

117.NEW. (GP: Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment Plan) From the funds appropriated and authorized to the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services and the Department of Health and Human Services in the current fiscal year, the agencies shall establish a coalition of state agencies, providers and other related entities to combat the opioid epidemic in a collaborative manner and ensure that appropriate services and treatments are made available statewide. This initiative should include efforts to consolidate funding for the provision of treatment with an assessment of current programs and funding levels, to enhance available prevention, treatment and recovery services; expand provider capacity; and enable workforce development for substance use disorder services. General Funds appropriated to the agencies for Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose.

(A) The Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services and the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish an advisory board with representation from both agencies. The advisory board may also include representation from the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Department of Mental Health, the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine, the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation, the Department of Corrections, state and local law enforcement agencies, the judicial branch, the South Carolina Hospital Association, the South Carolina Medical Association, Behavioral Health Centers and other related providers. The advisory board must consider recommendations made in the 2018 report by the South Carolina House of Representatives Opioid Abuse Prevention Study Committee, as well as any recommendations made by the South Carolina Behavioral Health Coalition related to substance use disorders and create a plan to ensure implementation of appropriate recommendations.

(B) The Department of Health and Human Services may leverage any and all available federal funds to implement enhanced treatment services and resources for this coalition. The Department may also develop a waiver application through the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services that could provide coverage for non-traditional Medicaid populations that have a substance use disorder diagnosis. The department must also work with the Managed Care Organizations to evaluate policies that limit the utilization of step therapy, fail first policies, or other barriers to treatment that may exist.

(C) In consultation with the Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services and the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital Authority, the department shall review and evaluate outcomes data from the 2018 pilot program for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services for prescription opioid dependency and addiction established by Act 97 of 2017. Based on the success rate and ability to replicate this pilot, the department may provide funding not to exceed \$2,500,000 to continue and expand the program to additional providers that are necessary to ensure greater impact in geographical areas of critical need.

(D) In order to provide comprehensive treatment, from the point of incarceration, to individuals charged with criminal offenses who suffer from any substance use disorder that is treatable with medication, the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services must solicit potential cooperation from law enforcement, the state's solicitors, Magistrate Courts and Circuit Courts, to establish a diversion program in at least one judicial circuit. This program shall provide both behavioral and medical treatment, consultations with peer support specialists, and continued supervision of participants who are released, which may include electronic monitoring.

(E) The Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services and the Department of Health and Human Services shall also coordinate with at least one four-year college or university and one two-year technical college with on-campus dormitories to establish pilot programs for Collegiate Recovery Programs to target intervention and the retention of students. These programs must offer academic support in designated spaces that provide for group meetings, clinical support, technology access, and academic advising, to assist students in recovery.

(F) The advisory board shall provide a report on the success of the development of the plan and the implementation of recommendations to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, and the Governor no later than January 31, 2019. The report may also include proposals for amending existing recommendations or the establishment of new policies to combat the opioid epidemic.

117.NEW. (Adult Protective Services Study Committee) A study committee shall be established to study and make recommendations regarding the best and most efficient method for the State to appropriate and authorize funding that will best coordinate services available for the needs and protection of the vulnerable adult population of South Carolina. Recommendations shall include but are not limited to: creation and/or reorganization of a state agency focused on the protection of and services for vulnerable adults; establishment of a single point of entry for vulnerable adult services; creation and oversight of a public guardianship program; establishment of standards and oversight for private guardians; determination of the appropriate jurisdiction for APS cases; creation of an adult abuse registry; and identification and development of any other services to best protect vulnerable adults from physical and/or financial abuse and exploitation.

However, the primary focus of the committee shall be recommendations regarding the establishment of a state agency or entity where these services can be consolidated. Recommendations shall be made no later than November 1, 2018 to the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee.

The study committee shall invite participation from the: S.C. Department Social Services, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Lt. Gov. Office on Aging, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health and Human Services, S.C. Probate Judges Association, S.C. Family Court Judges Association, S.C. Bar, SC Commission on Indigent Defense, SC Attorney General's Office, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Vulnerable Adult Unit, South Carolina Crime Victims Council, AARP South Carolina, South Carolina Sheriff's Association, Adult Protection Coordinating Council, Prosecution Coordination Council, S.C. Law Enforcement Officers' Association, South Carolina Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, and South Carolina Legal Services. The committee shall also invite participation from the U.S. Social Security Administration, the Veteran's Administration, the S.C. Hospital Association and the S. C. Health Care Association.