



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

---

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SERVICES

November 6, 2007

## Committee completes review, tables report

Edmonton...

Reports outlining recommendations for changes to Bill 31: *Mental Health Amendment Act, 2007* and Bill 41: *Health Professions Statutes Amendment Act, 2007* were tabled in the House today by the Standing Committee on Community Services.

### **Bill 31: *Mental Health Amendment Act, 2007***

“These are all very complex issues, and the committee took its work very seriously during its deliberations,” said Richard Marz, MLA for Old-Didsbury-Three Hills and Acting Chair of the Standing Committee on Community Services.

The committee reviewing Bill 31 is recommending the Bill proceed with a number of amendments that address the following three key issues:

- Allowing additional health professionals (in addition to psychiatrists and physicians) to issue Community Treatment Orders (CTOs), providing they meet specific qualifications.
- Broadening the eligibility criteria for CTOs.
- Providing for an automatic review before a panel.

### **Bill 41: *Health Professions Statutes Amendment Act, 2007***

This Bill includes amendments to the *Health Professions Act* that will require the reporting of public health issues and will provide for increased governance support for small professional colleges. The Bill also includes amendments to both the *Health Professions Act* and the *Medical Profession Act* that will authorize the Minister to give direction to a council on matters related to health, safety or quality assurance.

The committee is recommending the Bill proceed.

The committee is also recommending the Minister consider limiting the term of appointment for administrators.

“I think it is important to note that the scope of review for each of these bills was different,” explained Marz. “Bill 41 has received first reading and Bill 31 has received second reading by the Legislative Assembly so the review on Bill 31 was a much more narrow focus.”

“Ultimately though, in both cases, the recommendations we are putting forward in these two reports are just that - recommendations,” he said. “The recommendations will be further debated by the Committee of the Whole.”

Both the report on Bill 31 and Bill 41 are available on the Community Services Committee website at [www.assembly.ab.ca/communityservices](http://www.assembly.ab.ca/communityservices)

The committee met for the first time on July 4, 2007 and since then have met an additional eight times times, including a full day and evening of public hearings.

The committee received input from over 100 citizens and associations through both written submissions and public hearings.

The Standing Committee on Community Services is one of four Committees established by the Assembly this spring. Among other responsibilities, these 11-Member Committees must review and report on Bills referred to them by the Legislative Assembly.

-30-

## **Backgrounder Attached**

### **Contact:**

Richard Marz, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills  
Acting Chair of the Standing Committee on Community Services

Legislature Office  
#319 Legislature Building, 10800 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
Phone: (780) 415-0994 Fax: (780) 422-5628

Or

For general information about the Committee:  
Corinne Dacyshyn, Legislative Assembly of Alberta  
Committee Clerk, Standing Committee on Community Services  
Phone: (780) 427-1348

## Standing Committee on Community Services

**Mandate:** relates to areas of health, education, children's services, seniors, supports for the disabled, tourism, parks, recreation and culture.

## **Standing Committee on Community Services**

Marz, Richard, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, (PC), Chair\*

Mather, Weslyn, Edmonton-Mill Woods (L), Deputy Chair

Abbott, Tony, Drayton Valley-Calmar (PC)

Backs, Dan, Edmonton-Manning (Ind)

Flaherty, Jack, St. Albert (L)

Johnson, LeRoy, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (PC)

Johnston, Art, Calgary-Hays (PC)

Lougheed, Rob, Strathcona (PC)

Lukaszuk, Thomas A., Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)

Pannu, Dr. Raj, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)

Shariff, Shiraz, Calgary-McCall (PC)

\* substitution pursuant to temporary Standing Order 56(2.1-2.3)

---

[Alberta Government](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Legislative Assembly of Alberta Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

---

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2007 Government of Alberta