

2015 -- S 1013

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS CREATE AN
EVIDENCE-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR INCARCERATED
ADULTS WITH CO-OCCURRING SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL DISORDERS

Introduced By: Senator Joshua Miller

Date Introduced: June 23, 2015

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The large number of adults with behavioral health disorders, mental
2 illnesses, substance use disorders, or both, and who are arrested and convicted of criminal
3 offenses, pose a challenge for correctional and health administrators responsible for their
4 confinement, rehabilitation, treatment, and supervision; and

5 WHEREAS, Correctional facilities often lack the resources to provide the kinds of
6 services many of these individuals need for recovery and to avoid re-incarceration; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
8 Administration (SAMHSA), the criminal justice system is the single largest source of referral to
9 the public substance abuse treatment system, with probation and parole treatment admissions
10 representing the highest proportion of these referrals; and

11 WHEREAS, The corrections, mental health, and substance use disorder systems share a
12 commitment to help these individuals successfully address their needs and avoid criminal justice
13 involvement, yet each system has its own screening and assessment tools and research-based
14 practices; and

15 WHEREAS, Although there are many examples of innovative and effective
16 collaborations among corrections, substance use disorder and mental health providers, The
17 Council of State Governments suggests a truly integrated framework that can help officials at the
18 systems level direct limited resources to where they can be most effective in achieving both

1 public safety and healthcare goals; and

2 WHEREAS, Governor Raimondo and other top state officials convened a daylong
3 conference to discuss health care issues that included the issues surrounding adults with
4 behavioral health needs under correctional supervision; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
6 hereby respectfully requests the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental
7 Disabilities and Hospitals, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the
8 Department of Corrections to create an integrated evidence-based behavioral health care program
9 for incarcerated adults with co-occurring substance use and mental disorders; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to send
11 duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Department of Behavioral
12 Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, the Executive Secretary of the Executive
13 Office of Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Department of Corrections.

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