

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 22—
ASSEMBLYMEN LESLIE AND ANDERSON

APRIL 13, 2001

Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to conduct interim study relating to co-occurring disorders. (BDR R-1167)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study relating to co-occurring disorders.

1 WHEREAS, Recent studies estimate that in any given year, up to 10
2 million people in this country suffer with co-occurring disorders, a
3 condition that consists of a combination of a mental disorder and alcohol or
4 drug abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, Persons with co-occurring disorders tend to be more
6 symptomatic and have multiple health and social problems that require
7 more comprehensive, costly care because of the multifaceted aspect of the
8 diagnosis and treatment process; and

9 WHEREAS, Instead of encountering one inclusive treatment center, the
10 treatment for co-occurring disorders often entails a process wherein
11 patients must experience the inconvenience and frustration of enduring
12 several different health care systems, including mental health centers,
13 separate services for treatment of their addiction and treatment by primary
14 health care providers; and

15 WHEREAS, Because of the special problems in receiving comprehensive
16 and coordinated treatment, many persons with co-occurring disorders
17 attempt to function with no treatment at all, then cycle in and out of costly
18 and often inappropriate treatment settings, end up in jail or prison where
19 they may receive treatment that is inappropriate or even become homeless;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In spite of continuing efforts that have achieved some
22 success in addressing this problem in Nevada, serious barriers still remain,
23 such as the lack of understanding relating to the disciplines, protocols and
24 restrictions of each health care system, historical perceptions of “lack of
25 cooperation” among the systems and the limited resources available for
26 cooperative treatment efforts; and

27 WHEREAS, Given the immense human and economic toll that
28 co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders exact, experts



1 agree that those who suffer from this condition create a high-priority
2 population for whom a comprehensive and coordinated system of care
3 must be an expectation and not the exception; and

4 WHEREAS, The development of a program of care for those who suffer
5 with co-occurring disorders must address such areas as:

6 1. The achievement of consensus on common values and principles
7 regarding the need for and value of treatment systems that work together to
8 create a program for diagnosis and treatment centered on the client;

9 2. The adoption of models for such a program, the creation of
10 configurations for provision of services and the development of a common
11 tool for assessment;

12 3. The development of methods to measure performance-based
13 outcome and examine societal costs;

14 4. The establishment of criteria for the evaluation of a program within
15 the design for the program, the creation of informational systems to record
16 relevant data and the formation of procedures for immediate provision of
17 feedback relating to the evaluation of a program; and

18 5. The alignment of financial incentives with expected outcomes to
19 achieve goals, the reduction or elimination of statutory barriers and the
20 combining of funding at the local level; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE
22 CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to
23 appoint an interim committee to conduct an interim study to facilitate the
24 development of a comprehensive and coordinated program of care in this
25 state for the diagnosis and treatment of persons with co-occurring
26 disorders; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
28 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the Senate
29 and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to the
30 committee; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a report of its
32 findings and any recommendations for legislation to the 72nd session of
33 the Nevada Legislature.

