



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 183

February Session, 2016



AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROGRAM OF FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 17a-101g of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f),
5 inclusive, of this section, the commissioner may establish a program of
6 family assessment response to reports of child abuse and neglect
7 whereby the report may be referred to appropriate community
8 providers for family assessment and services without an investigation
9 or at any time during an investigation, provided there has been an
10 initial safety assessment of the circumstances of a family and child and
11 criminal background checks have been performed on all adults
12 involved in the report.

13 (2) The commissioner may adopt procedures to establish a method
14 for the department to monitor the progress of the child and family
15 referred to a community provider pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
16 subsection and to set standards for reopening an investigation
17 pursuant to this section.

18 (3) Consistent with the provisions of section 17a-28, the department

19 shall disclose all relevant information in its possession concerning the
20 child and family, including prior child protection activity, to each
21 provider to whom a report has been referred for use by the provider in
22 the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of unique needs of the family
23 and the prevention of future reports. Each provider who has received a
24 report of child abuse or neglect referred pursuant to this subsection
25 shall disclose to the department, consistent with the provisions of
26 section 17a-28, all relevant information gathered during assessment,
27 diagnosis and treatment of the child and family. The department may
28 use such information solely to monitor and ensure the continued safety
29 and well-being of the child or children.

30 (4) Not later than July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the
31 department shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section
32 11-4a, a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
33 having cognizance of matters relating to children for inclusion in the
34 annual report card prepared pursuant to section 2-53m on the status of
35 the program of family assessment response. Such report shall include
36 data from the previous twelve months, including, but not limited to:
37 (A) The number of reports of child abuse or neglect referred for
38 standard child protective services, and the percentage of such reports
39 that were thereafter referred for family assessment and services; (B) the
40 number of families referred for family assessment and services; (C) an
41 identification, by type, of the reporter of the child abuse or neglect that
42 resulted in the family being referred for family assessment and
43 services; (D) the number of families referred for family assessment and
44 services who were thereafter referred for standard child protective
45 services, and the percentage of the total of families referred for family
46 assessment and services who were thereafter referred for standard
47 child protective services; (E) an analysis of the outcome of each report
48 that was referred for family assessment and services; (F) an analysis of
49 the department's prior or subsequent involvement with a family that
50 has been referred for family assessment and services, if applicable; (G)
51 a description of services that are commonly provided to families
52 receiving family assessment and services from community providers;

53 (H) an analysis of the department's staff development and training
54 practices relating to the program of family assessment response; (I) the
55 number of families referred for family assessment and services who
56 thereafter participated in the services provided pursuant to such
57 referral, and the percentage of the total of families referred for family
58 assessment and services who thereafter participated in the services
59 provided pursuant to such referral; and (J) the number of families
60 referred for family assessment and services who thereafter completed
61 their participation in the services provided pursuant to such referral,
62 and the percentage of the total of families referred for family
63 assessment and services who thereafter completed their participation
64 in the services provided pursuant to such referral.

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

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-101g(g)
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In subsec. (g)(4), subparas. (A), (D), (I) and (J) were rewritten for clarity and consistency.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*