



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5525

February Session, 2000

An Act Establishing A Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee To The State Advisory Council On Children And Families.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17a-4 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) There shall be a State Advisory Council on Children and
4 Families which shall consist of fifteen members appointed by the
5 Governor, including at least five persons who are child care
6 professionals, one child psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in
7 this state [,) and at least one attorney. [and at least three members
8 between fifteen and twenty-two years of age at the date of their
9 appointment.] The balance of the advisory council shall be
10 representative of young persons, parents and others interested in the
11 delivery of services to children and youth. Members of the council
12 shall serve without compensation, except for necessary expenses
13 incurred in the performance of their duties. No person shall serve for
14 more than two consecutive terms. The commissioner shall be an ex-
15 officio member of the council without vote and shall attend its
16 meetings. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings
17 or fifty per cent of all meetings during any calendar year shall be
18 deemed to have resigned. The council shall elect a chairman and vice-
19 chairman to act in the chairman's absence.

20 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) There is established a Children's Behavioral Health
21 Advisory Committee to the State Advisory Council on Children and
22 Families which shall promote and enhance the provision of behavioral
23 health services for all children in this state.

24 (b) The Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee shall be
25 composed of fifteen members as follows: (1) The Commissioner of
26 Social Services or the commissioner's designee; (2) the Commissioner
27 of Children and Families or the commissioner's designee; (3) the
28 Executive Director of the Children's Health Council or said director's
29 designee; (4) the Chief Court Administrator or said administrator's
30 designee; (5) the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's
31 designee; (6) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction
32 Services or the commissioner's designee; (7) the Commissioner of
33 Mental Retardation or the commissioner's designee; (8) two members
34 appointed by the Governor, one member who shall be a parent of a
35 child who receives behavioral health services and the other a provider
36 of behavioral health services; and (9) one member each shall be
37 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of
38 the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the
39 majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of
40 the Senate and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, all
41 of whom shall be knowledgeable on issues relative to children in need
42 of behavioral health services and family supports. The membership of
43 the advisory committee shall fairly and adequately represent parents
44 of children who have a serious emotional disturbance. At least fifty per
45 cent of the members of the advisory committee shall be persons other
46 than state employees or providers of behavioral health services.

47 (c) All appointments to the advisory committee shall be made no
48 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Any
49 vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Members shall
50 serve two-year terms.

51 (d) The advisory committee shall elect two cochairpersons from
52 among its members, one of whom shall be the parent of a child with a

53 serious emotional disturbance. The advisory committee shall meet at
54 least bimonthly. Members of the advisory committee shall serve
55 without compensation.

56 (e) Not later than October first of each year, the advisory committee
57 shall submit a status report on local systems of care and practice
58 standards for state-funded behavioral health programs to the State
59 Advisory Council on Children and Families.

60 (f) Not later than October first of each odd-numbered year, the
61 advisory committee shall submit recommendations concerning the
62 provision of behavioral health services for all children in the state to
63 the State Advisory Council on Children and Families. The
64 recommendations shall address, but shall not be limited to, the
65 following: (1) The target population for children with behavioral
66 health needs, and assessment and benefit options for children with
67 such needs; (2) the appropriateness and quality of care for children
68 with behavioral health needs; (3) the coordination of behavioral health
69 services provided under the HUSKY Plan with services provided by
70 other publicly-funded programs; (4) performance standards for
71 preventive services, family supports and emergency service training
72 programs; (5) assessments of community-based and residential care
73 programs; (6) outcome measurements by reviewing provider practice;
74 and (7) a medication protocol and standards for the monitoring of
75 medication and after-care programs.

76 Sec. 3. Not later than January 1, 2001, the Commissioner of Social
77 Services shall (1) evaluate the process for determining eligibility for
78 enrolment in the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B, and (2) develop a
79 plan to improve the process for determining such eligibility and
80 redetermination of eligibility. The commissioner shall submit any
81 findings and such plan to the Governor and to the joint standing
82 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
83 relating to human services.

84 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

HS **Committee Vote:** Yea 18 Nay 0 JFS C/R APP