H.45

Introduced by Representatives Anthony of Barre City and Walz of Barre City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; mental health; law enforcement; mental health provider collaboration

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a grant program to fund the provision of services by mental health providers in collaboration with municipal police departments.

An act relating to the provision of grants for mental health providers working in collaboration with municipal police departments

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 8915 is added to read:

§ 8915. GRANT PROGRAM; MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER AND MUNICIPAL POLICING COLLABORATIONS

(a) The Department of Mental Health shall administer a grant program for the purpose of funding services by a mental health provider working in collaboration with municipal police departments. Grants shall fund half of the costs associated with services provided by a mental health provider who is employed by an agency designated pursuant to section 8907 of this title.
Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be at the discretion of the Commissioner.

(b) A designated agency, in collaboration with one or more municipal police departments from within a designated agency’s service region, may submit a grant application to the Department each year during the period specified by the Department in rule. Applications to fund multiple mental health provider positions within a municipality shall be considered to the extent that the proposal reflects the municipality’s population. Successful grant applicants shall:

(1) describe the proposed collaboration between the designated agency and the collaborating municipal police department, including the mental health provider’s anticipated duties, work hours, and any specialized training necessary;

(2) document necessary authorization for the mental health provider to accompany police officers responding to emergencies involving individuals in mental health crisis, including any necessary insurance coverage for the mental health provider;

(3) demonstrate that the collaborating municipality has approved appropriating 50 percent of the total cost associated with the mental health provider’s services from local budgets; and
(4) document that the collaborating municipal police department operates on a full-time basis and that the municipality has a population of at least 2,500 residents.

(c) Awards granted by the Commissioner under this section shall be provided directly to the applying agency.

(d) Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, the Commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to administer the grant program established in this section. Rules shall address:

(1) timelines for application and reapplication;

(2) additional application criteria; and

(3) procedures for review of grant expenditures and program evaluation.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.