



AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-22f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services may, with regard to the
4 provision of behavioral health services provided pursuant to a state
5 plan under Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act: (1) Contract
6 with an administrative services organization to provide clinical
7 management and other administrative services; [and] (2) delegate
8 responsibility to the Department of Children and Families for the
9 clinical management portion of an administrative contract pertaining
10 to children under eighteen years of age or individuals who are
11 otherwise receiving behavioral health services from said department;
12 and (3) delegate to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
13 Services responsibility for the clinical management portion of an
14 administrative contract pertaining to adults with psychiatric
15 disabilities.

16 (b) For purposes of this section, the term "clinical management"
17 describes the process of evaluating and determining the
18 appropriateness of the utilization of behavioral health services,
19 providing assistance to clinicians or beneficiaries to ensure appropriate
20 use of resources and may include, but is not limited to, authorization,

21 concurrent and retrospective review, discharge review, quality
22 management, provider certification and provider performance
23 enhancement. The Commissioners of Social Services, [and] Children
24 and Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services shall jointly
25 develop clinical management policies and procedures. The
26 Department of Social Services may implement policies and procedures
27 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including any
28 necessary changes to existing behavioral health policies and
29 procedures concerning utilization management, while in the process of
30 adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided
31 the commissioner publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations
32 in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days of implementing
33 such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures implemented
34 pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the earlier of (1) the
35 time such regulations are effective, or (2) December 1, 2003.

36 (c) On and after July 1, 2003, if any change in reimbursement rates to
37 providers of behavioral health services pursuant to this section is
38 proposed, notice of such proposal shall be sent by first class mail to
39 each such provider and to the joint standing committees of the General
40 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health,
41 human services and appropriations and budgets of state agencies. No
42 change in reimbursement rates shall become effective on or before
43 ninety days after the date of mailing of such notice. The department
44 proposing such rate change shall provide a hearing on such proposal if
45 requested by fifteen persons, by a governmental subdivision or agency
46 or by an association having not less than fifteen members, if the
47 request is received by the department within fourteen days after the
48 date of mailing of such notice. Not later than thirty days before a
49 proposed change goes into effect, the department shall provide notice
50 of such change to the joint standing committees of the General
51 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health,
52 human services and appropriations and budgets of state agencies, and
53 any of said committees may hold a hearing on such change.

54 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 17a-451 of the general statutes is

55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
56 *1, 2003*):

57 (e) The commissioner shall collaborate and cooperate with other
58 state agencies providing services for mentally disordered children and
59 adults with psychiatric disabilities or persons with substance abuse
60 disabilities, or persons with both disabilities, and shall coordinate the
61 activities of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
62 with the activities of said agencies. The Department of Mental Health
63 and Addiction Services may manage behavioral health clinical
64 management services for adults who are eligible for benefits pursuant
65 to a state plan under Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act.

66 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) (a) The Department of Social
67 Services, the Department of Children and Families and the Department
68 of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall enter into a written
69 memorandum of understanding for purposes of section 17a-22f of the
70 general statutes, as amended by this act. Such memorandum of
71 understanding shall be reviewed by the Attorney General to ensure
72 that the plan of collaboration adequately protects the persons intended
73 to be served pursuant to said section. If the Attorney General approves
74 the memorandum of understanding, it shall then be submitted to the
75 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
76 of matters relating to public health and human services for their
77 review and approval.

78 (b) On or before October 1, 2004, and annually thereafter, the
79 Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
80 Commissioners of Children and Families and Mental Health and
81 Addiction Services, shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
82 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
83 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and
84 human services on the provision of behavioral health services
85 pursuant to section 17a-22f of the general statutes, as amended by this
86 act, including information on the status of the contract with an
87 administrative services organization, the operation of the collaboration

88 among the Departments of Social Services, Children and Families and
89 Mental Health and Addiction Services, the services provided, the
90 number of persons served and the costs and benefits realized from
91 such program.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

HS *Joint Favorable*