



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 165

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6510

House of Representatives, March 29, 2021

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than December
2 1, 2021, the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council
3 established pursuant to section 17a-22j of the general statutes, in
4 consultation with the Department of Children and Families, the
5 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department
6 of Public Health and the Youth Suicide Advisory Board established
7 pursuant to section 17a-52 of the general statutes, shall develop
8 documents concerning behavioral and mental health evaluation and
9 treatment resources for children in each mental health region
10 designated pursuant to section 17a-478 of the general statutes.

11 (b) Such documents shall contain, but need not be limited to, contact
12 information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and a list of (1)
13 providers of such resources, including, but not limited to, mobile crisis

14 intervention services, (2) the physical location of each provider, if
 15 applicable, (3) the types of services offered by each provider, and (4)
 16 contact information for each provider. The council shall distribute such
 17 documents electronically to each hospital licensed pursuant to chapter
 18 368v of the general statutes that has an emergency department and
 19 make such documents available on its Internet web site.

20 (c) On and after January 1, 2022, each hospital emergency department
 21 shall provide a copy of one or more documents developed pursuant to
 22 subsection (a) of this section to the parent or guardian of any child that
 23 (1) exhibits symptoms consistent with a psychiatric disability or
 24 behavioral health disorder, or (2) was evaluated in such department as
 25 a result of exhibiting such symptoms, upon the discharge of such child
 26 from such department.

27 (d) Not later than December 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
 28 Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council shall review the
 29 documents developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this subsection and
 30 update such documents as necessary. If such documents are updated,
 31 the council shall distribute and make such updated documents available
 32 in the manner described in subsection (b) of this section.

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
 Section 1(a)(1) was redrafted and redesignated as Subsec. (a) and new Subsec. (b), Section 1(a)(2) was redesignated as new Subsec. (d), and Section 1(b) was redesignated as new Subsec. (c) for clarity.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill, which makes various requirements of the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council and hospital emergency departments, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6510*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council (BHPOC), by December 1, 2021, to develop a document for each mental health region describing the resources available to children with psychiatric disabilities and behavioral health disorders. BHPOC must do so in consultation with the departments of Children and Families (DCF), Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Public Health and DCF's Youth Suicide Advisory Board.

Under the bill, the council must (1) distribute the documents electronically to each licensed hospital that has an emergency department; (2) make them available on the council's website; and (3) starting December 1, 2022, annually review them and distribute and post any updates.

The bill also requires hospital emergency departments, starting on January 1, 2022, to provide a copy of one or more of the documents to the parents or guardians of children who (1) exhibit symptoms consistent with a psychiatric disability or behavioral health disorder or (2) the department evaluated as a result of exhibiting such symptoms. The hospital emergency department must do so upon discharging the child. Under the bill, documents must be specifically developed for the mental health region or regions where the hospital is located and where the child lives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

DOCUMENT DESCRIBING AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Under the bill, each document must provide information on mental health evaluation and treatment resources available to children with psychiatric disabilities and behavioral health disorders in their respective mental health region.

The documents must contain contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and a list of evaluation and treatment providers, including mobile crisis intervention services providers. The list must include the providers' physical locations, if applicable; types of services offered; and contact information.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/11/2021)