



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5433

LCO No. 2166



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:
(APP)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL ON MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Council on Mental and Behavioral Health Program Oversight which
3 shall advise the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services
4 on the planning and implementation of the delivery system for mental
5 and behavioral health programs and services, including services for the
6 treatment of substance use disorder. The council shall monitor planning
7 and implementation of matters related to mental and behavioral health
8 program initiatives including, but not limited to, (1) eligibility
9 standards, (2) benefits, (3) access, (4) quality assurance, and (5) outcome
10 measures.

11 (b) The council shall be composed of the following members:

12 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
13 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
14 relating to public health, human services, children and appropriations
15 and the budgets of state agencies, or their designees;

16 (2) Five appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
17 one of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly, one of whom
18 shall be a community provider of adult mental or behavioral health
19 services, one of whom shall be a consumer of adult mental or behavioral
20 health services or an advocate for such consumers, one of whom shall
21 be a representative of a federally qualified health center that provides
22 psychiatric services and one of whom shall be a member of the
23 Connecticut Hospital Association;

24 (3) Five appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
25 whom shall be a member of the General Assembly, one of whom shall
26 be a representative of a nonprofit agency that provides mental and
27 behavioral health services, one of whom shall be a representative of a
28 for-profit agency that provides mental or behavioral health services, one
29 of whom shall be a licensed health care provider of mental or behavioral
30 health services and one of whom shall be a licensed alcohol and drug
31 counselor;

32 (4) Three appointed by the majority leader of the House of
33 Representatives, one of whom shall be an advocate for persons with
34 substance use disorder, one of whom shall be a family member of a
35 person with substance use disorder and one of whom shall be a
36 representative of a facility that provides in-patient substance use
37 disorder services;

38 (5) Three appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
39 shall be a community provider of mental or behavioral health services
40 for children and young adults, one of whom shall be the family member
41 of a child or young adult who is a consumer of mental or behavioral
42 health services, and one of whom is an advocate for such consumers;

43 (6) Three appointed by the minority leader of the House of
44 Representatives;

45 (7) Three appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

46 (8) The Commissioners of Public Health, Social Services, Children

47 and Families, and Mental Health and Addiction Services, or their
48 designees, who shall be ex-officio nonvoting members;

49 (9) The Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee, who shall be an
50 ex-officio nonvoting member; and

51 (10) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
52 secretary's designee, who shall be an ex-officio nonvoting member.

53 (c) The council shall choose a chairperson from among its members.
54 The Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall provide
55 administrative support to such chairperson.

56 (d) The council shall monitor and make recommendations
57 concerning: (1) Access to quality mental and behavioral health services
58 and effective outreach; (2) the sufficiency of providers of mental and
59 behavioral health services for adults and children throughout the state;
60 (3) the sufficiency of provider rates to maintain service access; (4)
61 funding and agency personnel resources to ensure timely access to
62 services and effective management of mental and behavioral health
63 programs; (5) the linguistic and cultural competency of providers; (6)
64 program quality, including outcome measures and continuous quality
65 improvement initiatives; (7) timely, accessible and effective consumer
66 grievance procedures; and (8) the need for program quality studies
67 within the areas identified in this section and the Department of Mental
68 Health and Addiction Services' application for available grant funds for
69 such studies.

70 (e) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
71 provide monthly reports to the council on the matters described in
72 subsection (d) of this section, including, but not limited to, policy
73 changes and proposed regulations that affect mental and behavioral
74 health services. The commissioner shall also provide the council with
75 quarterly financial reports for department expenditures on mental and
76 behavioral health services.

77 (f) The council shall biannually report on its activities and progress to

78 the General Assembly.

79 (g) (1) There is established, within the Council on Mental and
80 Behavioral Health Program Oversight, a standing subcommittee to
81 study and make recommendations to the council on substance use
82 disorder programs and services. The subcommittee shall consist of
83 council members appointed by the chairpersons of the council and other
84 individuals who shall serve for terms prescribed by the cochairpersons
85 to advise the council on specific needs of children and adults with
86 substance use disorder. For the purposes of completing the report
87 required pursuant to this subsection, such individuals shall include, but
88 need not be limited to: (A) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's
89 designee; (B) a family or child advocate; (C) the executive director of the
90 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, or the
91 executive director's designee; (D) an expert in the diagnosis, evaluation,
92 education and treatment of children and young adults with substance
93 use disorder; (E) an expert in the diagnosis, evaluation, education and
94 treatment of adults with substance use disorder; and (F) the Healthcare
95 Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee.

96 (2) Not later than July 1, 2023, the subcommittee shall submit a report,
97 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes to the council,
98 the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General
99 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human
100 services, public health and appropriations and the budgets of state
101 agencies regarding the sufficiency of treatment and services for children
102 and adults with substance use disorder. Such report shall include, but
103 need not be limited to: (A) Metrics for evaluating the quality of available
104 services; (B) statutory changes needed to promote effective service
105 delivery; and (C) any other changes needed to address gaps in services
106 identified by the subcommittee or council.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
-----------	---------------------	-------------

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a council on mental and behavioral health program oversight.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]