

Mental Health Agency Spending and Coordination SB 1350 by Sen. John Haste and Sen. Frank Simpson

Oklahomans and their legislators need a full picture of siloed spending and strategies if we hope for top-tier mental health outcomes. SB 1350 provides this through one-time reporting of all spending, funding and strategies associated with mental health in 11 state agencies.

Mental health is bigger than one agency. SB 1350 creates better understanding of how and why our state spends on mental health efforts in 11 agencies:

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- State Department of Health
- Health Care Authority
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- State Department of Education
- Career and Technical Education
- State System of Higher Education
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Insurance
- Office of Juvenile Affairs

Better-informed policy debates, more transparency

- Our understanding of what Oklahoma spends on mental health comes from one agency's budget and often excludes federal funding. **This is incomplete and misleading.**
- Mental health policy debates would be **better-informed** with a clearer picture of what legislators have invested across all agencies.
- This will **uncover overlapping or incongruent strategies** across our government siloes. Mental health uniquely touches nearly everything we do, from public safety to child welfare. While some cross-agency coordination exists now, it's not comprehensive.
- Millions of dollars in **federal grants** targeting mental health flow to multiple state agencies with widely different strategic plans. SB 1350 creates transparency around this issue.

Improved coordination, efficiencies, outcomes

- **Collecting this data is a first step** that could inform agency consolidation efforts or inform long-term, multi-agency strategic planning in future years.
- States that have moved toward a greater centralized strategy in mental health have started with **multi-agency, comprehensive audits** on mental health providing the information requested in this bill.
- A similar multi-state agency audit in Texas resulted in a unified appropriations request for all mental health funding across agencies. This has resulted in **more targeted and strategically-aligned spending.**