

Senate Human Services Committee
Senate Bill 2113 – January 8, 2025
Testimony of Denise Harvey, P&A Director of Program Services

I am Denise Harvey, Director of Program Services for Protection & Advocacy (P&A). P&A protects the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities. The agency's programs and services seek to make positive changes for people with disabilities where we live, learn, work and play.

Protection & Advocacy fully supports work of the Department of Health and Human Services in certified community Behavioral health clinics. Efforts to establish these in regions throughout the state are an important step in providing the continuum of care for persons with behavioral health care needs.

P&A has one comment for Section 15. Amendment #14. (p.12) To provide insofar as staff resources permit social services ,including social-psychological evaluations, predisposition reports, treatment, and aftercare services when requested by the judge of a juvenile court. A court order under section 27-20.309, 27-20.4-08, or 27-20.4-17 or or pursuant to rules adopted by the judiciale branch regarding treatment, if available, at the state hospital or life skills and transition center shall comply with the requirements set forth in chapters 25 - 03.1, 25 - 03.3, and 25 – 04.,

P&A offers that rather than the court having the option of placing youth in institutional treatment at the state hospital or life skill and transition center that for justice involved youth other options be provided such as individual justice planning, restorative justice and consideration of community service as appropriate. In addition, services may be provided

through state-operated behavioral health clinics or the private sector to include counseling, case management, consideration for medication evaluations, specialized respite care for families and other outpatient services related to the individual needs of the youth.

I am glad to answer any questions.

Denise Harvey, Director of Program Services
Protection & Advocacy