

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/MM

§§1,2
C.30:9A-34
and 30:9A-35
§3
Approp.

P.L. 2024, CHAPTER 100, *approved December 12, 2024*
Senate, No. 3611 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning mental health services for children,
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, and making an
3 appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. The Department of Children and Families shall distribute a
9 grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the New Jersey Health Care
10 Quality Institute to assemble a group of stakeholders to:

11 (1) create a comprehensive visual journey map that outlines
12 families' experiences in obtaining mental health care and related
13 support services for their children;

14 (2) identify the eligibility rules for various pediatric mental
15 health care programs and resources available to children in this
16 State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs and services,
17 and how these programs and services may connect, disconnect, or
18 compete; and

19 (3) provide concrete policy suggestions to improve the structure,
20 funding, mission, and interconnectedness of pediatric mental health
21 care programs ensuring that programs are family- and child-
22 focused.

23 b. The group of stakeholders shall consist of: representatives
24 with subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care
25 services; pediatric mental health care providers; and mental health
26 care program administrators from counties representing the
27 northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

28 c. The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute shall:

29 (1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health
30 care services across: schools; counties; State agencies including, but
31 not limited to, the Departments of Children and Families,
32 Education, Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal
33 system;

34 (2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding
35 structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to
36 children in this State;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted October 7, 2024.

1 (3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus
2 groups with families, health care providers, and program
3 administrators across three counties representing the northern,
4 central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

5 (4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms
6 governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

7 (5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures,
8 reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify
9 financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

10 (6) compile and analyze data on pediatric mental health
11 outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other
12 relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to
13 pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health
14 outcomes across different populations;

15 (7) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this
16 act, prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families
17 a document that visually maps the steps a child and family are
18 required to take in order to access mental health care services,
19 covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the
20 provision of mental health care and noting all the interactions,
21 required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental
22 health care; and

23 (8) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this
24 act, prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families
25 a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage details,
26 and payment policies for pediatric mental health care programs
27 available to children in the State; identifies any key issues related to
28 pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental health
29 outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's policy
30 recommendations to **1**[pediatric]**1** improve **1**pediatric**1** mental
31 health care program structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and
32 interconnectedness.

33

34 2. a. No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this
35 act, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit to the
36 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
37 19.1), to the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to
38 paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection **1**[i.] c.**1** of section 1 of this
39 act.

40 b. The commissioner shall make the documents required
41 pursuant to paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection **1**[i.] c.**1** of section
42 1 of this act available to the public on the Department of Children
43 and Families' Internet website.

44

45 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
46 Department of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to
47 effectuate the purposes of this act.

S3611 [1R]

3

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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5

6 Provides grant to study and map mental health care resources for
7 children; makes appropriation.

CHAPTER 100

AN ACT concerning mental health services for children, supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

C.30:9A-34 Grant to study mental health care resources for children.

1. a. The Department of Children and Families shall distribute a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute to assemble a group of stakeholders to:

(1) create a comprehensive visual journey map that outlines families' experiences in obtaining mental health care and related support services for their children;

(2) identify the eligibility rules for various pediatric mental health care programs and resources available to children in this State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs and services, and how these programs and services may connect, disconnect, or compete; and

(3) provide concrete policy suggestions to improve the structure, funding, mission, and interconnectedness of pediatric mental health care programs ensuring that programs are family- and child-focused.

b. The group of stakeholders shall consist of: representatives with subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care services; pediatric mental health care providers; and mental health care program administrators from counties representing the northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

c. The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute shall:

(1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health care services across: schools; counties; State agencies including, but not limited to, the Departments of Children and Families, Education, Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal system;

(2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to children in this State;

(3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus groups with families, health care providers, and program administrators across three counties representing the northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

(4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

(5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures, reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

(6) compile and analyze data on pediatric mental health outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health outcomes across different populations;

(7) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this act, prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families a document that visually maps the steps a child and family are required to take in order to access mental health care services, covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the provision of mental health care and noting all the interactions, required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental health care; and

(8) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this act, prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage details, and payment policies for pediatric mental health care programs available to children in the State; identifies any key issues related to pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental health outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's policy

recommendations to improve pediatric mental health care program structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and interconnectedness.

C.30:9A-35 Documents prepared relating to mental health care resources for children, submit to Governor, Legislature, made available on website, Department of Children and Families.

2. a. No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this act, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection c. of section 1 of this act.

b. The commissioner shall make the documents required pursuant to paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection c. of section 1 of this act available to the public on the Department of Children and Families' Internet website.

3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 12, 2024.

SENATE, No. 3611

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Henry

SYNOPSIS

Provides grant to study and map mental health care resources for children; makes appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/7/2024)

S3611 SCUTARI

2

1 AN ACT concerning mental health services for children,
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, and making an
3 appropriation.

4

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

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9 grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the New Jersey Health Care
10 Quality Institute to assemble a group of stakeholders to:

11 (1) create a comprehensive visual journey map that outlines
12 families' experiences in obtaining mental health care and related
13 support services for their children;

14 (2) identify the eligibility rules for various pediatric mental
15 health care programs and resources available to children in this
16 State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs and services,
17 and how these programs and services may connect, disconnect, or
18 compete; and

19 (3) provide concrete policy suggestions to improve the structure,
20 funding, mission, and interconnectedness of pediatric mental health
21 care programs ensuring that programs are family- and child-
22 focused.

23 b. The group of stakeholders shall consist of: representatives
24 with subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care
25 services; pediatric mental health care providers; and mental health
26 care program administrators from counties representing the
27 northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

28 c. The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute shall:

29 (1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health care
30 services across: schools; counties; State agencies including, but not
31 limited to, the Departments of Children and Families, Education,
32 Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal system;

33 (2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding
34 structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to
35 children in this State;

36 (3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus
37 groups with families, health care providers, and program
38 administrators across three counties representing the northern,
39 central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

40 (4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms
41 governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

42 (5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures,
43 reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify
44 financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

45 (6) compile and analyze data on pediatric mental health
46 outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other
47 relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to
48 pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health
49 outcomes across different populations;

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3

1 (7) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this
2 act, prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families
3 a document that visually maps the steps a child and family are
4 required to take in order to access mental health care services,
5 covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the
6 provision of mental health care and noting all the interactions,
7 required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental
8 health care; and

9 (8) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this
10 act, prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families
11 a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage details,
12 and payment policies for pediatric mental health care programs
13 available to children in the State; identifies any key issues related to
14 pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental health
15 outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's policy
16 recommendations to pediatric improve mental health care program
17 structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and interconnectedness.

18

19 2. a. No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this
20 act, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit to the
21 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
22 19.1), to the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to
23 paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection i. of section 1 of this act.

24 b. The commissioner shall make the documents required
25 pursuant to paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection i. of section 1 of
26 this act available to the public on the Department of Children and
27 Families' Internet website.

28

29 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
30 Department of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to
31 effectuate the purposes of this act.

32

33 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

34

35

36

STATEMENT

37

38 This bill requires the Department of Children and Families to
39 distribute a \$1,000,000 grant to the New Jersey Health Care Quality
40 Institute to study and map mental health care resources for children.

41 Under the bill, the New Jersey Health Care Quality will be
42 required to assemble a group of stakeholders to: create a
43 comprehensive visual journey map that outlines families'
44 experiences in obtaining mental health care and related support
45 services for their children; identify the eligibility rules for various
46 pediatric mental health care programs and resources available to
47 children in this State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs
48 and services, and how these programs and services may connect,

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4

1 disconnect, or compete; and provide concrete policy suggestions to
2 improve the structure, funding, mission, and interconnectedness of
3 pediatric mental health care programs ensuring that programs are
4 family- and child-focused.

5 The group of stakeholders will consist of: representatives with
6 subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care services;
7 pediatric mental health care providers; and mental health care
8 program administrators from counties representing the northern,
9 central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

10 Under the bill, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute will be
11 required to:

12 (1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health care
13 services across: schools; counties; State agencies including, but not
14 limited to, the Departments of Children and Families, Education,
15 Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal system;

16 (2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding
17 structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to
18 children in this State;

19 (3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus
20 groups with families, health care providers, and program
21 administrators across three counties representing the northern,
22 central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

23 (4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms
24 governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

25 (5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures,
26 reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify
27 financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

28 (6) compile and analyze data on pediatric mental health
29 outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other
30 relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to
31 pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health
32 outcomes across different populations;

33 (7) prepare and submit to the Department of Children and
34 Families a document that visually maps the steps a child and family
35 are required to take in order to access mental health care services,
36 covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the
37 provision of mental health care and noting all the interactions,
38 required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental
39 health care; and

40 (8) prepare and submit to the Department of Children and
41 Families a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage
42 details, and payment policies for pediatric mental health care
43 programs available to children in the State; identifies any key issues
44 related to pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental
45 health outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's
46 policy recommendations to pediatric improve mental health care
47 program structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and
48 interconnectedness.

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5

1 No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this bill,
2 the Commissioner of Children and Families will submit to the
3 Governor and the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to
4 the bill. The commissioner will also make the documents available
5 to the public on the Department of Children and Families' Internet
6 website.

7 The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department
8 of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to effectuate the
9 purposes of this bill.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3611

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

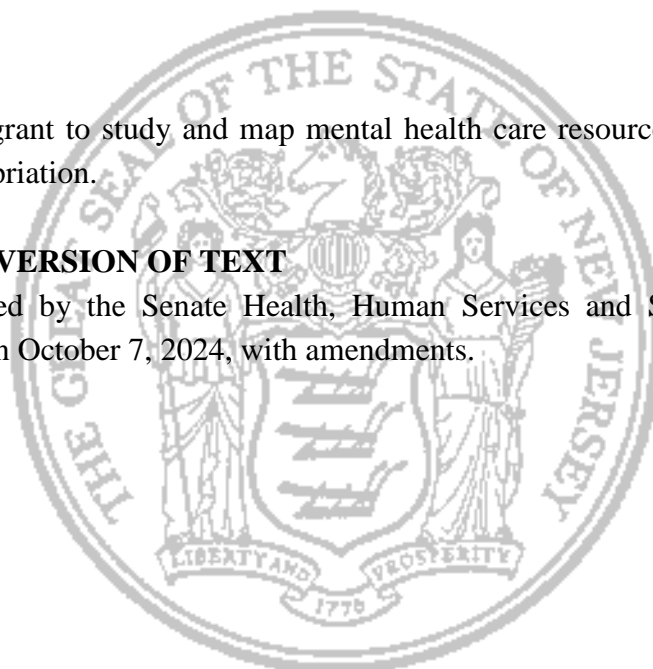
**Senator Henry, Assemblywomen Lampitt, Peterpaul, Donlon, Park,
Senators Burgess, Diegnan and Ruiz**

SYNOPSIS

Provides grant to study and map mental health care resources for children; makes appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on October 7, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning mental health services for children,
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, and making an
3 appropriation.

4

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

7

8 1. a. The Department of Children and Families shall distribute a
9 grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the New Jersey Health Care
10 Quality Institute to assemble a group of stakeholders to:

11 (1) create a comprehensive visual journey map that outlines
12 families' experiences in obtaining mental health care and related
13 support services for their children;

14 (2) identify the eligibility rules for various pediatric mental
15 health care programs and resources available to children in this
16 State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs and services,
17 and how these programs and services may connect, disconnect, or
18 compete; and

19 (3) provide concrete policy suggestions to improve the structure,
20 funding, mission, and interconnectedness of pediatric mental health
21 care programs ensuring that programs are family- and child-
22 focused.

23 b. The group of stakeholders shall consist of: representatives
24 with subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care
25 services; pediatric mental health care providers; and mental health
26 care program administrators from counties representing the
27 northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

28 c. The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute shall:

29 (1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health
30 care services across: schools; counties; State agencies including, but
31 not limited to, the Departments of Children and Families,
32 Education, Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal
33 system;

34 (2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding
35 structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to
36 children in this State;

37 (3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus
38 groups with families, health care providers, and program
39 administrators across three counties representing the northern,
40 central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

41 (4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms
42 governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

43 (5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures,
44 reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify
45 financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted October 7, 2024.

1 (6) compile and analyze data on pediatric mental health
2 outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other
3 relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to
4 pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health
5 outcomes across different populations;

6 (7) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this
7 act, prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families
8 a document that visually maps the steps a child and family are
9 required to take in order to access mental health care services,
10 covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the
11 provision of mental health care and noting all the interactions,
12 required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental
13 health care; and

14 (8) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this
15 act, prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families
16 a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage details,
17 and payment policies for pediatric mental health care programs
18 available to children in the State; identifies any key issues related to
19 pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental health
20 outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's policy
21 recommendations to **1**[pediatric]**1** improve 1pediatric¹ mental
22 health care program structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and
23 interconnectedness.
24

25 2. a. No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this
26 act, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit to the
27 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
28 19.1), to the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to
29 paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection **1**[i.] c.¹ of section 1 of this
30 act.

31 b. The commissioner shall make the documents required
32 pursuant to paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection **1**[i.] c.¹ of section
33 1 of this act available to the public on the Department of Children
34 and Families' Internet website.
35

36 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
37 Department of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to
38 effectuate the purposes of this act.
39

40 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 3611

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 7, 2024

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3611.

As amended by the committee, this bill requires the Department of Children and Families to distribute a \$1,000,000 grant to the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute to study and map mental health care resources for children.

Under the bill, the New Jersey Health Care Quality will be required to assemble a group of stakeholders to: create a comprehensive visual journey map that outlines families' experiences in obtaining mental health care and related support services for their children; identify the eligibility rules for various pediatric mental health care programs and resources available to children in this State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs and services, and how these programs and services may connect, disconnect, or compete; and provide concrete policy suggestions to improve the structure, funding, mission, and interconnectedness of pediatric mental health care programs ensuring that programs are family- and child-focused.

The group of stakeholders will consist of: representatives with subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care services; pediatric mental health care providers; and mental health care program administrators from counties representing the northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

Under the bill, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute will be required to:

- (1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health care services across: schools; counties; State agencies including, but not limited to, the Departments of Children and Families, Education, Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal system;
- (2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to children in this State;
- (3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus groups with families, health care providers, and program

administrators across three counties representing the northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

(4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

(5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures, reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

(6) compile and analyze data on pediatric mental health outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health outcomes across different populations;

(7) prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families a document that visually maps the steps a child and family are required to take in order to access mental health care services, covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the provision of mental health care and noting all the interactions, required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental health care; and

(8) prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage details, and payment policies for pediatric mental health care programs available to children in the State; identifies any key issues related to pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental health outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's policy recommendations to improve pediatric mental health care program structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and interconnectedness.

No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this bill, the Commissioner of Children and Families will submit to the Governor and the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to the bill. The commissioner will also make the documents available to the public on the Department of Children and Families' Internet website.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to effectuate the purposes of this bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments make various technical changes to correct grammar, syntax, and citation.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4970

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 21, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Lampitt, Peterpaul, Donlon and Park

SYNOPSIS

Provides grant to study and map mental health care resources for children; makes appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning mental health services for children,
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, and making an
3 appropriation.

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

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8 1. a. The Department of Children and Families shall distribute a
9 grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the New Jersey Health Care
10 Quality Institute to assemble a group of stakeholders to:

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12 families' experiences in obtaining mental health care and related
13 support services for their children;

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15 health care programs and resources available to children in this
16 State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs and services,
17 and how these programs and services may connect, disconnect, or
18 compete; and

19 (3) provide concrete policy suggestions to improve the structure,
20 funding, mission, and interconnectedness of pediatric mental health
21 care programs ensuring that programs are family- and child-
22 focused.

23 b. The group of stakeholders shall consist of: representatives
24 with subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care
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26 care program administrators from counties representing the
27 northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

28 c. The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute shall:

29 (1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health care
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31 limited to, the Departments of Children and Families, Education,
32 Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal system;

33 (2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding
34 structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to
35 children in this State;

36 (3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus
37 groups with families, health care providers, and program
38 administrators across three counties representing the northern,
39 central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

40 (4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms
41 governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

42 (5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures,
43 reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify
44 financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

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46 outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other
47 relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to

1 pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health
2 outcomes across different populations;

3 (7) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this
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6 required to take in order to access mental health care services,
7 covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the
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9 required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental
10 health care; and

11 (8) no later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this
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13 a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage details,
14 and payment policies for pediatric mental health care programs
15 available to children in the State; identifies any key issues related to
16 pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental health
17 outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's policy
18 recommendations to pediatric improve mental health care program
19 structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and interconnectedness.

20

21 2. a. No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this
22 act, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall submit to the
23 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
24 19.1), to the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to
25 paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection i. of section 1 of this act.

26 b. The commissioner shall make the documents required
27 pursuant to paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection i. of section 1 of
28 this act available to the public on the Department of Children and
29 Families' Internet website.

30

31 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
32 Department of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to
33 effectuate the purposes of this act.

34

35 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

39

40 This bill requires the Department of Children and Families to
41 distribute a \$1,000,000 grant to the New Jersey Health Care Quality
42 Institute to study and map mental health care resources for children.

43 Under the bill, the New Jersey Health Care Quality will be
44 required to assemble a group of stakeholders to: create a
45 comprehensive visual journey map that outlines families'
46 experiences in obtaining mental health care and related support
47 services for their children; identify the eligibility rules for various
48 pediatric mental health care programs and resources available to

1 children in this State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs
2 and services, and how these programs and services may connect,
3 disconnect, or compete; and provide concrete policy suggestions to
4 improve the structure, funding, mission, and interconnectedness of
5 pediatric mental health care programs ensuring that programs are
6 family- and child-focused.

7 The group of stakeholders will consist of: representatives with
8 subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care services;
9 pediatric mental health care providers; and mental health care
10 program administrators from counties representing the northern,
11 central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

12 Under the bill, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute will be
13 required to:

14 (1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health care
15 services across: schools; counties; State agencies including, but not
16 limited to, the Departments of Children and Families, Education,
17 Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal system;

18 (2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding
19 structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to
20 children in this State;

21 (3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus
22 groups with families, health care providers, and program
23 administrators across three counties representing the northern,
24 central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

25 (4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms
26 governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

27 (5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures,
28 reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify
29 financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

30 (6) compile and analyze data on pediatric mental health
31 outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other
32 relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to
33 pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health
34 outcomes across different populations;

35 (7) prepare and submit to the Department of Children and
36 Families a document that visually maps the steps a child and family
37 are required to take in order to access mental health care services,
38 covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the
39 provision of mental health care and noting all the interactions,
40 required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental
41 health care; and

42 (8) prepare and submit to the Department of Children and
43 Families a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage
44 details, and payment policies for pediatric mental health care
45 programs available to children in the State; identifies any key issues
46 related to pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental
47 health outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's
48 policy recommendations to pediatric improve mental health care

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5

1 program structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and
2 interconnectedness.

3 No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this bill,
4 the Commissioner of Children and Families will submit to the
5 Governor and the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to
6 the bill. The commissioner will also make the documents available
7 to the public on the Department of Children and Families' Internet
8 website.

9 The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department
10 of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to effectuate the
11 purposes of this bill.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4970

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 24, 2024

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4970.

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families to distribute a \$1,000,000 grant to the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute to study and map mental health care resources for children.

Under the bill, the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute will be required to assemble a group of stakeholders to: (1) create a comprehensive visual journey map that outlines families' experiences in obtaining mental health care and related support services for their children; (2) identify the eligibility rules for various pediatric mental health care programs and resources available to children in this State, steps and barriers to accessing these programs and services, and how these programs and services may connect, disconnect, or compete; and (3) provide concrete policy suggestions to improve the structure, funding, mission, and interconnectedness of pediatric mental health care programs ensuring that programs are family- and child-focused.

The group of stakeholders will consist of: (1) representatives with subject matter expertise in pediatric mental health care services; (2) pediatric mental health care providers; and (3) mental health care program administrators from counties representing the northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey.

Under the bill, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute will be required to:

(1) evaluate the current landscape of pediatric mental health care services across: schools; counties; State agencies including, but not limited to, the Departments of Children and Families, Education, Human Services, and Health; insurers; and the legal system;

(2) identify the eligibility rules, covered services, and funding structures for pediatric mental health care programs available to children in this State;

(3) conduct qualitative research through interviews and focus groups with families, health care providers, and program administrators across three counties representing the northern, central, and southern regions of New Jersey;

(4) review the applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms governing pediatric mental health care services in the State;

(5) highlight barriers to care and analyze payment structures, reimbursement rates, and cost-sharing provisions to identify financial barriers to access to pediatric mental health care services;

(6) compile and analyze data on pediatric mental health outcomes, stratified by payer type, race, ethnicity, and other relevant characteristics that can identify disparities in access to pediatric mental health care services and pediatric mental health outcomes across different populations;

(7) prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families a document that visually maps the steps a child and family are required to take in order to access mental health care services, covering the initial contact with a mental health care provider to the provision of mental health care and noting all the interactions, required steps, and encountered barriers related to receiving mental health care; and

(8) prepare and submit to the Department of Children and Families a document that: summarizes eligibility criteria, coverage details, and payment policies for pediatric mental health care programs available to children in the State; identifies any key issues related to pediatric mental health care and any disparities in mental health outcomes in the State; and includes the advisory group's policy recommendations to improve mental health care program structures, efficiency, coverage, funding, and interconnectedness.

No later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this bill, the Commissioner of Children and Families will submit to the Governor and the Legislature the documents prepared pursuant to the bill. The commissioner will also make the documents available to the public on the Department of Children and Families' Internet website.

The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Children and Families the sum of \$1,000,000 to effectuate the purposes of this bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

12/12/2024

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

S-871/A-2286 (A.M. Bucco, Sarlo/Lopez, Dunn) - Establishes eligibility for enrollment in PERS and subsequent retirement benefits for certain county fire instructors under certain conditions

S-1430/A-586 (McKnight, Singleton/Stanley, Atkins, Reynolds-Jackson) - Provides for expanded use of affordable housing voucher program funding

S-1433/A-4433 (Singleton/Conaway) - Designates bridge over Crosswicks Creek on Interstate Highway Route 295 North as “Benjamin Moore and the 693rd Sapper Company Memorial Highway”

S-3611/A-4970 (Scutari, Vitale/Carter, Speight, Reynolds-Jackson) - Provides grant to study and map mental health care resources for children; makes appropriation

SJR-29/AJR-50 (Diegnan, Sarlo/Karabinchak, Stanley) - Designates August of each year as “Professional Engineers Month” in NJ and first Wednesday in August of each year as “Professional Engineering Day”

SJR-71/AJR-25 (Beach, Mukherji/DeAngelo, Danielsen, Venezia) - Designates first week of May of each year as Wounded Warrior Appreciation Week

SJR-103/AJR-60 (Diegnan, Corrado/Conaway, DeAngelo, Speight) - Declares NJ “Purple Heart State”

A-4043/S-3310 (Verrelli, Sampson, Sumter/Lagana, Turner) - Redirects portion of worker’s unemployment compensation trust fund contribution to unemployment compensation administration fund

A-4047/S-2949 (Sampson, Verrelli, Miller/Moriarty, Mukherji) - Revises unemployment compensation law

A-4148/S-3057 (Lampitt, Conaway, Speight/McKnight, Turner) - Requires DOH to develop informational materials on type 1 diabetes and DOE to distribute to parents and guardians of enrolled students

Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bills:

S-2788/A-4569 (Cruz-Perez, Turner/Freiman, Katz, Simmons) – **CONDITIONAL** -Appropriates \$128.241 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes

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