



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 4801



Offered by:

SEN. BARTOLOMEO, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. URBAN, 43<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

SEN. MARTIN, 31<sup>st</sup> Dist.

REP. KOKORUDA, 101<sup>st</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 183

File No. 34

Cal. No. 83

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROGRAM OF FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

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4 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  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

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

13 criminal background checks have been performed on all adults  
14 involved in the report. Services provided through family assessment  
15 response shall include an array of community-based services and  
16 supports designed to meet the individual needs of families, build upon  
17 their strengths, enhance child development, reduce child abuse and  
18 neglect and increase the health, safety and well-being of children.

19 (2) In response to an accepted family assessment report, the  
20 department shall conduct a comprehensive family assessment that  
21 shall include a safety and risk assessment and an assessment of family  
22 strengths and needs. Such assessment shall include personal  
23 interviews with the child and the child's parent or primary caretaker,  
24 an evaluation of the home environment and the performance of  
25 criminal background checks on all adults residing in the same  
26 household. Such assessment may include, as appropriate, personal  
27 interviews with other children or adults residing in the same  
28 household as well as any other caregivers, family members and  
29 collateral contacts. In conducting such assessment, the department  
30 shall consider the age and vulnerability of the child, family  
31 functioning, family history of abuse and neglect and family history of  
32 involvement with the department. The department shall, upon  
33 securing any necessary releases, request any relevant out-of-state  
34 history of child abuse or neglect involving any adults residing in the  
35 same household.

36 (3) The following reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall  
37 not be referred for family assessment response: (A) Sexual abuse, (B)  
38 abuse or neglect occurring in an out-of-home placement, (C) abuse or  
39 neglect resulting in the death or serious physical or mental injury of a  
40 child, or (D) where the department's safety assessment reveals that the  
41 child is unsafe or at high risk. A case supervisor or manager shall  
42 approve all referrals to family assessment response.

43 (4) Prior to referring a report to an appropriate community  
44 provider, the department shall develop a service plan designed to meet  
45 the family's immediate needs for services and supports and to guide

46 the community provider's development of a long-term plan of care for  
47 the family.

48 (5) Following a referral pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
49 subsection, a community provider shall schedule an in-person meeting  
50 with the family and shall develop a plan of care. Such plan of care shall  
51 be developed in consultation with the family and shall include (A) a  
52 review of the department's family assessment and service plan and any  
53 services and supports the family is currently receiving, and (B) an  
54 identification of the family's ongoing needs and the services and  
55 supports that may be available to meet such needs. Such plan of care  
56 shall identify the family's strengths and needs and describe the  
57 services and supports to be offered to (i) address the family's needs, (ii)  
58 build upon the family's strengths, and (iii) increase the health, safety  
59 and well-being of the child. A copy of the plan of care shall be  
60 provided to the referring case supervisor or manager. The provider  
61 shall monitor the family's participation and progress with the plan of  
62 care.

63 (6) The community provider shall maintain ongoing contact with  
64 the family through in-person meetings, visits to the home, child and  
65 family team meetings and phone calls. If at any time following the  
66 referral or during the implementation of the plan of care the family  
67 ceases to participate in services, the community provider shall so  
68 notify the referring case supervisor or manager.

69 (7) The community provider shall schedule an in-person meeting  
70 with the family prior to the end of services. The determination to end  
71 services shall be based upon the family's preference and progress in  
72 meeting the goals outlined in the plan of care. The community  
73 provider shall submit a care summary to the referring case supervisor  
74 or manager not later than thirty days after ending services. Such care  
75 summary shall describe the strengths and needs of the family  
76 identified during the development of the plan of care, the services and  
77 supports made available to address those needs, the nature and extent  
78 of the family's participation in such services and supports and an

79 assessment regarding the degree to which (A) the family's needs were  
80 met, and (B) the safety, health and well-being of the child were  
81 improved.

82 (8) Subdivisions (5) to (7), inclusive, of this subsection shall apply to  
83 all community provider service contracts in effect on the effective date  
84 of this section to the extent they are not in conflict with such contracts,  
85 and shall apply to all contracts entered into, amended, extended or  
86 renewed on or after the effective date of this section.

87 ~~[(2)]~~ (9) The commissioner [may] shall adopt procedures to establish  
88 a method for the department to monitor the progress of the child and  
89 family referred to a community provider pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
90 this subsection and to set standards for reopening an investigation  
91 pursuant to this section. Such standards shall include, but need not be  
92 limited to, provisions for the reassignment of a report referred for  
93 family assessment response for an immediate investigation based on  
94 (A) a reassessment of the initial report of child abuse or neglect or the  
95 discovery of new or additional facts indicating that the child is unsafe,  
96 and (B) a determination that the report meets the criteria of  
97 subdivision (3) of this subsection and, as a result, does not qualify for  
98 family assessment response.

99 ~~[(3)]~~ (10) Consistent with the provisions of section 17a-28, the  
100 department shall disclose all relevant information in its possession  
101 concerning the child and family, including prior child protection  
102 activity, to each provider to whom a report has been referred for use  
103 by the provider in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of unique  
104 needs of the family and the prevention of future reports. Each provider  
105 who has received a report of child abuse or neglect referred pursuant  
106 to this subsection shall disclose to the department, consistent with the  
107 provisions of section 17a-28, all relevant information gathered during  
108 assessment, diagnosis and treatment of the child and family. The  
109 department may use such information solely to monitor and ensure  
110 the continued safety and well-being of the child or children.

111 (11) Not later than July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the  
 112 department shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of  
 113 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
 114 having cognizance of matters relating to children for inclusion in the  
 115 annual report card prepared pursuant to section 2-53m on the status of  
 116 family assessment response. Such report shall include data from the  
 117 previous calendar year, including, but not limited to: (A) The number  
 118 of accepted reports of child abuse or neglect, and the percentage of  
 119 reports assigned to the family assessment response track; (B) the  
 120 disposition of families assigned a family assessment response; (C) for  
 121 cases assigned to the family assessment response track, a breakdown  
 122 by reporter type; (D) the number and percentage of family assessment  
 123 response cases that changed track to investigations; (E) an analysis of  
 124 the department's prior or subsequent involvement with a family that  
 125 has been assigned to family assessment response, if applicable; (F) an  
 126 analysis of the department's prior or subsequent involvement with a  
 127 family that has been assigned to a community partner agency; (G) a  
 128 description of services that are commonly provided to families referred  
 129 to the community support for families program; (H) a description of  
 130 the department's staff development and training practices relating to  
 131 intake; (I) the number and percentage of referred families who were  
 132 ultimately enrolled in the community support for families program; (J)  
 133 the number and percentage of families receiving a family assessment  
 134 response broken down by race and ethnicity; (K) the reason for  
 135 discharge from the community support for families program broken  
 136 down by race and ethnicity; and (L) a comparison of the needs  
 137 identified and the needs addressed for families referred to the  
 138 community support for families program."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-101g(g)