

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 19, 2016  
AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 16, 2016  
AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 2, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 30, 2016  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2017**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chang, Cristina Garcia,**  
**Gonzalez, and Levine)**  
(Coauthors: Senators Hancock and Pan)

February 16, 2016

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An act to add and repeal Part 3.3 (commencing with Section 5832) of Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2017, as amended, McCarty. College Mental Health Services Program.

Existing law, the Mental Health Services Act, an initiative measure enacted by the voters as Proposition 63 at the November 2, 2004, statewide general election, funds a system of county mental health plans for the provision of mental health services, as specified. Existing law provides for the operation and administration of various mental health programs at a statewide and county level, as specified.

This bill, until January 1, 2022, would ~~establish the College Mental Health Services Trust Account. The bill would make moneys in the account available to the State Department of Health Care Services, require the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of creating to create a grant program for public community colleges, colleges, and universities to improve for purposes of improving access to mental health services on those campuses, as specified. The bill would require campuses that have been awarded grants under these provisions to report annually on the use of those grant funds and to post that information on their Internet Web sites. The bill would also require the department commission to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the impact of the program, as specified. The bill would require that evaluation to be conducted by a public or private research university or institute in this state, and would require the Department of Finance to assist the commission in issuing a request for proposal for that contract.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
 State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Students, faculty, health practitioners, and college
- 4 administrators are reporting increased rates of mental health needs
- 5 by students attending public colleges in California.
- 6 (b) One in four students has a diagnosable mental illness and
- 7 40 percent of students do not seek mental health services when
- 8 they need it.
- 9 (c) Eight out of 10 people who experience psychosis have their
- 10 first episode between 15 and 30 years of age.
- 11 (d) The demand for mental health services by public college
- 12 students far outpaces the ability of colleges to provide them.
- 13 California public college campuses and higher education systems
- 14 do not meet national staffing standards for psychiatric services
- 15 and other mental health professionals.
- 16 (e) The lack of services directly impacts college students’
- 17 success and academic performance as well as their ability to
- 18 develop socially as productive members of society.

1 (f) The effects of untreated mental health needs are long lasting  
2 and can include college students dropping out of school,  
3 experiencing homelessness, and dying of suicide.

4 (g) One in 10 college students has considered suicide and suicide  
5 is the second leading cause of death among college students,  
6 claiming more than 1,100 lives every year nationally.

7 (h) Research shows that for each dollar invested in student  
8 prevention and early intervention mental health services, California  
9 will see a return of at least \$6 and up to \$11 as a result of more  
10 students graduating.

11 (i) *Under the Prevention and Early Intervention component of*  
12 *the Mental Health Services Act, subdivision (b) of Section 3706*  
13 *of Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations states that at least*  
14 *51 percent of the Prevention and Early Intervention Fund shall*  
15 *be used to serve individuals who are 25 years old or younger.*

16 (j) *Since the approval of the Mental Health Services Act in 2004,*  
17 *there has been limited interaction between college campuses and*  
18 *county mental health departments. It is the purpose of this act to*  
19 *foster partnerships between counties and college campuses to*  
20 *better address the mental health needs of their students.*

21 SEC. 2. Part 3.3 (commencing with Section 5832) is added to  
22 Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

23  
24 PART 3.3. COLLEGE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
25 PROGRAM  
26

27 5832. This part shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
28 College Mental Health Services Program Act.

29 ~~5832.1. There is hereby established in the State Treasury the~~  
30 ~~College Mental Health Services Trust Account. Moneys in the~~  
31 ~~account shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature,~~  
32 ~~to the State Department of Health Care Services Moneys shall be~~  
33 ~~available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Mental~~  
34 ~~Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to fund~~  
35 ~~the grant program established pursuant to this part.~~

36 5832.2. (a) ~~The department~~ *commission* shall create a grant  
37 program for public community colleges, colleges, and universities,  
38 in collaboration with county behavioral health departments, to  
39 improve access to mental health services and early identification  
40 or intervention programs. ~~The department~~ *commission* shall

1 establish grant program guidelines and shall develop a request for  
2 application (RFA). The RFA shall include, but not be limited to,  
3 all of the following:

4 (1) Eligibility standards of applicants in order to qualify to be  
5 considered for a grant award.

6 (2) Required program components to be included in the grant  
7 application, which may include, but are not limited to:

8 (A) The ability of the program to meet the needs of students  
9 that cannot be met through existing funds.

10 (B) The ability of the program to fund the matching component  
11 required by subdivision (f).

12 (C) The ability of the campus, in partnership with the local  
13 county, to establish direct linkages for students to community-based  
14 mental health services.

15 (D) The ability of the campus to address direct services  
16 including, but not limited to, increasing staff to student ratios and  
17 decreasing wait times.

18 (E) The ability to participate in evidence-based and  
19 community-defined best practice programs for mental health  
20 services improvements.

21 (3) Preferred program components to be included in the grant  
22 application, which may include, but are not limited to:

23 (A) The ability of the campus to serve underserved and  
24 vulnerable populations.

25 (B) The ability of the campus, in partnership with the local  
26 county, to establish direct linkages for students to community-based  
27 mental health services for which reimbursement is available  
28 through the students' health coverage.

29 (C) The ability of the campus to reduce racial disparities in  
30 access to mental health services.

31 (D) The ability of the campus to fund mental health stigma  
32 reduction activities.

33 (E) The ability of the campus to provide employees and students  
34 with education and training on early identification, intervention,  
35 and referral of students with mental health needs.

36 (F) The ability of the campus to screen students receiving other  
37 health care services and provide linkages to services from the  
38 appropriate mental health provider based on the health insurance  
39 status of that student, for those students who are shown to have a  
40 need for services.

1 (G) Evidence of an existing or planned partnership between the  
2 campus and the county behavioral health department to address  
3 complex mental health needs of students based on their health  
4 insurance status and based on the extent to which there are students  
5 whose needs cannot be met through their health plan, health  
6 insurance, or Medi-Cal.

7 (H) Evidence of an existing or planned partnership between the  
8 campus and local safety net providers to ensure linkages to primary  
9 care and community-based mental health care, regardless of the  
10 health insurance status of the student.

11 (4) Articulation of grant program goals and expected outcomes.

12 (5) Required reporting and evaluation standards to be met by  
13 applicants that are selected for a grant award.

14 (6) Timelines and deadlines for grant applications and  
15 anticipated funding award determinations.

16 (b) Colleges, in collaboration with their local county behavioral  
17 health department, shall submit their grant application to the  
18 ~~department~~ *commission* according to the guidelines adopted  
19 pursuant to subdivision (a).

20 (c) To the extent that an application follows the guidelines  
21 adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) and specifically states what  
22 activities shall be undertaken in accordance with those guidelines,  
23 the ~~department~~ *commission* shall have the authority to approve  
24 grant programs and shall award funding.

25 (d) Grants may be awarded to a community college district in  
26 the California Community College system, a campus within the  
27 California State University system, or a campus within the  
28 University of California system, or a grouping of campuses within  
29 the segments.

30 (e) Total available grant funding to colleges by segment shall  
31 be proportional to the number of students served by that segment  
32 but, in no case shall the ~~department~~ *commission* award more than  
33 five million dollars (\$5,000,000) per campus, per application.

34 (f) Grants shall only be awarded to a campus *or campuses* that  
35 can show a dollar-for-dollar match of funds or another match to  
36 be determined by the ~~department~~ *commission*, in consultation with  
37 the applicant, based on resources and existing mental health needs  
38 of students from the ~~campus~~ *campus or campuses*. Matching funds  
39 can include in-kind funds, student health fee funds after notification  
40 to the student association, and other appropriate funds as

1 determined by the ~~department~~ *commission* and pursuant to the  
2 guidelines adopted pursuant to subdivision (a).

3 (g) Grants shall be awarded to applicants on a competitive basis  
4 based on their ability to meet the application standards and  
5 prioritization of these standards as determined by the ~~department~~  
6 *commission* through the development of the RFA guidelines  
7 adopted pursuant to subdivision (a).

8 (h) Individual grant award allocations shall be expended over  
9 at least one year but not to exceed three years, as determined by  
10 the ~~department~~ *commission* through the grant award process.

11 (i) Administrative costs associated with administering an  
12 approved program shall be limited to 5 percent of the total grant  
13 amount for any grantee. Administrative costs incurred by the  
14 ~~department~~ *commission* to administer this program ~~shall be~~  
15 ~~reimbursed from the College Mental Health Services Trust~~  
16 ~~Account, and shall not exceed 5 percent of the total funds expended~~  
17 ~~annually from the account. annually.~~

18 (j) The funding provided pursuant to this part shall not be used  
19 to supplant existing campus, state, or county funds utilized to  
20 provide mental health services.

21 (k) The ~~department~~ *commission* shall provide technical  
22 assistance to smaller colleges and county behavioral health  
23 departments upon request during the application process to ensure  
24 equitable distribution of the grant award.

25 5832.3. (a) Community colleges, campuses in the California  
26 State University, and campuses in the University of California  
27 system that have been awarded grants pursuant to this part shall  
28 report annually on the use of grant funds to the ~~department~~  
29 *commission* and post the annual report on the use of the funds on  
30 their Internet Web sites. This report shall include, but not be limited  
31 to, all of the following:

32 (1) How grant funds and matching funds are being used.

33 (2) Available evaluation data, including outcomes of the campus  
34 mental health programs funded pursuant to the grant program.

35 (3) Program information regarding services being offered and  
36 the number of individuals being served.

37 (4) Plans for sustainability of mental health programming  
38 beyond the funding from the ~~College Mental Health Services Trust~~  
39 ~~Account. this part.~~

1 (b) The campuses shall electronically submit the reports required  
2 pursuant to subdivision (a), annually, to the appropriate  
3 Chancellor's offices and the University of California Office of the  
4 President.

5 5832.4. (a) ~~The department shall develop an evaluation plan~~  
6 ~~to assess the impact of the program.~~ *Upon an appropriation of*  
7 *funds for the purposes of this section, the commission shall contract*  
8 *with a public or private research university or institute in this state*  
9 *to evaluate the program. The commission shall develop the*  
10 *research design and issue a request for proposal for a contract*  
11 *for the evaluation, with the assistance of the Department of*  
12 *Finance. The commission shall develop an evaluation plan to*  
13 *assess the impact of the program.*

14 (b) *The commission shall submit the final research design and*  
15 *request for proposal required by subdivision (a) to the chairperson*  
16 *of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee no more 30 days prior*  
17 *to executing a contract for the evaluation.*

18 ~~(b)~~

19 (c) ~~The department, commission,~~ in compliance with Section  
20 9795 of the Government Code, shall submit ~~a report~~ *the evaluation*  
21 *established in subdivision (a) to the Legislature by February 1,*  
22 *2021, 2019, and annually thereafter by no later than February 1*  
23 *of each year, evaluating the impact of the program and providing*  
24 *recommendations for further implementation. The ~~department~~*  
25 *commission shall make the report available to the public and shall*  
26 *post the report on its Internet Web site. The report shall include,*  
27 *but not be limited to, the following:*

28 (1) *A financial accounting of all funds awarded, disbursed to*  
29 *grant recipients, and remaining to be allocated.*

30 (2) *Available evaluation data, including outcomes of the mental*  
31 *health programs funded pursuant to the grant program.*

32 (3) *Program information regarding services being offered and*  
33 *the number of individuals being served.*

34 (4) *Plans for sustainability of mental health programming*  
35 *beyond the funding from the grant program.*

36 (5) *A financial accounting of all administrative expenditures*  
37 *by the commission.*

1     5832.5. This part shall remain in effect only until January 1,  
2     2022, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,  
3     that is enacted before January 1, 2022, deletes or extends that date.

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