



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6320

LCO No. 2693

02693_____PRI

Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR
ADULTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (i) of section 17a-451 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2009*):

4 (i) The commissioner shall be responsible for the coordination of all
5 activities in the state relating to substance use disorders and treatment,
6 including activities of the Departments of Children and Families,
7 Correction, Public Health, Social Services and Veterans' Affairs, the
8 Judicial Branch and any other department or entity providing services
9 to persons with substance use disorders. The commissioner shall assess
10 demand for substance abuse treatment services on a periodic basis
11 through the coordination of wait list information or through such other
12 methods as the commissioner deems appropriate for purposes of
13 identifying gaps in, or barriers to, treatment. The results of any such
14 assessment shall be included in the biennial report prepared by the

15 commissioner in accordance with subsection (o) of this section, as
16 amended by this act. The commissioner shall determine methods for
17 tracking the availability of substance abuse treatment services and
18 shall provide pertinent information on the availability of such services
19 through the department's web site, a toll-free hotline, the 2-1-1 Infoline
20 program or other similar mechanisms deemed appropriate by the
21 commissioner.

22 Sec. 2. Subsection (j) of section 17a-451 of the general statutes is
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
24 *1, 2009*):

25 (j) The commissioner shall be responsible for developing and
26 implementing the Connecticut comprehensive plan for prevention,
27 treatment and reduction of alcohol and drug abuse problems to be
28 known as the state substance abuse plan. Such plan shall include a
29 mission statement, a vision statement and goals for providing
30 treatment and recovery support services to adults with substance use
31 disorders. The plan shall [include state-wide, long-term planning goals
32 and objectives and annual revisions of objectives. In the development
33 of the substance abuse plan the commissioner shall solicit and consider
34 the recommendations of the subregional planning and action councils
35 established under section 17a-671] be developed by July 1, 2010, and
36 thereafter shall be triennially updated by July first of the respective
37 year. The commissioner shall develop such plan, mission statement, a
38 vision statement and goals after consultation with: (1) The Connecticut
39 Alcohol and Drug Policy Council established pursuant to section 17a-
40 667; (2) the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission established
41 pursuant to section 18-87j; (3) the subregional planning and action
42 councils established pursuant to section 17a-671; (4) clients and their
43 families, including those involved with the criminal justice system; (5)
44 treatment providers; and (6) other interested stakeholders. The
45 commissioner shall submit a final draft of the plan to the Connecticut
46 Alcohol and Drug Policy Council. The plan shall outline the action
47 steps, time frames and resources needed to meet specified goals and

48 shall minimally address: (A) Access to services, both prior to and
49 following admission to treatment; (B) the provision of comprehensive
50 assessments to those requesting treatment, including individuals with
51 co-occurring conditions; (C) quality of treatment services and
52 promotion of research-based and evidence-based best practices and
53 models; (D) an appropriate array of treatment and recovery services
54 along with a sustained continuum of care; (E) outcome measures of
55 specific treatment and recovery services in the overall system of care;
56 (F) department policies and guidelines concerning recovery oriented
57 care; (G) provisions of the community reentry strategy concerning
58 substance abuse treatment and recovery services needed by the
59 offender population as developed by the Criminal Justice Policy and
60 Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management. The
61 plan shall define measures and set benchmarks for the overall
62 treatment system and for each state-operated program. Measures and
63 benchmarks specified in the plan shall include, but not be limited to,
64 the time required to receive substance abuse assessments and
65 treatment services either from state agencies directly or through the
66 private provider network funded by state agencies; the percentage of
67 clients who should receive a treatment episode of ninety days or
68 greater; treatment provision rates with respect to those requesting
69 treatment; connection to the appropriate level of care rates; treatment
70 completion rates; and treatment success rates as measured by
71 improved client outcomes in the areas of substance use, employment,
72 housing and involvement with the criminal justice system.

73 Sec. 3. Subsection (o) of section 17a-451 of the general statutes is
74 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
75 *October 1, 2009*):

76 (o) The commissioner shall establish uniform policies and
77 procedures for collecting, standardizing, managing and evaluating
78 data related to substance use, abuse and addiction programs
79 administered by state agencies, state-funded community-based
80 programs and the Judicial Branch, including, but not limited to: (1) The

81 use of prevention, education, treatment and criminal justice services
82 related to substance use, abuse and addiction; (2) client demographic
83 and substance use, abuse and addiction information; and (3) the
84 quality and cost effectiveness of substance use, abuse and addiction
85 services. The commissioner shall, in consultation with the Secretary of
86 the Office of Policy and Management, ensure that the Judicial Branch,
87 all state agencies and state-funded community-based programs with
88 substance use, abuse and addiction programs or services comply with
89 such policies and procedures. Notwithstanding any other provision of
90 the general statutes concerning confidentiality, the commissioner,
91 within available appropriations, shall establish and maintain a central
92 repository for such substance use, abuse and addiction program and
93 service data from the Judicial Branch, state agencies and state-funded
94 community-based programs administering substance use, abuse and
95 addiction programs and services. The central repository shall not
96 disclose any data that reveals the personal identification of any
97 individual. The Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council
98 established pursuant to section 17a-667 shall have access to the central
99 repository for aggregate analysis. The commissioner shall submit a
100 biennial report to the General Assembly, [in accordance with the
101 provisions of section 11-4a,] the Office of Policy and Management and
102 the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council in accordance with
103 the provisions of section 11-4a. The report shall include, but need not
104 be limited to, a summary of: (A) Client and patient demographic
105 information; (B) trends and risks factors associated with alcohol and
106 drug use, abuse and dependence; (C) effectiveness of services based on
107 outcome measures; (D) progress made in achieving the measures,
108 benchmarks and goals established in the state substance abuse plan,
109 developed and implemented in accordance with subsection (j) of this
110 section, as amended by this act; and [(D)] (E) a state-wide cost analysis.

111 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) Not later than January 1,
112 2011, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
113 develop and publish a report card on the state substance abuse
114 treatment system. The report card shall rate the system in areas that

115 include, but need not be limited to: (1) Accessibility; (2) quality and
116 appropriateness of the treatment offered; (3) treatment outcomes,
117 including client satisfaction rates and client success rates relating to
118 abstinence and reduced substance abuse, reduced criminal justice
119 involvement, and the attainment of stable employment and housing
120 and social supports. The treatment system report card shall be
121 accessible on the department's web site and shall be included with the
122 biennial report submitted by the commissioner to the General
123 Assembly in accordance with the provisions of subsection (o) of
124 section 17a-451 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

125 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Mental Health
126 and Addiction Services shall establish clear definitions of research-
127 based practice and evidence-based practice and shall thereafter
128 develop a strategy for the use of such practices in substance abuse
129 assessments and treatment services. Such practices shall include, but
130 not be limited to, assessment tools, program adherence fidelity checks
131 and assessment of the therapeutic alliance between the service
132 provider and the client. The commissioner shall develop such strategy,
133 as well as a timetable for implementation, by July 1, 2010, and such
134 strategy shall be included in the state substance abuse plan developed
135 in accordance with the provisions of subsection (j) of section 17a-451 of
136 the general statutes, as amended by this act.

137 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Mental Health
138 and Addiction Services shall develop a strategy that encourages the
139 use of staff licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health
140 when providing a clinical service in any state-funded or state-operated
141 substance abuse treatment program. The commissioner shall develop
142 such strategy, as well as a timetable for implementation, by July 1,
143 2010, and such strategy shall be included in the state substance abuse
144 plan developed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (j) of
145 section 17a-451 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

146 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) The Department of Mental

147 Health and Addiction Services shall create a provider profile for each
148 substance abuse treatment provider who receives funding from the
149 state, either in whole or in part. In addition, the department, in
150 consultation with the Department of Correction, shall develop a
151 similar profile for substance abuse treatment programs that are
152 operated by state agencies. Each profile shall be updated on an annual
153 basis and shall be accessible on the web site of the Department of
154 Mental Health and Addiction Services on or before January 1, 2011.
155 Such profiles shall include: (1) Client populations served; (2) the
156 provider's accreditation status for those programs not operated by
157 state agencies; (3) language competency of the provider staff; (4) types
158 of services available; (5) capacity levels for the types of services
159 provided; (6) identification of services offered that are evidence-based;
160 (7) client survey results; (8) the percentage of staff who are responsible
161 for assessment, treatment plan development and the delivery of
162 treatment services who are licensed or certified by the Department of
163 Public Health; (9) treatment completion rates for services offered; (10)
164 the range of wait times for the provision of treatment services; (11)
165 outcome information that includes the national outcome measures
166 developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
167 Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human
168 Services; and (12) and any other information deemed pertinent by the
169 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

170 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) On or before July 1, 2010, the
171 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall develop
172 and review performance and outcome information concerning
173 methadone maintenance treatment programs and other opioid
174 replacement treatment programs that are either operated by the state
175 or funded by the state. Such review shall, at a minimum, include the
176 average duration of treatment, provider compliance with state and
177 federal requirements concerning treatment programs and client
178 outcomes based on the treatment received. The results of such review
179 shall be included in the biennial report submitted by the commissioner
180 to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of

181 subsection (o) of section 17a-451 of the general statutes, as amended by
182 this act.

183 Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) On or before July 1, 2010, the
184 Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Department of
185 Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall amend the department's
186 substance abuse treatment regulations and shall implement a dual
187 licensure program for behavioral health care providers who provide
188 both mental health services and substance abuse services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	17a-451(i)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-451(j)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	17a-451(o)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee concerning substance abuse treatment for adults.

[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.]