



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 322

LCO No. 1897



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLEARINGHOUSE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 38a-1041 of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 (NEW) (g) Not later than January 1, 2015, the Office of the
4 Healthcare Advocate shall establish a central information and referral
5 clearinghouse to increase public access to information regarding
6 behavioral health services and offer referrals to residents to
7 appropriate services. In developing the clearinghouse, the Healthcare
8 Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee, shall: (1) Collaborate
9 with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, (A) organizations that
10 already have clearinghouse mechanisms, (B) state agencies, (C)
11 regional mental health boards, (D) community collaboratives, and (E)
12 the United Way's 2-1-1 Infoline program to develop an accessible tool
13 for state residents to readily locate information about mental health
14 services, substance abuse services and general information about
15 behavioral health and health care providers; (2) make available
16 electronic information documenting that mental health and well-being

17 are as important as physical health and well-being to individual
18 development; (3) work with state agencies, community organizations
19 and the 2-1-1 Infoline program to develop mechanisms to refer
20 individuals to the 2-1-1 Infoline program, state agencies, or community
21 organizations for assistance with matters outside the scope of expertise
22 of the Office of the Health Care Advocate; (4) inventory existing
23 behavioral health services; (5) identify gaps in services and barriers to
24 access to care, including any limitations imposed by private insurers;
25 and (6) develop data reporting mechanisms to track the effectiveness
26 of the clearinghouse, including referrals to and from other
27 organizations. Not later than February 1, 2016, and annually thereafter,
28 the Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall report, in accordance with
29 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the
30 implementation of this subsection to the joint standing committees of
31 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
32 health and insurance.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	38a-1041

Statement of Purpose:

To provide a central resource for information and referrals for behavioral health services.

[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.]