



Substitute House Bill No. 5508

Public Act No. 24-139

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

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

Section 1. Section 46b-121n of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (u) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (u) (1) The committee shall appoint persons to a gender responsiveness subcommittee for purposes of fulfilling the responsibilities described in this subsection and any other task, as directed by the committee.

(2) (A) The gender responsiveness subcommittee shall work in partnership with the Trafficking in Persons Council, established pursuant to section 46a-170, as amended by this act, for the purposes described as follows:

(i) The completion, not later than January 1, 2025, of a landscape analysis and gap assessment of gender responsive work in this state that shall, as part of performing such analysis and assessment: (I) Define "gender responsive" and "gender responsive practice"; (II) receive and consider input from youth, families and communities directly impacted by any gaps in gender responsive work; (III) review national best

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practices, including approaches and types of services provided and system considerations; (IV) review previous work and legislation concerning gender responsive work; (V) identify any gaps in gender responsive work resulting from system or programmatic changes; (VI) review existing work and practices on gender responsiveness among agencies and community providers; and (VII) review data, broken down by race, ethnicity, gender, age, location and level of system involvement, including the type of offenses committed by youth and how such offenses are handled within the juvenile justice system.

(ii) The development, not later than January 1, 2025, of a framework for reporting, collecting and distributing police data on human trafficking for the purpose of generating annual reports concerning such data.

(iii) The development of policy and legislative recommendations based upon the data distributed and reported pursuant to this subparagraph for consideration by the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee and the Trafficking in Persons Council. Such recommendations shall address improvements to the continuum of care to youth who identify as girls and are impacted by the juvenile justice system, and provide for trauma-informed and culturally informed approaches, services, treatment and permanency models for such youth, including, at a minimum, recommendations concerning: (I) Continuity of clinical support across a continuum of placement and treatment settings; (II) specialized treatment in foster care for such youth who have experienced sexual abuse or human trafficking, including youth with intellectual and other developmental disabilities; (III) specialized training for care providers and treatment providers; (IV) consistent and constant sources of support, including peer mentoring and therapy for such youth; (V) programs and practices that are developed with the input of persons who are survivors of sexual abuse or human trafficking; (VI) service and treatment setting options that specifically

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address the needs of children with intellectual and other developmental disabilities; (VII) successful treatment and support models from other states to inform service enhancement in this state; (VIII) supports for youth who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming; (IX) diversion options such as the use of a juvenile review board or other diversion models; and (X) a monitoring framework to ensure quality of the continuum of care provided.

(B) The gender responsiveness subcommittee and the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee, established pursuant to section 2-137, as amended by this act, shall share information on gender responsive practices and policies for youth involved with the child welfare system with the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.

Sec. 2. Section 3 of public act 23-188 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than November 1, [2023] 2024, the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee, and the Commissioners of Children and Families, Education and Correction, or their designees, shall, in consultation with the incarceration, community expertise and education subcommittees of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by public act 23-188 and this act, develop a reentry success plan for youth released from the Department of Correction and facilities and programs under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial Department.

(b) (1) Such plan shall be for the purpose of successfully reintegrating youth into their communities. In the development of such plan, the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee, and the Commissioners of

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Children and Families, Education and Correction, or their designees, in consultation with the incarceration, community expertise and education subcommittees of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, shall consider all aspects deemed necessary for successful implementation of such plan, including, but not limited to: (A) Reentry models and best practices around the country, including reentry hubs, community-based enhanced reentry wraparound services and transitional housing; and (B) expansion of community reentry roundtables and welcome centers that focus on youth.

(2) Such plan shall incorporate restorative and transformative justice principles, including, but not limited to, the (A) provision of individualized academic support and the role of school districts in ensuring the provision of academic, vocational and transition support services; (B) connection of youth to vocational and workforce opportunities; (C) connection of youth to developmentally appropriate housing; (D) delivery of trauma-informed mental health and substance use treatments; (E) development of restorative justice reentry circles; (F) use of credible messengers as mentors or transition support providers for a period lasting up to twenty-four months following the release of a youth from the Department of Correction and facilities and programs under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial Department; and (G) role of reentry coordinators.

(3) Such plan shall ~~(A)~~ include ~~[(A)]~~ (i) a proposed quality assurance framework, including the collection of appropriate data, promulgation of a public dashboard and monitoring framework to ensure the successful discharge and reentry of incarcerated youth, and ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) information concerning federal and state funding sources in support of the comprehensive reentry model and identification of priorities and appropriate timelines for implementation, and (B) ensure that (i) youth released from the Department of Correction and facilities and programs under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial Department

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have started or, whenever possible, completed job readiness or career training programs with imbedded industry-recognized credentials, certifications or licenses, and (ii) the Department of Correction and any programs under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial Department collaborate with the youth and a transition support provider to support the youth in seeking and, whenever possible, finding employment prior to release from such facility or program and sustaining employment after such release.

(c) Not later than [January] December 1, 2024, the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee, and the Commissioners of Children and Families, Education and Correction, or their designees, shall report the plan developed pursuant to this section to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.

Sec. 3. Section 46a-170 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a Trafficking in Persons Council that shall be within the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity for administrative purposes only.

(b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The Chief State's Attorney, or a designee; (2) the Chief Public Defender, or a designee; (3) the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (7) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee; (8) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee; (9) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the

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commissioner's designee; (10) the Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's designee; (11) the director of the Basic Training Division of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, or the director's designee; (12) the Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee; (13) the Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's designee; (14) a chairperson of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the chairperson's designee; (15) one representative of the Office of Victim Services of the Judicial Branch appointed by the Chief Court Administrator; (16) a municipal police chief appointed by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or a designee; (17) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee; (18) an adult victim of trafficking, appointed by the Governor; (19) a judge of the Superior Court, appointed by the Chief Court Administrator; (20) a state's attorney appointed by the Chief State's Attorney; (21) a public defender appointed by the Chief Public Defender; and (22) fifteen public members appointed as follows: The Governor shall appoint three members, one of whom shall represent victims of commercial exploitation of children, one of whom shall represent sex trafficking victims who are children and one of whom shall represent a coalition of children's advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams that are dedicated to serving child abuse victims and their families, the president pro tempore of the Senate shall appoint two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence and one of whom shall represent an organization that provides civil legal services to low-income individuals, the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence and one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Lodging Association, the majority leader of the Senate shall appoint two members, one of whom shall represent an organization that deals with behavioral health needs of women and children and one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint two

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members, one of whom shall represent an organization that advocates on social justice and human rights issues and one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition and one of whom shall represent massage therapists, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members, one of whom shall represent the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, Inc. and one of whom shall represent an organization that works with adult victims of trafficking.

(c) The chairperson of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or a designee, shall serve as chairperson of the council. The members of the council shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(d) The council shall: (1) Hold meetings to provide updates and progress reports, (2) coordinate the collection, analysis and dissemination of data regarding human trafficking, and (3) consult with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers. The council shall meet at least three times per year.

(e) The council may request data and other information from state and local agencies to carry out its duties under this section.

(f) (1) The council shall:

(A) Develop a list of key indicators that a person is a victim of trafficking;

(B) Develop a standardized curriculum and conduct training for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, emergency medical

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services personnel, teachers, school counselors, school administrators and personnel from the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Public Health to identify victims of human trafficking, using the list of key indicators developed under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, and assist such victims;

(C) Develop and conduct training for personnel from the Departments of Children and Families and Public Health on methods for identifying children in foster care who may be at risk of becoming victims of trafficking;

(D) Collaborate with the gender responsiveness subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee pursuant to subsection (u) of section 46b-121n, as amended by this act; and

~~[(D)]~~ (E) Develop a plan for mental health, support and substance abuse programs for individuals identified as victims of trafficking and those arrested for prostitution in violation of section 53a-82. The plan shall provide for (i) the diversion of victims of trafficking and prostitution offenders into community-based treatment and support services, including, but not limited to, substance abuse recovery, housing, healthcare, job training, treatment and mental health support, and (ii) after the successful completion of the program, the dismissal of any related criminal charges against the accused.

(2) The council shall include such plan and any recommendations for legislation to implement the plan as part of any report submitted pursuant of subsection (h) of this section not later than January 1, 2018.

(g) The council shall examine the challenges faced by victims of trafficking who are persons without legal immigration status. The council may recommend services that such persons could benefit from and legislation to provide such services as part of any report submitted pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

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(h) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the council shall submit a report of its activities, including any recommendations for legislation, to the General Assembly in accordance with section 11-4a.

(i) For the purposes of this section, "trafficking" means all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

Sec. 4. Section 2-137 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established a Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee. The committee shall evaluate the availability and efficacy of prevention, early intervention, and behavioral health treatment services and options for children from birth to age eighteen and make recommendations to the General Assembly and executive agencies regarding the governance and administration of the behavioral health care system for children. The committee shall be within the Legislative Department. For purposes of this section, "behavioral health" means mental health and substance use disorders, as well as overall psychological well-being.

(b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

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

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(2) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and two of whom shall be providers of behavioral health services for children in the state;

(3) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and two of whom shall be representatives of private advocacy groups that provide services for children and families in the state;

(4) (A) Two appointed by the chairperson of the committee selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, one of whom shall be a child or youth advocate; and (B) two appointed by the chairperson of the committee selected by the president pro tempore of the Senate pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, one of whom shall be a child or youth advocate;

(5) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be representatives of children's hospitals;

(6) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of public school superintendents in the state;

(7) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be representatives of families with children who have been diagnosed with behavioral health disorders;

(8) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be providers of behavioral health services;

(9) The Commissioners of Children and Families, Correction, Developmental Services, Early Childhood, Education, Insurance, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health and Social Services, or their designees;

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(10) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy, or the executive director's designee;

(11) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

(12) The Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee;

(13) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, or the executive director's designee;

(14) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee;

(15) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; and

(16) One representative from each administrative services organization under contract with the Department of Social Services to provide such services for recipients of assistance under the HUSKY Health program, who shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members.

(c) Any member of the committee appointed under subdivisions (1) to (8), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The chairpersons of the committee shall be (1) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, and (2) two members of the General Assembly, one each selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate from among the members serving pursuant to subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (b) of this section. The three chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the committee, which shall be held not later than September 1, 2023.

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(f) Members of the committee shall serve without compensation, except for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(g) Not later than December 1, 2023, the committee shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, public health, human services and children, and the Office of Policy and Management, regarding the following:

(1) Any statutory and budgetary changes needed concerning the behavioral health system of prevention, development and treatment that the committee recommends to (A) improve developmental and behavioral health outcomes for children; (B) improve transparency and accountability with respect to state-funded services for children and youth with an emphasis on goals identified by the committee for community-based programs and facility-based interventions; and (C) promote the efficient sharing of information by state and state-funded agencies to ensure the regular collection and reporting of data regarding children and families' access to, utilization of and benefit from services necessary to promote public health and behavioral health outcomes for children and youth and their families;

(2) The gaps in services identified by the committee with respect to children and families involved in the behavioral health system, and recommendations to address such gaps in services;

(3) Strengths and barriers identified by the committee that support or impede the behavioral health needs of children and youth with specific recommendations for reforms;

(4) An examination of the way state agencies can work collaboratively through school-based efforts and other processes to improve

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developmental and behavioral health outcomes for children;

(5) An examination of disproportionate access and outcomes across the behavioral health care system for children of color;

(6) An examination of disproportionate access and outcomes across the behavioral health care system for children with developmental disabilities;

(7) A plan to ensure a quality assurance framework for facilities and programs that are part of the behavioral health care system and are operated privately or by the state that includes data regarding efficacy and outcomes; and

(8) A governance structure for the children's behavioral health system that will best facilitate the public policy and healthcare goals of the state to ensure that all children and families, in urban, rural and all other areas of the state, can access high-quality behavioral health care.

(h) The committee may complete its duties under this section after requesting consultation with one or more organizations that focus on children's behavioral health. The committee may accept administrative support and technical and research assistance from any organization.

(i) The committee shall be given access to data collected by the state on matters related to children's behavioral health from the relevant state agencies or directly from contracted administrative service organizations, as applicable.

(j) The committee may include two or more subcommittees chaired by a member of the committee to inform its recommendations. The subcommittees may focus on: Workforce-related issues, school-based health, prevention, and intermediate or acute care. Any subcommittees may examine gaps, reimbursement rates, parity in the outcomes of services or the efficacy of services.

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(k) The committee shall, annually, establish a work plan for reviewing and making follow-up reports on the status or progress of the committee's recommendations and activities. The work plan shall include specific recommendations to improve outcomes related to children's behavioral health and a timeline indicating dates by which specific tasks or outcomes should be achieved.

(l) (1) The committee shall develop a strategic plan that integrates the recommendations identified pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. In developing the plan, the committee may collaborate with any state agency with responsibilities relating to the behavioral health system.

~~[(m)]~~ (2) Not later than December 1, 2024, the committee shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, such plan, together with an account of progress made toward the full implementation of such plan, and any recommendations concerning the implementation of identified goals in the plan to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, public health, human services and children, and the Office of Policy and Management.

(m) The committee shall collaborate with the gender responsiveness subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee pursuant to subsection (u) of section 46b-121n, as amended by this act.