



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 313

LCO No. 1424

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Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) The Department of Children
2 and Families, the Judicial Department and the Court Support Services
3 Division shall jointly develop and implement screening and
4 assessment protocols to screen all children for behavioral health needs
5 who are referred to the court as a member of a family with service
6 needs, as defined in section 46b-120 of the general statutes, or as a
7 youth in crisis, as defined in said section, in order to divert such
8 children from the juvenile justice system to appropriate behavioral
9 health services.

10 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) The Department of Children
11 and Families and the Court Support Services Division shall develop
12 and implement, in accordance with this section, community-based
13 behavioral health services and programs for children in the juvenile
14 justice system that utilize a full continuum of treatment approaches in
15 serving children in Families with Service Needs, Youth in Crisis, and

16 children at risk of detention, incarceration or restrictive placement
17 outside of their local community.

18 (1) Such programs and treatment services shall be (A) available
19 state-wide, (B) gender specific, and (C) available to probation officers,
20 parole officers and to the court prior to the issuance of an order to take
21 a child into custody or an order that a child has violated probation or
22 parole. (2) Treatment services pursuant to the section shall be provided
23 based on contracts that include incentives and contingencies to
24 encourage providers to deliver family-centered, community-based
25 services in collaboration with local systems of care.

26 (b) The Department of Children and Families and the Court Support
27 Services Division, in conjunction with the Department of Social
28 Services, shall develop and implement mechanisms to maximize
29 federal reimbursement of home and community-based behavioral
30 health treatment services pursuant to this section.

31 (c) The Department of Children and Families and the Court Support
32 Services Division, in conjunction with a qualified and independent
33 entity and the Department of Education, shall annually evaluate and
34 report to the General Assembly, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
35 general statutes, regarding the quality and cost effectiveness of
36 behavioral health services established pursuant to this section in
37 achieving reductions in juvenile arrest and conviction rates, reductions
38 in out-of-home placements, reductions in truancy, suspension and
39 expulsion, and increased school attendance rates for children in the
40 juvenile justice system.

41 (d) The Department of Children and Families and the Court Support
42 Services Division shall jointly implement an annual quality assurance
43 plan to address barriers identified in an evaluation pursuant to
44 subsection (c) of this section.

45 (e) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall report, in
46 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the evaluation

47 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section by January 1, 2005, and
48 annually thereafter.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure the development and use of effective community-based behavioral health treatment services and programs for children in the juvenile justice system.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]