

**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 429****HOUSE BILL NO. 1958****By Representatives Armstrong, Odom, Overbey****Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1413****By Senators Herron, Marrero**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, relative to the mental health community service system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

33-2-106.

(a) It is the intent of the general assembly that the system of care developed to reflect the provisions of Section 33-2-102 shall provide a comprehensive array of services and supports which are geographically available, equitably and efficiently allocated statewide and in each grand division of the state, which allows people to be in their own community settings, based on the needs and choices of individuals and families served. Services and supports provided to persons generally and as part of the medical assistance program, pursuant to title 71, chapter 5, shall seek to alleviate geographic service and support disparities across the state and its grand divisions. In striving to alleviate the geographic disparities the state should seek to allocate budget improvements and other new resources in a manner that promotes equitable distribution of services and supports among the grand divisions of the state.

(b)

(1) In order to implement the provisions of subsection (a), the state shall strive to avoid gaps in services and endeavor to achieve a delivery system that ensures that services are available to service recipients on a substantially equitable basis regardless of place of residence within the state. To that end, the commissioner of the department of finance and administration shall report to the senate general welfare, health and human resources committee and the house health and human resources committee no later than January 15, 2008, and annually thereafter, on the following indicators of equity in the service delivery system:

(A) The extent to which special services and programs such as Programs for Assertive Community

Treatment (PACT), crisis stabilization units, resiliency and recovery programs, etc. are available on a substantially equitable basis throughout the state;

(B) The extent to which psychiatric and medical services of the same level, intensity, and duration are available on a substantially equitable basis throughout the state; and,

(C) The extent to which rates of service utilization by service recipients are substantially equitable throughout the state.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: May 31, 2007**

  
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JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 13th day of June 2007**

  
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PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR