



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

***Raised Bill No. 812***

LCO No. 3780



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17a-22bb of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2017*):

4 (a) (1) The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation  
5 with representatives of the children and families served by the  
6 department, providers of mental, emotional or behavioral health  
7 services for children and families, advocates, and others interested in  
8 the well-being of children and families in this state, shall develop a  
9 comprehensive implementation plan, across agency and policy areas,  
10 for meeting the mental, emotional and behavioral health needs of all  
11 children in the state, and preventing or reducing the long-term  
12 negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on  
13 children. In developing the implementation plan, the department shall  
14 include, at a minimum, the following strategies to prevent or reduce  
15 the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral

16 health issues on children:

17 (A) Employing prevention-focused techniques, with an emphasis on  
18 early identification and intervention;

19 (B) Ensuring access to developmentally-appropriate services;

20 (C) Offering comprehensive care within a continuum of services;

21 (D) Engaging communities, families and youths in the planning,  
22 delivery and evaluation of mental, emotional and behavioral health  
23 care services;

24 (E) Being sensitive to diversity by reflecting awareness of race,  
25 culture, religion, language and ability;

26 (F) Establishing results-based accountability measures to track  
27 progress towards the goals and objectives outlined in this section,  
28 sections 17a-22cc, 17a-22dd and 17a-248h and section 7 of public act 13-  
29 178;

30 (G) Applying data-informed quality assurance strategies to address  
31 mental, emotional and behavioral health issues in children;

32 (H) Improving the integration of school and community-based  
33 mental health services; and

34 (I) Enhancing early interventions, consumer input and public  
35 information and accountability by (i) in collaboration with the  
36 Department of Public Health, increasing family and youth engagement  
37 in medical homes and developing an early intervention program to  
38 identify children who are in need of or currently receive mental,  
39 emotional or behavioral health services in order to improve the  
40 provision of such services; (ii) in collaboration with the Department of  
41 Social Services, increasing awareness of the 2-1-1 Infoline program; (iii)  
42 in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction  
43 Services, developing strategies to coordinate the delivery of mental

44 health care to children and providing notification to such children's  
45 parents and guardians regarding available mental health services; and  
46 [(iii)] (iv) in collaboration with each program that addresses the  
47 mental, emotional or behavioral health of children within the state,  
48 insofar as they receive public funds from the state, increasing the  
49 collection of data on the results of each program, including  
50 information on issues related to response times for treatment, provider  
51 availability and access to treatment options.

52 (2) Not later than April 15, 2014, the commissioner shall submit and  
53 present a status report on the progress of the implementation plan, in  
54 accordance with section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing  
55 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
56 relating to children and appropriations.

57 (3) On or before October 1, 2014, the commissioner shall submit and  
58 present the implementation plan, in accordance with section 11-4a, to  
59 the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General  
60 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and  
61 appropriations.

62 (4) On or before October 1, 2015, and biennially thereafter through  
63 and including 2019, the department shall, in collaboration with the  
64 Department of Education, Department of Social Services, Department  
65 of Developmental Services, Office of Early Childhood, Department of  
66 Public Health and Court Support Services Division of the Judicial  
67 Branch, submit and present progress reports on the status of  
68 implementation, and any data-driven recommendations to alter or  
69 augment the implementation in accordance with section 11-4a, to the  
70 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
71 having cognizance of matters relating to children and appropriations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-22bb(a)

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require the Commissioner of Children and Families to collaborate with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the development of an implementation plan for meeting the mental, emotional and behavioral health needs of children.

*[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.]*