



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6729

January Session, 2023



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 Section 17a-470 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 October 1, 2023*):

3 Each [state hospital,] state-operated facility [or the Whiting Forensic
4 Hospital] for the treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities or
5 persons with substance use disorders, or both, [except the Connecticut
6 Mental Health Center, may] shall have an advisory board appointed by
7 the superintendent or director of the facility for terms to be decided by
8 such superintendent or director. The superintendent or director shall
9 appoint persons with lived experience with a behavioral health disorder
10 to the advisory board. In any case where the present number of
11 members of an advisory board is less than the number of members
12 designated by the superintendent or director of the facility, [he] the
13 superintendent or director shall appoint additional members to such
14 board in accordance with this section in such manner that the terms of
15 an approximately equal number of members shall expire in each odd-
16 numbered year. The superintendent or director shall fill any vacancy
17 that may occur for the unexpired portion of any term. No member [may]

18 shall serve more than two successive terms plus the balance of any
19 unexpired term to which [he] the member had been appointed. The
20 superintendent or director of the facility shall be an ex-officio member
21 of the advisory board. Each member of an advisory board of a state-
22 operated facility within the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
23 Services assigned a geographical territory shall be a resident of the
24 assigned geographical territory. Members of said advisory boards shall
25 receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for
26 necessary expenses involved in the performance of their duties. At least
27 one-third of such members shall be from regional behavioral health
28 action organizations, established pursuant to section 17a-484f, and at
29 least one-third shall be members of the catchment area councils, as
30 provided in section 17a-483, for the catchment areas served by such
31 facility, except that members serving as of October 1, 1977, shall serve
32 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>October 1, 2023</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

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*