



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 340

February Session, 2008

* _____SB00340HS_____031808_____*

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

