

HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER BONG GO
Chairperson
Senate Committee on Health and Demography
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Attn: **HORACE R. CRUDA**
Committee Secretary

Dear **SENATOR GO**,

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on the following bills:

Senate Bill (SB) No.	Title	Author
920	An Act to Amend Republic Act No. 11036, also known as the Mental Health Act,	Senator Sonny Angara
1717	An Act to Amend Republic Act No. 11036, also known as the "Mental Health Act," and for Other Purposes	Senator Imee Marcos
2058	An Act Amending Republic Act No. 11036, otherwise known as the "Mental Health Act," to Incorporate Psychological Services for Children and Young Adolescents During Public Health Emergencies	Senator Raffy T. Tulfo
2062	An Act Expanding PhilHealth coverage to include benefit package to all Mental Disorders and for Other Purposes	Senator Mark A. Villar

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) respectfully expresses its support for measures that provide mental health services as we see it as an important part of the implementation of our mandate to ensure that the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged have access to the care they require, especially since the global pandemic and other crises exacerbated mental health issues for many individuals.

Please find below the programs, activities, and projects of the DSWD in support of mental health:

1. The DSWD utilizes a Case Management approach in implementing programs to ensure the holistic provision of interventions to clients, that is not only limited to financial assistance but, more importantly, psychosocial and social care either from the Department or through referral to respective agencies/institutions.
2. The DSWD also developed wireless mental health and psychosocial support for individuals affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and other crises.
3. The DSWD provides psychosocial support interventions to respond to the mental health and psychosocial support needs of individuals and communities affected by disasters and other calamities. One of the psychosocial support intervention activities

implemented in evacuation centers is the establishment of child-friendly spaces that provide services such as play and art therapy, psychosocial counseling, supplementary feeding, games, and educational activities to relieve children's trauma and stress due to disasters.

4. The DSWD also commits to promoting the well-being of its personnel by ensuring that mental health is valued, promoted, and protected in the workplace by implementing the Mental Health Psychosocial Support Services for DSWD Personnel.
5. The DSWD manages centers and residential care facilities in Regions NCR, IVB, IX, and XI to provide mental health interventions to abandoned and neglected individuals who require social welfare assistance and social work interventions to restore their normal psychosocial functioning and participation in community.

In conclusion, the DSWD aims to continue being a valuable partner in promoting and safeguarding mental health in the Philippines through our commitment to developing and implementing programs to strengthen service delivery further, create a referral mechanism to ensure that appropriate services are provided to clients, and provide comprehensive and holistic support. As such, DSWD submits its full support to the proposed legislation.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary

MAY 23 2023