988 Model Bill for State Behavioral Health Crisis Services Systems

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The model bill was designed as a template to assist states in writing a bill... but it is intended that they would adapt the template to create a bill that allows them to build the crisis services system that they have reimagined.
Purpose paragraph explains why you want the bill and the desired outcome

Rule 1: Do not put anything in the purpose paragraph that would make a reader stop reading

Note: The purpose paragraph does not become part of the statute when the bill is enacted. It disappears!
Definitions

Rule 2: Limit the number of definitions. Definitions are in state law until you amend it. They can have unintended consequences related to reimbursement and more.
Section 1: Designate a hotline center(s) to provide crisis intervention services and crisis care coordination

- Agreement with NSPL
- Meet NSPL requirements
- Data reporting etc. for quality
- Deploy MCTs
- Real time care coordination
- Information sharing
- State agency work with NSPL, VCL and others
- Provide follow up services
- Provide an annual report
Section 2: Onsite response services using state/local funded Mobile Crisis Teams

- MCT jurisdiction-based or EMS embedded, with peers
- Collaborate with first responders/BH agencies
- Police as co-responder only in high-risk situation
- Community and those with lived experience as designers
- Personnel reflect community demographics
- Collect customer service data with race/ethnicity etc.
Section 3: State funds crisis receiving and stabilization services

- >16 beds are not IMDs
- Service covered by state if uninsured or not a covered service
- Medicaid to work with receiving and stabilization to code and pay
- State determines how payment will be made

Rule 3: Whatever you put in the bill is the law forever...so think twice
Section 4: Statewide 988 Trust Fund administered by state agency

- Hotline, staff, technological infrastructure
- Contact services – acute, outreach, stabilization
- Reflect community and serve at risk populations
- Data, reporting for quality
- Non-reverting/transfer
- Annual report
Section 5:
Monthly statewide fee on subscribers

- Commercial landline
- Mobile telephone
- IP-enabled voice services
- Pre-paid telephone service

- Fee maintained in a trust
- Fee used for calls/chats/texts, staffing, infrastructure, personnel
- Covers continuum of crisis services for persons contacting the crisis contact center
- Expenses not funded by federal, state, county programs, not covered by insurance, not covered because individual’s information not available
- Fee does not supplant government funds
- Fee may be adjusted for continuous operation, volume increases and maintenance
- Annual report on revenue - state/FCC
Section 6: State agency provides system oversight and Governor/agency may use an advisory body.

Section 7: Timeframes must be consistent with timeframes in - National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 and FCC rules 7/16/20
Are the states using the 988 Model Bill?? Oh yes!

- About half of states have introduced legislation
- Use of Model Bill language ranges from extensively to some
- Only 4 states have enacted bills with fees...most sustainable source

QUESTIONS???