

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON,
COLETTA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, PEPÉN, SANTANA,
WEBER, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON PROVISIONS OF
TEMPORARY MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT OR
INTERVENTIONS AND PREVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH BEFORE FORMAL DIAGNOSIS.

- WHEREAS,** The mental health and well-being of children and youth are of utmost importance for their overall development and success; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Access to timely and appropriate mental health services is critical in addressing the needs of young individuals facing challenges and crises; *and*
- WHEREAS,** There is a recognized need to provide support to children and youth experiencing circumstantial crises or situations without immediately assigning a mental health diagnosis, allowing time for assessment and intervention; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A temporary funding provision for mental health services, without requiring a formal diagnosis, could alleviate barriers to accessing timely care and prevent potential misdiagnosis; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A three-month period of initial support could enable children and youth to address their circumstances and potentially improve their mental health without the necessity of a diagnosis; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A three-month period of initial support could enable children and youth to address their circumstances and potentially improve their mental health without the necessity of a diagnosis; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** Organize a hearing to evaluate the viability and advantages of funding mental health services for children and youth in Boston without necessitating a formal diagnosis for the initial three months. The hearing will focus on addressing issues such as timely access to mental health services, examining the pros and cons of temporary funding without a diagnosis, exploring strategies for support during the initial period, and identifying collaboration opportunities among stakeholders. Request the presence of representatives from the Boston Public Health Commission, along with relevant stakeholders such as mental health professionals, educators, and youth advocates, to participate in a panel discussion.

Filed on March 6, 2024