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TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING				
COMMITTEE	MEASURES		SUBJECT MATTER	ACTION TAKEN/ DISCUSSION
	NO.	PRINCIPAL AUTHOR		
Health (Technical Working Group)	HBs 349, 584, 844, 1040, 1698, 3796, 4101, 4184, 4301 & 4686	Deputy Speakers Quimbo and Cayetano, Reps. Villarica, Salo, Nograles (K.A.), Baguilat, Roa-Puno, Villarín, Zarate and Nieto	Promoting/advocating mental health, promulgating a national mental health policy towards the enhancement of integrated mental health services, the promotion and protection of persons utilizing mental health services and the establishment of a Philippine Mental Health Council	<p>The technical working group (TWG), chaired by Biñan City Rep. Marlyn Alonte, will deliberate further on the 10 bills in its next meeting.</p> <p>Rep. Ma. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno (1st District, Antipolo City), author of HB 4101, clarified that the bill responds to the President’s call to help drug dependents who may be suffering from mental illness.</p> <p>Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) Secretary Adelino Sitoy confirmed the President’s concern over numerous mental health cases due to drug abuse, which explains the need to stop the proliferation of illegal drugs in the country.</p> <p>Sitoy also proposed that a counterpart funding from the national government be allocated to supplement locally-funded mental health services and facilities, which he said cannot be sustained solely by the local government unit (LGU) concerned. (Section 31 of the proposed law allocates at least ten percent of the annual budget of the local health boards of municipalities, cities, and provinces for the provision of mental health services and facilities.)</p> <p>Dr. Liza Martinez of the Philippine Alliance of Persons with Chronic Illness (PAPCI) welcomed the provisions in the proposed law that uphold and protect the rights of persons with mental health needs.</p> <p>Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, along with Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Board of Medicine Chair Miguel Noche, proposed the inclusion of a provision in the bill that will require mental health professionals to undergo continuous professional training to ensure the highest quality of mental health services.</p> <p>Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Chair Benjamin Reyes emphasized that drug users should be treated as victims and not criminals and, therefore, should be allowed to undergo treatment and rehabilitation.</p>