the
380 operation of a statewide System of Care by MAP teams and "A" teams
381 utilizing such funds as may be made available to those MAP teams
382 through a Request for Proposal (RFP) approved by the ICCCY.

383 **SECTION 5.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified in
384 Chapter 14, Title 43, Mississippi Code of 1972.

385 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
386 and after July 1, 2025.

