



General Assembly

Amendment

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LCO No. 5301



Offered by:

SEN. BARTOLOMEO, 13th Dist.

REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.

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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4 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*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. A case supervisor or manager shall approve all
42 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. The provider shall monitor the family's
60 participation and progress with the plan of care.

61 (6) The community provider shall maintain ongoing contact with
62 the family through in-person meetings, visits to the home, child and
63 family team meetings and phone calls. If at any time following the
64 referral or during the implementation of the plan of care, the provider
65 has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under
66 eighteen years of age (A) has been abused or neglected, as defined in
67 section 46b-120, (B) has suffered a nonaccidental physical injury or an
68 injury that is at variance with the history given for such injury, or (C) is
69 placed at imminent risk of serious harm, the provider shall report or
70 cause a report to be made in accordance with the provisions of sections
71 17a-101b to 17a-101d, inclusive.

72 (7) The community provider shall schedule an in-person meeting
73 with the family prior to the end of services. The determination to end
74 services shall be based upon the family's preference and progress in
75 meeting the goals outlined in the plan of care. The community
76 provider shall submit individual child and family specific data and
77 administrative service data to the department not later than thirty days
78 after ending services. Such data shall identify the needs of the family,

79 the services and supports made available to address those needs, the
80 family's met and unmet treatment goals, the final disposition at the
81 time of ending services and the reasons for the family's discharge from
82 services, including, but not limited to, met treatment goals, family
83 relocation, the receipt of a new report by the department or transfer of
84 the family to another provider.

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

90 ~~[(2)]~~ (9) The commissioner [may] shall adopt procedures to establish
91 a method for the department to monitor the progress of the child and
92 family referred to a community provider pursuant to subdivision (1) of
93 this subsection and to set standards for reopening an investigation
94 pursuant to this section. Such standards shall include, but need not be
95 limited to, provisions for the reassignment of a report referred for
96 family assessment response for an immediate investigation based on
97 (A) a reassessment of the initial report of child abuse or neglect or the
98 discovery of new or additional facts indicating that the child is unsafe,
99 or (B) a determination that the report meets the criteria of subdivision
100 (3) of this subsection and, as a result, does not qualify for family
101 assessment response. Not later than January 1, 2017, the commissioner
102 shall submit a report regarding such procedures and standards, in
103 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
104 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
105 relating to children.

106 ~~[(3)]~~ (10) Consistent with the provisions of section 17a-28, the
107 department shall disclose all relevant information in its possession
108 concerning the child and family, including prior child protection
109 activity, to each provider to whom a report has been referred for use
110 by the provider in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of unique
111 needs of the family and the prevention of future reports. Each provider

112 who has received a report of child abuse or neglect referred pursuant
113 to this subsection shall disclose to the department, consistent with the
114 provisions of section 17a-28, all relevant information gathered during
115 assessment, diagnosis and treatment of the child and family. The
116 department may use such information solely to monitor and ensure
117 the continued safety and well-being of the child or children.

118 (11) Not later than July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the
119 department shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
120 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
121 having cognizance of matters relating to children for inclusion in the
122 annual report card prepared pursuant to section 2-53m on the status of
123 family assessment response. Such report shall include data from the
124 previous calendar year, including, but not limited to: (A) The number
125 of accepted reports of child abuse or neglect, and the percentage of
126 reports assigned to the family assessment response track; (B) the
127 disposition of families assigned a family assessment response; (C) for
128 cases assigned to the family assessment response track, a breakdown
129 by reporter type; (D) the number and percentage of family assessment
130 response cases that changed track to investigations; (E) an analysis of
131 the department's prior or subsequent involvement with a family that
132 has been assigned to family assessment response, if applicable; (F) an
133 analysis of the department's prior or subsequent involvement with a
134 family that has been assigned to a community partner agency; (G) a
135 description of services that are commonly provided to families referred
136 to the community support for families program; (H) a description of
137 the department's staff development and training practices relating to
138 intake; (I) the number and percentage of referred families who were
139 ultimately enrolled in the community support for families program; (J)
140 the number and percentage of families receiving a family assessment
141 response broken down by race and ethnicity; (K) the reason for
142 discharge from the community support for families program, as
143 identified in subdivision (7) of this subsection, broken down by race
144 and ethnicity; and (L) a comparison of the needs identified and the
145 needs addressed for families referred to the community support for

146 families program."

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