

MODEL PARENT PANEL RESOLUTION

NOVEMBER 19, 2011

Directing the [Single State Authority for Drug and Alcohol] to establish a parent panel to study and address family and community access to alcohol and drug abuse and addiction treatment services.

WHEREAS, One in four families in [name of state] is affected by untreated alcohol and drug addiction; and

WHEREAS, In this state, [insert correct number] persons have been identified as having unmet treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, Untreated alcohol and drug problems contribute to high dropout rates from school, teen suicide, unwanted teen pregnancy, teen alcohol and other drug overdoses and juvenile crime; and

WHEREAS, Treatment for alcohol and drug abuse and addiction is highly effective; and

WHEREAS, Parents with children in crisis often have difficulty locating alcohol and drug abuse and addiction intervention and treatment services; and

WHEREAS, Children are the future of our state; and

WHEREAS, It shall be the goal of the legislature to ensure that parents of children affected by alcohol and drug abuse are able to locate and access intervention and treatment services; and

WHEREAS, the disease of drug and alcohol addiction does not discriminate and affects every race, gender, culture, and economic class

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the [House of Representatives or Senate] direct the [Single State Authority for Drug and Alcohol Programs] to establish a parent panel consisting of parents whose children have been affected by alcohol and drug abuse and addiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the panel study access by families to information about alcohol and drug abuse and addiction intervention and treatment services and make recommendations, on a schedule to be developed by the parent panel, to facilitate access to addiction treatment and intervention services in our communities; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, That the recommendations developed by the parent panel be distributed to the [legislative committee that has drug and alcohol addiction treatment and prevention as part of its purview] of the [legislative house promulgating the resolution]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the [Single State Authority for Drug and Alcohol Programs] provide staff and other support services to the panel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That travel, lodging and other appropriate expenses be reimbursed by [the Single State Authority for Drug and Alcohol Programs]; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That panel members represent all regions of this state and shall, to the extent practicable, be diverse with respect to race, gender, culture and economic class; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the panel convene in [the state capital] no less than three times a year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to [the Single State Authority for Drug and Alcohol Programs].

***Commentary:** In most, if not all, states, action by either chamber of the state legislature (House or Senate) is sufficient to pass a resolution such as the parent panel resolution.*

Parents' lack of access or knowledge how to access treatment results in the needless deaths of countless young people. A state panel of parents of youths who have struggled with the disease of alcohol or other drug addiction, such as envisioned in this model resolution, is a powerful tool for identifying the changes necessary to ensure that all parents who need to will be able to access clinically appropriate alcohol and other drug treatment for addicted children in the family. This relatively modest investment of time and resources will prevent untold suffering and the unnecessary loss of life.