



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 1237

LCO No. 4033

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Secretary of the Office of
2 Policy and Management shall contract for the development and
3 maintenance of a resource website, comparable to the network of care
4 recognized in the report of the President's New Freedom Commission
5 on Mental Health, that will help individuals, families and agencies
6 access mental health care and information. Such system shall include,
7 but not be limited to, the following components for children and
8 adults: (1) Comprehensive services directory; (2) updated information
9 on mental health diagnoses and treatments; (3) links to state and
10 national advocacy groups; (4) information on local, state and federal
11 legislation, administrative actions and court decisions related to
12 mental health; (5) information on public and private insurance
13 coverage; (6) information on programs and benefits, including
14 housing; (7) information on support, advocacy and legal assistance
15 agencies; (8) a secure personal folder for users to keep information
16 about their health care, community supports and other information.

17 Such website shall be established and operational within three months
18 after the date a contract for development of the website is executed, or
19 on January 1, 2006, whichever is earlier.

20 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
21 Management shall provide funding to Infoline to expand its "Help Me
22 Grow" program that provides telephone screening and information to
23 link families with children from birth to five years of age that have
24 psychiatric disabilities with available community resources and
25 follow-up to determine whether families have accessed such resources.
26 On or before October 1, 2005, said program shall be expanded to serve
27 children up to eighteen years of age.

28 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
29 Management shall provide funding to create a program for adults with
30 psychiatric disabilities, comparable to the Infoline "Help Me Grow"
31 program for families with children that have psychiatric disabilities.
32 On or before October 1, 2005, said program shall be established and
33 implemented to provide telephone screening and information services,
34 identify available resources and follow-up services to determine
35 whether resources were accessed.

36 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Governor's Prevention Partnership
37 shall provide funding to and work with appropriate state agencies and
38 professional associations to develop and implement, on or before
39 January 1, 2006, preservice and in-service training for parents, early
40 childhood providers, school and higher education professionals,
41 police, senior center staff and health care practitioners in pediatrics,
42 family medicine and geriatrics, and to develop training curricula for
43 medical and nursing students and residents.

44 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
45 Services shall take such action as may be necessary to amend the
46 Medicaid state plan to include in the definition of optional adult
47 rehabilitation services assertive community treatment teams that
48 provide intensive, integrated, multidisciplinary services to adults with

49 severe psychiatric disabilities, including, but not limited to, persons
50 who are homeless, persons recently discharged from inpatient
51 programs or nursing homes and persons recently released from jails,
52 prisons or half-way houses or who are at risk of incarceration. Such
53 teams shall provide intensive community care management through
54 case managers, nurses and physicians and shall include, but not be
55 limited to, vocational, peer and substance abuse specialists. The
56 Commissioner of Social Services shall set a target date of December 31,
57 2005, for approval of amendment of the Medicaid state plan in
58 accordance with this subsection, and shall attempt to obtain such
59 approval on or before said date.

60 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, after consultation with the
61 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall adopt
62 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
63 general statutes, for purposes of establishing the services specified in
64 subsection (a) of this section. The commissioner shall implement
65 policies and procedures for purposes of establishing such services
66 while in the process of adopting such policies or procedures in
67 regulation form, provided notice of intention to adopt the regulations
68 is printed in the Connecticut Law Journal no later than twenty days
69 after implementation and any such policies and procedures shall be
70 valid until the time the regulations are effective.

71 (c) Any moneys received by the state as federal reimbursement for
72 optional Medicaid adult rehabilitation services for the services
73 provided for in this section shall be credited to the community mental
74 health restoration subaccount of the Community Mental Health
75 Strategic Investment Fund, established under section 17a-485 of the
76 general statutes.

77 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Commissioner of Mental
78 Health and Addiction Services may certify providers of assertive
79 community treatment services, for the purpose of coverage as optional
80 rehabilitation services, pursuant to section 5 of this act, using criteria

81 that are consistent with nationally accepted standards and recognized
82 as a best practice model. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in
83 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for
84 purposes of certification of such providers. The commissioner shall
85 implement policies and procedures for purposes of such certification
86 while in the process of adopting such policies or procedures in
87 regulation form, provided notice of intention to adopt the regulations
88 is printed in the Connecticut Law Journal no later than twenty days
89 after implementation and any such policies and procedures shall be
90 valid until the time the regulations are effective.

91 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
92 Services shall take such action as may be necessary to obtain a waiver
93 from federal law to establish a Medicaid-financed home and
94 community-based pilot program to serve at least twenty adults with
95 severe and persistent psychiatric disabilities who would otherwise
96 require nursing home services.

97 (b) On or before January 1, 2007, the Commissioner of Social
98 Services shall establish and implement a pilot program to provide
99 community-based services and, if necessary, housing assistance to
100 adults with severe and persistent psychiatric disabilities being
101 discharged from nursing homes. The Commissioner of Social Services
102 shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
103 general statutes, on the pilot program to the joint standing committees
104 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
105 public health and human services by January 1, 2008.

106 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) On or before January 1, 2007,
107 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
108 consultation with the Commissioner of Correction, shall establish and
109 implement a pilot program to move twenty persons with serious
110 psychiatric disabilities from correctional facilities to the community
111 with appropriate housing and treatment services. The Commissioner
112 of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall report, in accordance

113 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the pilot
114 program to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
115 having cognizance of matters relating to public health and human
116 services by January 1, 2008.

117 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Social
118 Services shall take such action as may be necessary to amend the
119 Medicaid state plan to include in the definition of optional adult
120 rehabilitation services intensive age-appropriate services to young
121 adults with psychiatric disabilities or substance abuse disabilities.

122 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before October 1,
123 2005, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
124 expand the young adult services provided in ten catchment areas to all
125 catchment areas in the state, and shall identify additional services not
126 being provided to young adults with psychiatric disabilities or
127 substance abuse disabilities. The Commissioner of Mental Health and
128 Addiction Services shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
129 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the implementation of such
130 expanded services and identifying additional services needed to the
131 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
132 of matters relating to public health and human services by January 1,
133 2008.

134 (b) Any moneys received by the state as federal reimbursement for
135 optional Medicaid adult rehabilitation services for the services
136 provided for in this section shall be credited to the community mental
137 health restoration subaccount of the Community Mental Health
138 Strategic Investment Fund, established under section 17a-485 of the
139 general statutes.

140 Sec. 11. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) On or before October 1, 2005, the
141 Commissioner of Children and Families shall expand the hours during
142 which emergency mobile crisis teams provide services for an
143 additional three hours per day to include evenings from 7:00 p.m. to
144 10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Additional

145 staffing for such extension of hours shall include one licensed staff
146 person per team and a school liaison for each team to provide onsite
147 consultation in emergency situations, follow-up services and staff
148 training and coordination.

149 Sec. 12. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) On or before October 1, 2005, the
150 Commissioner of Children and Families shall increase the number of
151 hours of respite care available to families of children with mental
152 disorders from sixteen thousand to thirty-two thousand hours. The
153 rates for such services shall be established at thirty dollars per hour.

154 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
155 Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Children and
156 Families, shall take such action as may be necessary to amend the
157 Medicaid state plan to include in the definition of children's
158 rehabilitation services the services provided by the Connecticut
159 Community KidCare Program, established under section 17a-22a of
160 the general statutes, emergency mobile crisis services and respite care
161 for families of children with psychiatric disabilities. The Commissioner
162 of Social Services shall set a target date of December 31, 2005, for
163 approval of amendment of the Medicaid state plan in accordance with
164 this subsection, and shall attempt to obtain such approval on or before
165 such date.

166 (b) Any moneys received by the state as federal reimbursement for
167 Medicaid children's rehabilitation services for the services provided for
168 in this section shall be credited to the community mental health
169 restoration subaccount of the Community Mental Health Strategic
170 Investment Fund, established under section 17a-485 of the general
171 statutes.

172 Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Supportive Housing Pilots
173 Initiative, established under section 17a-485c of the general statutes,
174 shall be expanded by financing the creation of one thousand additional
175 housing units throughout the state and by providing supportive
176 services to families and individuals eligible for the additional units.

177 Said one thousand additional units shall include construction of seven
178 hundred new housing units and leasing three hundred existing units.
179 Three hundred fifty of such units shall be designated for families and
180 six hundred fifty of such units shall be designated for single adults,
181 including one hundred young adults eighteen to twenty-three years of
182 age. Capital financing for newly constructed additional units shall be
183 provided by the Connecticut Housing Financing Authority.

184 Sec. 15. Section 38a-1041 of the general statutes is amended by
185 adding subsection (e) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

186 (NEW) (e) The Managed Care Ombudsman shall establish, on or
187 before July 1, 2005, a process to provide active, regular, ongoing
188 communication among mental health providers, patients and payers.

189 Sec. 16. (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1, 2005, the
190 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall establish a pilot
191 outreach program with employers of various sizes to evaluate the costs
192 and benefits of providing effective mental health care coverage to
193 employees and their families. Said secretary shall report, in accordance
194 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the pilot
195 program to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
196 having cognizance of matters relating to public health and insurance
197 by July 1, 2006.

198 Sec. 17. (*Effective from passage*) The Legislative Program Review and
199 Investigations Committee of the General Assembly shall undertake an
200 evaluation of the implementation of the mental health parity law,
201 section 38a-488a of the general statutes, since its enactment in 1997 and
202 shall report its findings and recommendations to the General
203 Assembly not later than January 1, 2006.

204 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
205 Services shall increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for enhanced
206 care clinics that provide mental health services to adults, adolescents
207 and children in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

208 (b) On or before October 1, 2005, the Commissioner of Social
209 Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Mental Health and
210 Addiction Services, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
211 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish criteria for
212 outpatient clinics that provide mental health services to adults,
213 adolescents and children, to be designated enhanced care clinics. The
214 reimbursement rate to be paid to such enhanced care clinics shall be
215 indexed to eighty-five per cent of the Medicare reimbursement rate for
216 adult services and one hundred per cent of the Medicare
217 reimbursement rate for children and adolescent services.

218 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
219 Services shall take such action as may be necessary to amend the
220 Medicaid state plan to include in the definition of optional adult
221 rehabilitation services personal assistance and other supported
222 services provided to adults with severe and persistent psychiatric
223 disabilities who reside in supported or supervised housing. The
224 commissioner shall set a target date of July 1, 2006, to receive approval
225 of the proposed amendment to the Medicaid state plan, and shall
226 attempt to obtain such approval on or before such date.

227 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt regulations, in
228 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for
229 purposes of establishing the services specified in subsection (a) of this
230 section. The commissioner shall implement policies and procedures for
231 purposes of establishing such services while in the process of adopting
232 such policies or procedures in regulation form, provided notice of
233 intention to adopt the regulations is printed in the Connecticut Law
234 Journal no later than twenty days after implementation and any such
235 policies and procedures shall be valid until the time the regulations are
236 effective.

237 (c) Any moneys received by the state as federal reimbursement for
238 optional Medicaid adult rehabilitation services for the services
239 provided for in this section shall be credited to the community mental

240 health restoration subaccount of the Community Mental Health
241 Strategic Investment Fund, established under section 17a-485 of the
242 general statutes.

243 Sec. 20. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) On or before January 1, 2006, the
244 Commissioner of Social Services, shall change the present method of
245 reimbursement for Medicaid-eligible adults receiving general hospital
246 mental health inpatient care to a per diem, rather than a per discharge,
247 basis.

248 Sec. 21. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The sum of two hundred seventeen
249 thousand dollars is appropriated to the Office of Policy and
250 Management, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
251 30, 2006, to contract for the development and maintenance of a
252 resource website that will help individuals, families and agencies
253 access mental health care and information, in accordance with section
254 1 of this act.

255 (b) The sum of six hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to the
256 Office of Policy and Management, from the General Fund, for the fiscal
257 year ending June 30, 2006, to provide funds to Infoline to expand its
258 "Help Me Grow" program, in accordance with section 2 of this act.

259 (c) The sum of seven hundred thousand dollars is appropriated to
260 the Office of Policy and Management, from the General Fund, for the
261 fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to provide funds to Infoline to create a
262 program for adults with psychiatric disabilities, in accordance with
263 section 3 of this act.

264 (d) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars is appropriated
265 to the Governor's Prevention Partnership, from the General Fund, for
266 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, for purposes of section 4 of this
267 act.

268 (e) The sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars is
269 appropriated to the community mental health restoration subaccount

270 of the Community Mental Health Strategic Investment Fund,
271 established under section 17a-485 of the general statutes, from the
272 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, for
273 implementation of an assertive community treatment program, in
274 accordance with section 5 of this act, including (1) hiring and training
275 assertive community treatment team members to meet the standards
276 proposed in the Assertive Community Treatment model, and (2)
277 providing assistance to providers of services described in section 5 of
278 this act in making changes to such providers' documentation and
279 billing procedures necessary to obtain Medicaid reimbursement.

280 (f) The sum of six hundred eighty-four thousand dollars is
281 appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the General
282 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to establish and
283 implement a pilot program to provide community-based services and,
284 if necessary, housing assistance, financed through a waiver obtained
285 pursuant to section 7 of this act.

286 (g) The sum of four hundred four thousand dollars is appropriated
287 to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, from the
288 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to establish and
289 implement a pilot program, pursuant to section 8 of this act, to move
290 persons with serious psychiatric disabilities from correctional facilities
291 to the community with appropriate housing and treatment services.

292 (h) The sum of two million sixty-two thousand five hundred dollars
293 is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
294 Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
295 2006, to expand said department's young adult services, in accordance
296 with section 10 of this act.

297 (i) The sum of four million six hundred sixty-three thousand one
298 hundred twenty-five dollars is appropriated as follows to the
299 Department of Children and Families, from the General Fund, for the
300 fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to expand the Connecticut
301 Community KidCare Program, established under section 17a-22a of

302 the general statutes: (1) The sum of one million three hundred fifty
303 dollars to increase, on or before October 1, 2005, the number of care
304 coordinators by thirty; (2) the sum of two million dollars to increase,
305 on or before October 1, 2005, flexible emergency funding for children
306 with psychiatric disabilities who are not under the supervision of the
307 Department of Children and Families; (3) the sum of six hundred
308 twenty-eight thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars to ensure, on
309 or before October 1, 2005, that every community collaborative has the
310 services of at least half-time care coordinators; (4) the sum of three
311 hundred fifty thousand dollars to establish, on or before October 1,
312 2005, ongoing, comprehensive evaluation to document how enhancing
313 community-based systems of care for children and adolescents with
314 psychiatric disabilities, as well as providing family supports, improves
315 outcomes for individuals and program effectiveness and efficiencies;
316 and (5) the sum of three hundred thirty-five thousand dollars to
317 provide funds for the Family Advocacy Organization for Children's
318 Mental Health to hire twelve additional family advocates and two
319 additional supervisors on or before January 1, 2006.

320 (j) The sum of two million forty thousand dollars is appropriated to
321 the Department of Children and Families, from the General Fund, for
322 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to expand the hours during which
323 emergency mobile crisis teams provide services and to provide for
324 additional staffing for such expanded hours, in accordance with
325 section 11 of this act.

326 (k) The sum of four hundred forty thousand dollars is appropriated
327 to the Department of Children and Families, from the General Fund,
328 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to increase the number of hours
329 of respite care available to families of children with mental disorders,
330 in accordance with section 12 of this act.

331 (l) The sum of six million two thousand dollars is appropriated,
332 from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, as
333 follows to expand the Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative, established

334 under section 17a-485c of the general statutes, in accordance with
335 section 14 of this act: (1) Nine hundred thirty-seven thousand dollars
336 to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for service
337 contracts; (2) six hundred forty-nine thousand five hundred dollars to
338 the Department of Social Services for rental assistance; (3) one hundred
339 seventy-five thousand dollars to the Department of Social Services for
340 service contracts; (4) one hundred forty thousand dollars to the
341 Department of Children and Families for aftercare services; and (5)
342 four million one hundred thousand dollars to the office of the State
343 Treasurer for debt service on newly constructed units.

344 (m) The sum of five million eight hundred fifty thousand dollars is
345 appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the General
346 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to increase Medicaid
347 reimbursement rates for enhanced care clinics that provide mental
348 health services to adults, adolescents and children, pursuant to section
349 18 of this act.

350 (n) The sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars is appropriated
351 to the Department of Social Services, from the General Fund, for the
352 fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to change the present method of
353 reimbursement for Medicaid-eligible adults receiving general hospital
354 mental health inpatient care to a per diem, rather than a per discharge,
355 basis.

356 (o) The sum of seven million five hundred thousand dollars is
357 appropriated, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
358 30, 2006, to state agencies responsible for services related to the
359 treatment of psychiatric disabilities for adults, adolescents and
360 children, apportioned as necessary to each agency, to provide an
361 increase to private providers of mental health that equals the mean
362 average increase, due to cost-of-living allowances or performance-
363 based increases, paid by the state to state employees providing the
364 same or similar services during the budget biennium ending June 30,
365 2005, in accordance with section 105 of public act 04-2 of the May

366 special session.

367 (p) The sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars is appropriated
 368 to the Department of Social Services, from the General Fund, for the
 369 fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, to increase, on or before January 1,
 370 2006, the unearned income disregard for recipients of the state
 371 supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income Program by
 372 an amount equal to the cost-of-living increase provided to recipients
 373 under the federal Supplemental Security Income Program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	38a-1041
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To adopt and fund the recommendations of the Lieutenant Governor's Mental Health Cabinet.

[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.]