



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6729

LCO No. 3492



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND ADDICTION SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE
MEMBERSHIP OF VARIOUS ADVISORY BOARDS AND COUNCILS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-470 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [Each state hospital,] On and after January 1, 2024, each state-
4 operated facility [or the Whiting Forensic Hospital] for the treatment of
5 persons with psychiatric disabilities or persons with substance use
6 disorders, or both, [except the Connecticut Mental Health Center, may]
7 shall have an advisory board appointed by the superintendent or
8 director of the facility for terms to be decided by such superintendent or
9 director. The superintendent or director shall appoint persons with
10 lived experience with a behavioral health disorder to the advisory
11 board. In any case where the present number of members of an advisory
12 board is less than the number of members designated by the
13 superintendent or director of the facility, [he] the superintendent or
14 director shall appoint additional members to such board in accordance

15 with this section in such manner that the terms of an approximately
16 equal number of members shall expire in each odd-numbered year. The
17 superintendent or director shall fill any vacancy that may occur for the
18 unexpired portion of any term. No member [may] shall serve more than
19 two successive terms plus the balance of any unexpired term to which
20 [he] the member had been appointed. The superintendent or director of
21 the facility shall be an ex-officio member of the advisory board. Each
22 member of an advisory board of a state-operated facility within the
23 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services assigned a
24 geographical territory shall be a resident of the assigned geographical
25 territory. Members of said advisory boards shall receive no
26 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary
27 expenses involved in the performance of their duties. At least one-third
28 of such members shall be from regional behavioral health action
29 organizations, established pursuant to section 17a-484f, and at least one-
30 third shall be members of the catchment area councils, as provided in
31 section 17a-483, for the catchment areas served by such facility, except
32 that members serving as of October 1, 1977, shall serve out their terms.

33 Sec. 2. Section 17a-471a of the general statutes is repealed and the
34 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

35 (a) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in
36 consultation and coordination with the advisory council established
37 under subsection (b) of this section, shall develop policies and set
38 standards related to clients residing on the Connecticut Valley Hospital
39 campus and to the discharge of such clients from the hospital into the
40 adjacent community. Any such policies and standards shall [assure]
41 ensure that no discharge of any client admitted to Whiting Forensic
42 Hospital under commitment by the Superior Court or transfer from the
43 Department of Correction shall take place without full compliance with
44 sections 17a-511 to 17a-524, inclusive, 17a-566 to 17a-575, inclusive, 17a-
45 580 to 17a-603, inclusive, and 54-56d.

46 (b) There is established a Connecticut Valley Hospital Advisory
47 Council that shall advise the Commissioner of Mental Health and

48 Addiction Services on policies concerning, but not limited to, building
49 use, security, clients residing on the campus and the discharge of clients
50 from the campus into the adjacent community. In addition, the advisory
51 council shall periodically review the implementation of the policies and
52 standards established by the commissioner in consultation with the
53 advisory council. The council shall be composed of six members
54 appointed by the mayor of Middletown, six members appointed by the
55 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services and one
56 member who shall serve as chairperson appointed by the Governor. On
57 and after January 1, 2024, at least two members appointed by the
58 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall have lived
59 experience with a behavioral health disorder.

60 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17a-450a of the general statutes is
61 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
62 *passage*):

63 (a) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
64 constitute a successor department to the Department of Mental Health.
65 Whenever the words "Commissioner of Mental Health" are used or
66 referred to in the following general statutes, the words "Commissioner
67 of Mental Health and Addiction Services" shall be substituted in lieu
68 thereof and whenever the words "Department of Mental Health" are
69 used or referred to in the following general statutes, the words
70 "Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services" shall be
71 substituted in lieu thereof: 4-5, 4-38c, 4-77a, 4a-12, 4a-16, 5-142, 8-206d,
72 10-19, 10-71, 10-76d, 17a-14, 17a-26, 17a-31, 17a-33, 17a-218, 17a-246, 17a-
73 450, 17a-451, 17a-453, 17a-454, 17a-455, 17a-456, 17a-457, 17a-458, 17a-
74 459, [17a-460,] 17a-464, 17a-465, 17a-466, 17a-467, 17a-468, 17a-470, as
75 amended by this act, 17a-471, 17a-472, 17a-473, 17a-474, 17a-476, 17a-
76 478, 17a-479, 17a-480, 17a-481, 17a-482, 17a-483, 17a-498, 17a-499, 17a-
77 502, 17a-506, 17a-510, 17a-511, 17a-512, 17a-513, 17a-519, 17a-528, 17a-
78 560, 17a-561, 17a-562, 17a-565, 17a-581, 17a-582, 17a-675, 17-836a, 17b-
79 28, 17b-59a, 17b-222, 17b-223, 17b-225, 17b-359, 17b-694, 19a-82, 19a-495,
80 19a-498, 19a-507a, 19a-576, 19a-583, 20-14i, 20-14j, 21a-240, 21a-301, 27-
81 122a, 31-222, 38a-514, 51-51o, 52-146h and 54-56d.

82 Sec. 4. Section 17a-460 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
83 *from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-470
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17a-471a
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	17a-450a(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) include persons with lived experience with a behavioral health disorder on (A) advisory boards for state-operated facilities for the treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities or persons with substance use disorders, and (B) the Connecticut Valley Hospital Advisory Council, and (2) eliminate the Connecticut Mental Health Center Advisory Board.

[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.]