



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5677**

January Session, 2021



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Community violence" means intentional acts of interpersonal  
3 violence committed by individuals who are not intimately related to the  
4 victim.

5 (2) "Community violence prevention services" means evidence-  
6 based, trauma-informed, supportive and nonpsychotherapeutic  
7 services provided by a qualified violence prevention professional,  
8 within or outside of a clinical setting, for the purpose of promoting  
9 improved health outcomes and positive behavioral change, preventing  
10 injury recidivism and reducing the likelihood that individuals who are  
11 victims of community violence will commit or promote violence  
12 themselves. "Community violence prevention services" may include the  
13 provision of peer support and counseling, mentorship, conflict  
14 mediation, crisis intervention, targeted case management, referrals to  
15 certified or licensed health care professionals or social services  
16 providers, patient education or screening services to victims of  
17 community violence.

18 (3) "Prevention professional" has the same meaning as described by

19 the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC), or its successor, under  
20 NUCC Code Number 405300000X.

21 (4) "Qualified violence prevention professional" means a prevention  
22 professional who meets all of the conditions specified in subsection (c)  
23 of this section.

24 (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Social Services,  
25 in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall amend  
26 the Medicaid state plan to make community violence prevention  
27 services available, to the extent permitted by federal law, to any  
28 Medicaid beneficiary who has: (A) Received medical treatment for an  
29 injury sustained as a result of an act of community violence, and (B) been  
30 referred by a certified or licensed health care provider or social services  
31 provider to receive community violence prevention services from a  
32 qualified violence prevention professional, after such provider  
33 determines such beneficiary to be at elevated risk of a violent injury or  
34 retaliation resulting from another act of community violence.

35 (2) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek any federal  
36 approvals necessary to implement this section, including, but not  
37 limited to, any state plan amendments or federal waivers by the federal  
38 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This subsection shall be  
39 implemented only to the extent that federal financial participation is  
40 available, and any necessary federal approvals have been obtained.

41 (c) Any prevention professional seeking certification as a qualified  
42 violence prevention professional shall:

43 (1) Complete at least six months of full-time equivalent experience in  
44 providing community violence prevention services through  
45 employment, volunteer work or as part of an internship experience;

46 (2) Complete an accredited training and certification program for  
47 qualified violence prevention professionals, approved in accordance  
48 with subsection (d) of this section, or be certified as a violence  
49 prevention professional by the Health Alliance for Violence

50 Intervention prior to October 1, 2021;

51 (3) Complete annually at least four hours of continuing education,  
52 offered by the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention or any other  
53 provider approved by the Commissioner of Public Health, in the field  
54 of community violence prevention services; and

55 (4) Satisfy any other requirements established by the Commissioner  
56 of Public Health for certification as a qualified violence prevention  
57 professional.

58 (d) On or before January 1, 2022, the Department of Public Health  
59 shall approve at least one governmental or nongovernmental  
60 accrediting body with expertise in community violence prevention  
61 services to review and approve training and certification programs for  
62 qualified violence prevention professionals. The accrediting body shall  
63 approve programs that such body determines, in its discretion, will  
64 adequately prepare individuals to provide community violence  
65 prevention services to individuals who are victims of community  
66 violence. Such programs shall include at least thirty-five hours of  
67 training, collectively addressing all of the following:

68 (1) The profound effects of trauma and violence and the basics of  
69 trauma-informed care;

70 (2) Community violence prevention strategies, including, but not  
71 limited to, conflict mediation and retaliation prevention related to  
72 community violence;

73 (3) Case management and advocacy practices; and

74 (4) Patient privacy and the federal Health Insurance Portability and  
75 Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time,  
76 (HIPAA).

77 (e) Any entity that employs or contracts with a qualified violence  
78 prevention professional to provide community violence prevention

79 services shall:

80 (1) Maintain documentation that the qualified violence prevention  
81 professional has met all of the conditions described in subsection (c) of  
82 this section; and

83 (2) Ensure that the qualified violence prevention professional is  
84 providing community violence prevention services in compliance with  
85 any applicable standards of care, rules, regulations and governing law  
86 of the state or federal government.

87 (f) Nothing in this section shall alter the scope of practice for any  
88 health care professional or authorize the delivery of health care services  
89 in a setting or in a manner that is not currently authorized.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2021	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a)(2) and Section 1(a)(3) the definitions of "Community violence prevention services" and "Prevention professional" were redrafted for clarity and consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**PH** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO