

Study Committee on Alternative Behavioral Health Transportation

PURPOSE: To research and make recommendations for the implementation and use of alternative behavioral health transportation providers for individuals involved in court-ordered evaluation or treatment as an alternative to transportation by peace officers including: (1) establishing criteria for the certification of behavioral health transportation providers, including the development of a training curriculum required to achieve the certification; (2) recommending the appropriate agency for providing the certification; (3) identifying barriers to the use of alternative behavioral health transportation, detailing the costs associated with the implementation of alternative transportation providers including cost savings and benefits; and (4) identifying means of improved integration of authorized transporters in the behavioral health system. The Committee shall submit a report regarding its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before December 31, 2023 and provide a copy of the report to the Secretary of State.

MEMBERSHIP:

House Two members of the House of Representatives from different political parties and one designated as Co-Chair, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Selina Bliss (Co-Chair), Lupe Contreras

Senate Two members of the Senate from different political parties and one designated as Co-Chair, appointed by the President of the Senate:
Anna Hernandez, Thomas "T.J." Shope (Co-Chair)

Other One representative of an evaluation agency, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Dr. Margie Balfour, Connections Health Services

The Director of the Department of Health Services or the Director's designee:
Dr. Gail Bradley, Arizona Department of Health Services

One representative of a regional behavioral health authority, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Ms. Shelley Curran, Crisis, Cultural, Prevention & Court Services Mercy Care

One person responsible for operating a city or town ambulance service, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Fire Chief Paul Luizzi, City of Goodyear

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One representative of a behavioral health advocacy organization, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Mr. James McDougall

One representative of a behavioral health advocacy organization, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Mr. Matthew Moody, Solari-inc.org

One psychiatrist that is employed by a special health care district, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Dr. Carol Olson, Valleywise Health

One representative of a law enforcement agency from a county with a population of fewer than 1,000,000 persons, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Sheriff David Rhodes, Yavapai County

One representative of a law enforcement agency from a county with a population of 1,000,000 persons or greater, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Ms. Sabrina Taylor, Phoenix Police Department

One private ambulance company employee with significant experience in operating behavioral health transports, appoint by the President of the Senate:

Mr. Neal Thomas, ABC Ambulance

The Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System or the Director's designee:

Vacant

Notes: The Committee may hold hearings, conduct fact-finding tours and take testimony from witnesses, including participants in the behavioral health and law enforcement systems who may assist the Committee in fulfilling the Committee's responsibilities. The Legislature shall provide staff and support services to the Committee.

CONTACT: Michael Madden, Senate Research Staff, Ahjahna Graham, House Research Staff

REPORT DATE: 12/31/23

EXPIRATION DATE: 07/01/2024

STATUTORY CITE: Laws 2022, Chapter 250