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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024**

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
HOSPITALS -- DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Miller, DiMario, Valverde, Lawson, Lauria, Ujifusa,  
and E Morgan

Date Introduced: January 10, 2024

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 40.1-1-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 40.1-1 entitled  
2 "Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals" is hereby  
3 amended to read as follows:

4           **40.1-1-13. Powers and duties of the office.**

5           Notwithstanding any provision of the Rhode Island general laws to the contrary, the  
6 department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals shall have the  
7 following powers and duties:

8           (1) To establish and promulgate the overall plans, policies, objectives, and priorities for  
9 state substance abuse education, prevention, and treatment; provided, however, that the director  
10 shall obtain and consider input from all interested state departments and agencies prior to the  
11 promulgation of any such plans or policies;

12           (2) Evaluate and monitor all state grants and contracts to local substance abuse service  
13 providers;

14           (3) Develop, provide for, and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive state plan  
15 for substance abuse education, prevention, and treatment;

16           (4) Ensure the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information for planning and  
17 evaluation of substance abuse services;

18           (5) Provide support, guidance, and technical assistance to individuals, local governments,

1 community service providers, public and private organizations in their substance abuse education,  
2 prevention, and treatment activities;

3 (6) Confer with all interested department directors to coordinate the administration of state  
4 programs and policies that directly affect substance abuse treatment and prevention;

5 (7) Seek and receive funds from the federal government and private sources in order to  
6 further the purposes of this chapter;

7 (8) To act in conjunction with the executive office of health and human services as the  
8 state's co-designated agency (42 U.S.C. § 300x-30(a)) for administering federal aid and for the  
9 purposes of the calculation of the expenditures relative to the substance abuse block grant and  
10 federal funding maintenance of effort. The department of behavioral healthcare, developmental  
11 disabilities and hospitals, as the state's substance abuse authority, will have the sole responsibility  
12 for the planning, policy and implementation efforts as it relates to the requirements set forth in  
13 pertinent substance abuse laws and regulations including 42 U.S.C. § 300x-21 et seq.;

14 (9) Propose, review, and/or approve, as appropriate, proposals, policies, or plans involving  
15 insurance and managed care systems for substance abuse services in Rhode Island;

16 (10) To enter into, in compliance with the provisions of chapter 2 of title 37, contractual  
17 relationships and memoranda of agreement as necessary for the purposes of this chapter;

18 (11) To license facilities and programs for the care and treatment of substance abusers and  
19 for the prevention of substance abuse, and provide the list of licensed chemical dependency  
20 professionals (LCDP) and licensed chemical dependency clinical supervisors (LCDCS) (licensed  
21 by the department of health pursuant to chapter 69 of title 5) for use by state agencies including,  
22 but not limited to, the adjudication office of the department of transportation, the district court and  
23 superior court and the division of probation and parole for referral of individuals requiring  
24 substance use disorder treatment;

25 (12) To promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the requirements of this  
26 chapter;

27 (13) Perform other acts and exercise any other powers necessary or convenient to carry out  
28 the intent and purposes of this chapter;

29 (14) To exercise the authority and responsibilities relating to education, prevention, and  
30 treatment of substance abuse, as contained in, but not limited to, the following chapters: chapters  
31 1.10, 10.1, and 28.2 of title 23; chapters 21.2 and 21.3 of title 16; chapter 50.1 of title 42 [repealed];  
32 chapter 109 of title 42; chapter 69 of title 5; and § 35-4-18;

33 (15) To establish a Medicare Part D restricted-receipt account in the hospitals and  
34 community rehabilitation services program to receive and expend Medicare Part D reimbursements

1 from pharmacy benefit providers consistent with the purposes of this chapter;

2 (16) To establish a RICLAS group home operations restricted-receipt account in the  
3 services for the developmentally disabled program to receive and expend rental income from  
4 RICLAS group clients for group home-related expenditures, including food, utilities, community  
5 activities, and the maintenance of group homes;

6 (17) To establish a non-Medicaid, third-party payor restricted-receipt account in the  
7 hospitals and community rehabilitation services program to receive and expend reimbursement  
8 from non-Medicaid, third-party payors to fund hospital patient services that are not Medicaid  
9 eligible; and

10 (18) To certify [any and all](#) recovery housing facilities directly, or through a contracted  
11 entity, as defined by department guidelines, which includes adherence to using National Alliance  
12 for Recovery Residences (NARR) standards. In accordance with a schedule to be determined by  
13 the department, all referrals from state agencies or state-funded facilities shall be to certified  
14 houses, and only certified recovery housing facilities shall be eligible to receive state funding to  
15 deliver recovery housing services. [As of January 1, 2026, all recovery housing facilities shall be  
16 registered with the department and shall adhere to the NARR certification process.](#)

17 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND  
HOSPITALS -- DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS

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1           This act would mandate, as of January 1, 2026, all recovery housing facilities would be  
2 registered with the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals  
3 and shall adhere to the National Alliance for Recovery Residences certification process.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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