

2-3-21

House Health and Human Services Committee

Bill: SB 70, Mobile Crisis Outreach Team Expansion

Sponsor: Sen. Riebe

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Stoddard

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: creates additional mobile crisis outreach teams.

Discussion: This bill creates additional mobile crisis outreach teams in Utah. There are currently two in the state of Utah. When police officers respond to calls due to mental health concerns, they don't usually have the tools necessary to intervene appropriately. This bill creates a team designed to handle mental health crisis calls. There is a 62% decrease in psychiatric ward admittance when mobile crisis outreach teams respond compared to traditional law enforcement officers. The Sheriff's Association, Utah Association of Counties, League of Cities and Towns, Ogden City Fire Department, Unified Police Department and Salt Lake City support this bill. The co-presenter representing Salt Lake City said this resource will help the law enforcement agencies have a decreased burden. Ogden City has a mobile crisis outreach team and stated that the city has seen a significant decrease in hospital admittance because of this program. Rep. Eliason voiced concern about language in this bill and worries that it would remove mobile crisis teams in rural places. The sponsor said she would work with Rep. Eliason on fixing some language to make sure this doesn't exclude rural counties. The Sponsor said local governments don't have the ability to afford funding for these programs, and that is why it falls on the state government. The 1st substitute SB 70 was adopted by the Committee. The Committee voted to hold the Bill.

Yeas:

Nays:

N/V:

Outcome: 1st substitute SB 70 held in committee

Bill: HB 248, Mental Health Support Program for First Responders

Sponsor: Rep. Kwan

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Support

This Bill: relates to mental health resources for first responders.

Not heard in committee today