

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY SENATOR BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate the Louisiana Department of Health as the lead agency over the Interagency Heroin and Opioid Coordination Plan.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act No. 88 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature, (Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:219.5) the Drug Policy Board has established the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health appointed a suitable individual to serve as chair of the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education and has provided staff support for the council pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:219.5 and further, has taken a lead role in coordinating the collection of data and tackling the heroin and opioid epidemic through best practices and evidence based strategies by leveraging its current partnership, resources, and funding awards from several substantial federal grants; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education completed its first annual Interagency Heroin and Opioid Coordination Plan in December 2018, which was subsequently approved by the Drug Policy Board and made available to the public in January 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education was unable to acquire all information identified in Act No. 88 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature including state and parish level data on opioids; progress of current initiatives in the state relating to the heroin and opioid epidemic, and specific impacts to agencies in addressing education, treatment including the use of medication assisted treatment, prevention, overdose, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education identified some specific data gaps as well as challenges with existing data collection, analysis, and reporting related to tracking heroin and opioid use and related consequences

including, but not limited to:

(1) Number of citations issued due to illegal heroin and opioid possession, distribution, sales, or trafficking.

(2) Number of arrests due to illegal heroin and opioid possession, distribution, sales, or trafficking.

(3) Number of convictions for illegal heroin and opioid possession, distribution, sales, or trafficking.

(4) Number of incarcerated people with active offenses known to be with an opioid.

(5) Costs associated with the citations, arrests, and court cases.

(6) Number of individuals needing treatment for opioid use disorders.

(7) Methadone treatment information.

(8) Number of successful overdose reversals.

(9) Improve data collection on barriers and opportunities for prevention, screening, intervention, treatment, and recovery at the system of care level.

(10) Number of training curriculums being implemented in Louisiana's educational institutions that increase knowledge and capacity of educators and administrators in the identification, screening, interventions, prevention, and treatment of substance use disorders.

(11) Number of college students seen in health or wellness centers for opioid related instances.

(12) Number of opioid related issues handled by student conduct offices on college campuses.

(13) Number of opioid related campus law enforcement incidents.

(14) Counts of Naloxone obtained via prescription and billed to a private health insurance provider or via private payment to a pharmacy.

(15) Comorbidity data of opioid use disorders and HIV, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), and other intravenous transmissible diseases.

(16) Metrics assessing the opioid epidemic's impact to families and the labor force.

(17) Data from children's agencies and child welfare.

(18) Expenditures and savings related to opioid use epidemic.

(19) Clinical metrics about opioid related use, deaths, conditions for which they are

prescribed.

- (20) Workers' compensation claims and absenteeism related to opioids.
- (21) Substance use and behavioral health integration data gaps within primary care.
- (22) Data gaps related to the harm reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Interagency Coordination Plan Workgroup of the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education, with resources from the Louisiana Department of Health, designed and fielded a survey for respondents to describe the nature of their initiatives to address the heroin and opioid epidemic that garnered a significant amount, but not all available information related to state and parish level initiatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby officially designate the Louisiana Department of Health as the lead authority to establish, update, and execute the recommendations identified in the annual Interagency Heroin and Opioid Coordination Plan which is a required product of the Drug Policy Board's Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes 49:219.5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request all public entities, private entities that receive state funding, and self-funded agencies that regulate in the interest of the public's safety to promptly respond to all data requests regarding opioid and heroin use prevalence, prevention, education, arrest or adjudication, treatment, overdose prevention, and recovery from the Drug Policy Board's Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education or the Louisiana Department of Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if public entities, private entities that receive state funding, and self-funded agencies that regulate in the interest of the public's safety cannot respond to data requests from the Louisiana Department of Health and the Drug Policy Board Advisory Council due to gaps in opioid and heroin related data collection, analysis or reporting, the entity will make reasonable efforts to address these gaps through its own data management processes or will communicate barriers to filling these gaps to the Drug Policy Board's Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education or the department for possible collaboration to assist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request all public entities, private entities that receive state funding, and self-funded agencies that regulate in the interest of the public's safety to report by January first of each year the status of all heroin and opioid prevention, education, treatment, overdose prevention, and recovery initiatives to the Drug Policy Board's Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education or the Louisiana Department of Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the Drug Policy Board's Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES