



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 919

January Session, 2023



AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY CHILDHOOD AND ADULT PSYCHOSIS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study childhood and adult psychosis. Such study shall include, but
3 need not be limited to, an examination of (1) the establishment of, in
4 collaboration with the Departments of Children and Families and
5 Mental Health and Addiction Services, clinics staffed by mental health
6 care providers in various fields who provide comprehensive care for
7 children and adults who are experiencing symptoms of early or first
8 episode psychosis to prevent symptoms from becoming disabling, (2)
9 early evaluation of children and adults with symptoms of a psychosis
10 and management of such symptoms, including, but not limited to,
11 initiating treatment and making any necessary referrals for additional
12 treatment or services, (3) creating (A) care pathways that include
13 specialty teams that treat children and adults who are experiencing
14 early or first episode psychosis, (B) a state-wide model for
15 coordinating specialty care for children and adults experiencing
16 psychosis, as recommended by the National Institute of Mental Health,
17 and (C) services for such children and adults, including, but not
18 limited to, collaboration on psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy,
19 family support, education, coordination with community support
20 services and collaboration with employers and education systems, and

21 (4) strengthening existing clinical networks that treat children and
22 adults experiencing psychosis with a focus on collaborative research
23 and outcomes. As used in this subsection, "psychosis" means a severe
24 mental condition in which disruptions to a person's thoughts and
25 perceptions make it difficult for the person to recognize what is real
26 and what is not real and are often experienced as seeing, hearing and
27 believing things that are not real or having strange, persistent
28 thoughts, behaviors and emotions, including, but not limited to,
29 hallucinations and delusions.

30 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

31 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
32 one of whom shall be a child and adolescent psychiatrist with
33 experience treating patients with psychosis and one of whom shall be a
34 clinical researcher in the field of psychosis;

35 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
36 of whom shall be a psychiatrist with experience treating adults with
37 psychosis and one of whom shall be a clinical researcher in the field of
38 psychosis;

39 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
40 Representatives, who shall be the parent or guardian of a child or
41 adolescent who has been treated for psychosis;

42 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
43 an adult who has been treated for psychosis;

44 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
45 Representatives, who shall be a licensed mental health care provider
46 who has treated children or adolescents with psychosis;

47 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
48 a licensed mental health care provider who has treated adults with
49 psychosis;

50 (7) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
51 the commissioner's designee; and

52 (8) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
53 commissioner's designee.

54 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
55 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
56 of the General Assembly.

57 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
58 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
59 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

60 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
61 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
62 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
63 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
64 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

65 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
66 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
67 health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

68 (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a
69 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
70 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
71 relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions of section
72 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
73 that it submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PH Joint Favorable Subst.