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CHAPTER 613

AN ACT to create 13.45 of the statutes, relating to an interim study by the Committee to study mental health and programs for children and youth.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 13.45 of the statutes is created to read:

13.45 COMMITTEE TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH AND PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH. (1) CREATION. There is created under the administration of the legislative council a committee to study mental health and programs for children and youth. All members of the committee, except ex officio members, shall be appointed by the legislative council. The committee shall make such study during the 1957-1959 legislative interim.

(2) COMPOSITION. The committee shall be composed of 11 members. Of these:

(a) Three shall be members of the senate and 3 shall be members of the assembly. Of these 6 one shall be a member of the legislative council, and at least one assemblyman and one senator shall be members of the minority political party.

(b) Three shall be citizens who have demonstrated knowledge and interest in the problems of mental health, programs for children and youth and juvenile delinquency.

(c) The heads of the divisions of mental hygiene and of children and youth of the state department of public welfare shall be ex officio members without voting powers.

(3) ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The committee is authorized to appoint and confer with an advisory committee composed of such persons as may, in the opinion of the committee, make a major contribution to the task of the committee by reason of their special knowledge and activities.

(b) The university and all state departments with responsibilities in this field are directed to co-operate with the council in providing such pertinent information as may be requested and are authorized to release employes to assist in the study.

(4) ORGANIZATION. The committee shall first meet at the call of the executive secretary of the legislative council. It shall select a chairman, vice chairman and secretary from among its members.

(5) STAFF. The legislative council shall provide such staff as the committee may require for the completion of its task.

(6) COMPENSATION. Members of the committee and advisory committee shall receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(7) DUTIES. The committee shall conduct a study of the problems of mental health and programs for children and youth with special emphasis on:

(a) The improvement in the scope and degree of co-ordination of all state mental health services which are now provided by the department of public welfare, state board of health, department of public instruction and state board of vocational and adult education, including evaluation of the programs for emotionally disturbed children and the role of the Wisconsin child center.

(b) Possible methods of recruiting a larger supply of professional and ancillary personnel for the care of the mentally ill and mentally retarded.

(c) Methods of further developing alternatives and supplements to institutional care of the mentally ill and mentally retarded such as home care programs, rehabilitation and after-care services and outpatient clinics.

(d) Methods of increasing health and hospital insurance coverage so as to provide for treatment of psychiatric disorders, both on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

(e) Legal procedures for the admission of mentally ill and mentally retarded patients to public institutions including recommendations so that these procedures may be made consonant with modern medical practices.

(f) Evaluation of the programs for the prevention of delinquency including an examination of experimental programs designed to bring together at the community level all the skills necessary for successful preventive work in the field of juvenile delinquency and youth guidance.

(g) Evaluation of the programs for the physically handicapped child including exploration of the need for continued institutional educational facilities for visually handicapped and hard of hearing children and examination of the problems created by totally incapacitated children who need full-time custodial care.

(h) Evaluation of the programs for the mentally retarded child including:

1. The immediate and future needs for additional institutional facilities, and

2. Examination of existing local community services such as nursery classes, special elementary school classes and sheltered workshops.

(8) REPORT. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislative council not later than November 1, 1958. Copies of this report shall be prepared for public distribution.

Approved August 14, 1957.

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