

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

HOUSE BILL 1795

By: Representatives Willems and Wade

"AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,  
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO PROVIDE FOR INTENSIVE  
TREATMENT SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LONG-TERM, SEVERE MENTAL  
ILLNESS WITHIN A SPECIALIZED MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT SETTING  
AT THE BENTON SERVICES CENTER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to enable the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services, to provide intensive residential treatment for adults with long-term, severe mental illness of this State within a specialized mental health treatment setting at the Benton Services Center.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Mental illness" means a substantial impairment of emotional processes, or of the ability to exercise conscious control of one's actions, or the ability to perceive reality or to reason, when the impairment is manifested by instances of extremely abnormal behavior or extremely faulty perceptions. It does not include impairment solely caused by: (a) epilepsy; (b) mental retardation; (c) continuous or noncontinuous periods of intoxication caused by substances such as alcohol or drugs; or (d) dependence upon or addiction to any substance such as alcohol or drugs.

(b) "Treatment" means psychological, educational, social, chemical, medical, somatic, or other techniques designed to bring about rehabilitation of persons with long-term, severe mental illness.

(c) "Intensive Residential Treatment Program" means a non-hospital establishment with permanent facilities which provides a 24-hour program of care by qualified therapists to include, but not be limited to, duly licensed

mental health professionals, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychotherapists, and licensed certified social workers, for adults who have severe, long-term mental illness who are not in an acute phase of illness requiring the services of a psychiatric hospital, and who are in need of supervision or restorative long-term treatment services and who cannot be treated appropriately in a lesser restrictive setting. An establishment furnishing primarily domiciliary care is not within the definition.

(d) Adults with Long-Term, Severe Mental Illness means persons 18 years of age or over, who meet criteria for service eligibility as defined by the Division of Mental Health Services. Individuals whose sole disability results from alcoholism, drug abuse, or mental retardation are excluded from the definition.

SECTION 3. The Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services is hereby authorized to establish and maintain a program to provide intensive residential treatment for adults with long-term, severe mental illness in a specialized mental health treatment setting at the Benton Services Center.

SECTION 4. The Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services, shall adopt, promulgate, and enforce such rules, regulations, policies and standards as may be necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this Act; such rules, regulations, policies and standards shall be modified, amended, or rescinded from time to time by the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services, as may be in the public interest.

SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

