



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 1121

LCO No. 4570

* SB01121PH_APP032309 *

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARTER OAK HEALTH PLAN.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 17b-311 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2009*):

4 (d) The Commissioner of Social Services shall determine minimum
5 requirements on the amount, duration and scope of benefits under the
6 Charter Oak Health Plan, except that there shall be no preexisting
7 condition exclusion. The commissioner shall ensure that the plan
8 includes comprehensive coverage for mental health services consistent
9 with the provisions of section 38a-514. Each participating insurer shall
10 provide (1) an internal grievance process by which an insured may
11 request and be provided a review of a denial of coverage under the
12 plan consistent with the provisions of section 38a-226c, and (2) access
13 to an external appeal process consistent with the provisions of section
14 38a-478n. Each participating insurer shall comply with the notification
15 and other requirements of the external appeal process.

16 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17a-22h of the general statutes is
17 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
18 *1, 2009*):

19 (a) The Commissioners of Social Services and Children and Families
20 shall develop and implement an integrated behavioral health service
21 system for HUSKY Part A and HUSKY Part B members, Charter Oak
22 Health Plan members, children enrolled in the voluntary services
23 program operated by the Department of Children and Families and
24 may, at the discretion of the Commissioners of Children and Families
25 and Social Services, include other children, adolescents and families
26 served by the Department of Children and Families, which shall be
27 known as the Behavioral Health Partnership. The Behavioral Health
28 Partnership shall seek to increase access to quality behavioral health
29 services through: (1) Expansion of individualized, family-centered,
30 community-based services; (2) maximization of federal revenue to
31 fund behavioral health services; (3) reduction in the unnecessary use of
32 institutional and residential services for children; (4) capture and
33 investment of enhanced federal revenue and savings derived from
34 reduced residential services and increased community-based services;
35 (5) improved administrative oversight and efficiencies; and (6)
36 monitoring of individual outcomes, provider performance, taking into
37 consideration the acuity of the patients served by each provider, and
38 overall program performance.

39 Sec. 3. Subsection (f) of section 17a-22j of the general statutes is
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
41 *1, 2009*):

42 (f) The council shall make specific recommendations on matters
43 related to the planning and implementation of the Behavioral Health
44 Partnership which shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Review of
45 any contract entered into by the Departments of Children and Families
46 and Social Services with an administrative services organization, to
47 assure that the administrative services organization's decisions are
48 based solely on clinical management criteria developed by the clinical

49 management committee established in section 17a-22k; (2) review of
50 behavioral health services pursuant to Title XIX and Title XXI of the
51 Social Security Act to assure that federal revenue is being maximized;
52 (3) review of behavioral health services available under the Charter
53 Oak Health Plan; and [(3)] (4) review of periodic reports on the
54 program activities, finances and outcomes, including reports from the
55 director of the Behavioral Health Partnership on achievement of
56 service delivery system goals, pursuant to section 17a-22i. The council
57 may conduct or cause to be conducted an external, independent
58 evaluation of the Behavioral Health Partnership.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17b-311(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-22h(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-22j(f)

PH

Joint Favorable C/R

APP