

SENATE, No. 2446

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 15, 2008

Sponsored by:
Senator RICHARD J. CODEY
District 27 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Division of Mental Health Services to identify available mental health services and perform needs assessment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning services for persons with mental illness and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Mental
8 Health Services in the Department of Human Services shall:

9 a. prepare an inventory of all public and private inpatient,
10 outpatient and residential behavioral health services in the State, by
11 county and by service area served, if applicable, including the
12 number of treatment beds or treatment capacity of the service, and
13 make the inventory available to the public, upon request;

14 b. establish and implement a methodology, based on nationally
15 recognized criteria, to quantify the usage of and need for inpatient,
16 outpatient, and residential behavioral health services throughout the
17 State, taking into account projected patient care level needs;

18 c. annually assess whether sufficient inpatient, outpatient, and
19 residential behavioral health services are available in each service
20 area of the State, based on the estimated need for such services, in
21 order to ensure timely access to appropriate behavioral health
22 services for persons who are voluntarily admitted or involuntarily
23 committed to inpatient facilities for persons with mental illness in
24 the State, and for persons who need behavioral health services
25 provided by outpatient and community-based programs that support
26 the wellness and recovery for these persons;

27 d. annually identify how the necessary funding for existing and
28 new programs and services will be provided;

29 e. develop procedures to coordinate programs, services, and
30 planning activities with the Division of Child Behavioral Health in
31 the Department of Children and Families, the Divisions of
32 Developmental Disabilities and Addiction Services in the
33 Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the
34 Department of Health and Senior Services, and such other
35 governmental agencies and task forces that address the needs of
36 consumers of mental health services and their families, as the
37 assistant commissioner deems appropriate;

38 f. consult with the New Jersey Hospital Association, the
39 Hospital Alliance of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Council of
40 Teaching Hospitals in carrying out the purposes of this act. The
41 division shall also seek input from Statewide organizations that
42 advocate for persons with mental illness and their families; and

43 g. annually report his findings and recommendations to the
44 Governor and to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior
45 Citizens Committee and the Assembly Human Services Committee,
46 or their successor committees. The first report shall be provided no
47 later than 12 months after the effective date of this act.

1 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following
2 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill requires the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of
8 Mental Health Services in the Department of Human Services to:

- 9 • prepare an inventory of all public and private inpatient,
10 outpatient and residential behavioral health services in the
11 State, by county and by service area served, if applicable,
12 including the number of treatment beds or treatment capacity
13 of the service, and make the inventory available to the public,
14 upon request;
- 15 • establish and implement a methodology, based on nationally
16 recognized criteria, to quantify the usage of and need for
17 inpatient, outpatient, and residential behavioral health services
18 throughout the State, taking into account projected patient care
19 level needs;
- 20 • annually assess whether sufficient inpatient, outpatient, and
21 residential behavioral health services are available in each
22 service area of the State, based on the estimated need for such
23 services, in order to ensure timely access to appropriate
24 behavioral health services for persons who are voluntarily
25 admitted or involuntarily committed to inpatient facilities for
26 persons with mental illness in the State, and for persons who
27 need behavioral health services provided by outpatient and
28 community-based programs that support the wellness and
29 recovery for these persons;
- 30 • annually identify how the necessary funding for existing and
31 new programs and services will be provided;
- 32 • develop procedures to coordinate programs, services, and
33 planning activities with the Division of Child Behavioral
34 Health in the Department of Children and Families, the
35 Divisions of Developmental Disabilities and Addiction
36 Services in the Department of Human Services, the
37 Department of Corrections, the Department of Health and
38 Senior Services, and such other governmental agencies and
39 task forces that address the needs of consumers of mental
40 health services and their families, as the assistant
41 commissioner deems appropriate;
- 42 • consult with the New Jersey Hospital Association, the Hospital
43 Alliance of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Council of
44 Teaching Hospitals in carrying out the purposes of this bill.
45 The assistant commissioner shall also seek input from
46 Statewide organizations that advocate for persons with mental
47 illness and their families; and

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- 1 • annually report his findings and recommendations to the
- 2 Governor and to the Senate Health, Human Services and
- 3 Senior Citizens Committee and the Assembly Human Services
- 4 Committee, or their successor committees. The first report
- 5 shall be provided no later than 12 months after the effective
- 6 date of this bill.
- 7 • The bill takes effect on the 60th day following enactment.