



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 340**

LCO No. 1907

\*01907\_\_\_\_\_KID\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF CARE.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Departments of Social  
2 Services and Children and Families, through the Behavioral Health  
3 Partnership, and in conjunction with the Departments of Public Health  
4 and Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall develop and  
5 implement, within available appropriations, an Early Childhood  
6 Integrated System of Care. The Early Childhood Integrated System of  
7 Care shall promote competent parenting by addressing health, mental  
8 health and related issues, including, but not limited to substance  
9 abuse, domestic violence, maternal depression and homelessness of  
10 young children, five years of age and under, and the parents or  
11 caregivers of such children.

12 (b) The Early Childhood Integrated System of Care's responsibilities  
13 shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Increasing early identification  
14 and screening by community providers; (2) conducting comprehensive  
15 assessments to determine the needs of children and family; (3)  
16 developing a family-driven plan to ensure comprehensive and

17 coordinated services; (4) providing care coordination and case  
18 management to connect health, developmental, educational and family  
19 services; (5) providing intensive, home-based work directly with  
20 families that is conducted by a child development and mental health  
21 clinician and a care coordinator who are staff of the Early Childhood  
22 Integrated System of Care; (6) providing consultation and training for  
23 community providers to enable them to understand children's needs;  
24 and (7) implementing strategies to facilitate healthy development.

25 (c) The Commissioners of Social Services and Children and Families  
26 shall establish two regional early childhood integrated systems of care  
27 programs, based on the model of the Child FIRST system in  
28 Bridgeport. The commissioners shall establish such systems after  
29 consultation with Child FIRST and shall determine the locations of  
30 such systems in conjunction with the Commissioners of Public Health  
31 and Mental Health and Addiction Services, based on community need,  
32 interest and readiness to coordinate existing programs into a system of  
33 care. For purposes of this subsection, existing services include, but are  
34 not limited to, Healthy Start, the Birth-to-Three Program, Help Me  
35 Grow, Nurturing Families Network, Early Childhood Consultation  
36 Partnership, the Behavioral Health Partnership, state birthing  
37 hospitals, adult mental health, the Medicaid program, programs  
38 pursuant to Title V of the Social Security Act, Medical Home Programs  
39 for Children with Special Health Care Needs, and other maternal and  
40 child health programs aimed at the health and well being of parents  
41 and children.

42 (d) The Behavioral Health Partnership shall operate and administer  
43 the regional programs established pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
44 section. The partnership shall enter into agreements with state agencies  
45 responsible for programs related to the Early Childhood Integrated  
46 System of Care in order to accomplish the goals and outcomes of the  
47 program. The agreements shall align outcomes, leverage existing and  
48 new funding streams, and foster the integration of services in a family-  
49 focused system. These early childhood systems of care shall be

50 included in the early childhood strategic plans of each participating  
51 community, with oversight by the community's early childhood  
52 education council or governing body.

53 (e) On or before January 1, 2009, the Behavioral Health Partnership  
54 shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to  
55 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
56 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of  
57 state agencies and human services on the progress in establishing and  
58 implementing the regional Early Childhood Integrated System of Care.  
59 On or before January 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the partnership  
60 shall so report to said committees on the operation and administration  
61 of the system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2008	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish an Early Childhood Integrated System of Care for children and families based on the Child FIRST model currently in place in Bridgeport.

*[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.]*