



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 564

LCO No. 2526

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Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Commissioner of Social
2 Services shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to
3 provide grants to providers to increase acute care services available to
4 patients with severe and persistent psychiatric disabilities. The
5 commissioner shall establish criteria for the awarding of grants under
6 this section. Applicants for grants shall apply annually to the
7 Commissioner of Social Services at such time and in such manner as
8 the commissioner prescribes.

9 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Department of Mental
10 Health and Addiction Services, in conjunction with the Department of
11 Children and Families and the Department of Social Services, shall
12 increase the availability of intermediate care services and programs in
13 the state for children and adults with mental health needs, including
14 prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitative services.

15 Sec. 3. Section 17a-22o of the general statutes is repealed and the

16 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

17 (a) The Departments of Children and Families and Social Services
18 may establish provider specific inpatient, partial hospitalization,
19 intensive outpatient and other intensive service rates. Within available
20 appropriations, the initial rates shall not be less than each provider's
21 blend of rates from the HUSKY Plans in effect on July 1, 2005, unless
22 the date of implementation of the Behavioral Health Partnership is
23 later than January 1, 2006. If such implementation date is later than
24 January 1, 2006, such initial rates, within available appropriations,
25 shall not be less than each provider's blend of rates in effect sixty days
26 prior to the implementation date of the Behavioral Health Partnership.
27 Within available appropriations, the departments may provide grant
28 payments, where necessary, to address provider financial impacts. The
29 departments may establish uniform outpatient rates allowing a
30 differential for child and adult services. In no event shall such rate
31 increases exceed rates paid through Medicare for such services. The
32 Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council shall review any
33 such rate methodology as provided for in subsection (b) of this section.
34 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 17b-239 of the 2008
35 supplement to the general statutes and 17b-241, rates for behavioral
36 health services shall be established in accordance with this section.

37 (b) All proposals for initial rates, reductions to existing rates and
38 changes in rate methodology within the Behavioral Health Partnership
39 shall be submitted to the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight
40 Council for review. If the council does not recommend acceptance, it
41 may forward its recommendation to the joint standing committees of
42 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
43 health, human services and appropriations and the budgets of state
44 agencies. The committees shall hold a joint public hearing on the
45 subject of the proposed rates, to receive the partnership's rationale for
46 making such a rate change. Not later than ninety days after submission
47 by the departments, the committees of cognizance shall make
48 recommendations to the departments regarding the proposed rates.

49 The departments shall make every effort to incorporate
50 recommendations of both the council and the committees of
51 cognizance when setting rates.

52 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this
53 section, effective July 1, 2008, the rates established by the departments
54 pursuant to this section shall be no less than the actual cost of
55 providing such services.

56 Sec. 4. Section 17b-263 of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

58 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall extend the provisions
59 of section 17-134d-11 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies to
60 monitor and control Medicaid recipient utilization of outpatient
61 mental health services. The commissioner shall contract, through a
62 competitive bidding process, for recipient surveillance and review
63 services. Such contract shall authorize the imposition of utilization
64 controls, including but not limited to, prior authorization requirements
65 based on medical appropriateness and cost effectiveness.

66 (b) The rate paid for hospital outpatient mental health therapy
67 services, except for partial hospitalization and other comprehensive
68 services as defined by the commissioner, shall be that established in
69 subsection (d) of section 17b-239 of the 2008 supplement to the general
70 statutes for an outpatient clinic visit. Payment for partial
71 hospitalization services shall be considered payment in full for all
72 outpatient mental health services.

73 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
74 effective July 1, 2008, rates paid for services described in said
75 subsection (b) shall be no less than the actual cost of providing such
76 services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17a-22o
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17b-263

Statement of Purpose:

To increase access to care for children and adults with mental health needs.

[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.]