

Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century

2020 Recommendations & Outcomes

Recommendation	Outcome
<p>The General Assembly should establish a Behavioral Health Commission.</p>	<p>Senate Bill 1273 (Deeds) (Chapter 313, Acts of Assembly, 2021, Special Session I) creates the Behavioral Health Commission as a legislative branch agency to study and make recommendations for the improvement of behavioral health services and the behavioral health service system in the Commonwealth for the purpose of improving the quality of and increasing access to the full continuum of high-quality, effective, and efficient behavioral health care in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Chapter 313 becomes effective on July 1, 2021.</p>
<p>The General Assembly should direct the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to convene a work group to study and develop a plan for collecting and compiling data related to behavioral health and criminal justice.</p>	<p>House Joint Resolution 578 (Price, 2021, Special Session I) requests that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services establish a work group to study the feasibility of developing a secure, de-identified, renewable, and relational database of criminal justice, behavioral health, and other human services records to facilitate the development of more effective interventions.</p> <p>House Joint Resolution 578 was agreed to by both the House of Delegates and the Senate.</p>
<p>The General Assembly should restore funding (\$3.5 million) for discharge planning in jails.</p>	<p>The 2021 Appropriations Act restores \$2.1 million in funding for discharge planning in jails for the second year of the biennium; this amount is the full amount that was previously appropriated and then un-allotted by Chapter 1289 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020.</p>
<p>The Joint Subcommittee should continue work on clarifying and reorganizing statutes related to mandatory outpatient treatment.</p>	<p>House Bill 2166 (Hope) (Chapter 221, Acts of Assembly, 2021, Special Session I) makes numerous changes to the statutes governing mandatory outpatient treatment services in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Chapter 221 becomes effective on July 1, 2022.</p>