

30:4-177.3

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
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"Family Support For Persons With  
Serious Mental Illness"

**NJSA:** 30:4-177.3

**LAWS OF:** 1995 **CHAPTER:** 314

**BILL NO:** S880

**SPONSOR(S):** Matheussen

**DATE INTRODUCED:** March 21, 1994

**COMMITTEE:** **ASSEMBLY** Senior Citizen  
**SENATE:** Health; Budget

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes Amendments during passage  
First reprint enacted denoted by superscript numbers

**DATE OF PASSAGE:** **ASSEMBLY:** December 18, 1995  
**SENATE:** September 19, 1994

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** January 5, 1995

**FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**SPONSOR STATEMENT:** Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** **ASSEMBLY:** Yes  
**SENATE:** Yes 6-6-94 & 9-12-94

**FISCAL NOTE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**MESSAGE ON SIGNING:** No

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

KBP:pp

[FIRST REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 880

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 21, 1994

By Senators MATHEUSSEN and Zane

1 AN ACT providing family support services for persons with <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup>  
2 serious mental illness, supplementing Title 30 of the Revised  
3 Statutes and making an appropriation.

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

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Family  
8 Support for Persons with <sup>1</sup>A<sup>1</sup> Serious Mental Illness Act."

9 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. It is in the best interest of the State to preserve, strengthen  
11 and maintain families who have a family member with <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup> serious  
12 mental illness living at home, and these persons, regardless of  
13 their disability, have the right to belong to a family unit in which  
14 enduring relationships can be fostered.

15 b. Families are the major providers of support, care, and other  
16 services for their family member with a serious mental illness  
17 living at home. Consequently, families are continually searching  
18 for ways to support family members with <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup> serious mental  
19 illness in their homes in order to prevent placement in a State or  
20 private institution, homelessness or inappropriate incarceration.

21 c. Many families who have a family member with a serious  
22 mental illness experience exceptionally high financial outlays and  
23 extraordinary physical and emotional challenges, isolation,  
24 stigmatization and daily stress. Supporting families in their  
25 effort to care for their family member with a serious mental  
26 illness at home is efficient, cost-effective and humane; failure to  
27 provide needed supports can result in placement of the family  
28 member in a costly, inadequate or inappropriate setting.

29 d. To be effective, family supports must support the entire  
30 family, must be easily accessible, flexible, comprehensive,  
31 continuous, culturally sensitive and individualized. They must be  
32 designed to promote interdependence, independence, productivity  
33 and integration of people with <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup> serious mental illness into the  
34 community. Family supports must also be built on existing social  
35 networks and naturally occurring supports, including extended  
36 families, neighbors and community associations.

37 e. A Statewide family support policy for persons with <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup>  
38 serious mental illness must acknowledge that families themselves  
39 are able to define their own needs and select their own services;  
40 these family supports must be chosen by families, controlled by  
41 families and monitored by families.

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:

<sup>1</sup> Senate SHH committee amendments adopted June 6, 1994.

1 f. Adults with 1a<sup>1</sup> serious mental illness should be afforded the  
2 opportunity to make decisions for themselves, live in typical  
3 homes and communities and exercise their full rights as citizens.  
4 When families serve as the primary provider of care for a family  
5 member with 1a<sup>1</sup> serious mental illness, the families should be  
6 provided the supports they need to sustain that family member  
7 with dignity in a community setting.

8 3. For the purposes of this act:

9 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

10 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

11 "Division" means the Division of Mental Health and Hospitals  
12 in the Department of Human Services.

13 "Family" means persons related to the family member with 1a<sup>1</sup>  
14 serious mental illness by blood, marriage, adoption, guardianship,  
15 foster care or other significant care giving relationship.

16 "Family member with a serious mental illness" means a person  
17 who has a history, or is at serious risk, of hospitalization in a  
18 State, county or private psychiatric institution.

19 "Family support services" means a coordinated system of  
20 on-going public and private support services which are designed  
21 to maintain and enhance the quality of life of a family.

22 "Family unit" means the family member with 1a<sup>1</sup> serious  
23 mental illness and his family.

24 "Program" means the program of family support services  
25 established pursuant to this act.

26 4. There is established in the Division of Mental Health and  
27 Hospitals of the Department of Human Services a program of  
28 family support services designed to strengthen and promote  
29 families who provide care in the community for a family member  
30 with a serious mental illness.

31 Family support services shall vary in scope and intensity based  
32 upon the needs of a particular family unit and shall include, but  
33 not be limited to the following: service coordination, estate and  
34 transition planning, housing assistance, homemaker assistance,  
35 accessing vocational and employment services, after-school care,  
36 transportation, respite care, family education and training,  
37 medication education, and self-advocacy training, including  
38 entitlement training.

39 A family is eligible to participate in the program if the family  
40 resides in the State and is actively involved in caring for, or  
41 supporting, a family member with a serious mental illness.

42 No provision of this act shall be construed as requiring the  
43 department to expend funds in excess of those appropriated  
44 pursuant to this act.

45 5. a. The division shall monitor the program and shall  
46 designate a Statewide family advocacy organization to administer  
47 the program through a coordinator who shall be a full-time  
48 employee of that organization working under its direction. The  
49 coordinator shall be qualified by training and experience to  
50 perform the duties of this position.

51 b. The coordinator shall, in conjunction with the three regional  
52 family working groups and the Statewide family working group  
53 established pursuant to section 6 of this act, adopt, review and  
54 revise, as needed, a State Family Support Services Plan for

1 Families of Persons with A Serious Mental Illness. The plan shall:

2 (1) assess needs, establish goals and set priorities <sup>1</sup>[family]<sup>1</sup>  
3 for the provision of family support services;

4 (2) provide for outreach and coordinated delivery of support  
5 services; and

6 (3) identify and obtain additional funding for the program to  
7 supplement funds appropriated pursuant to and available for the  
8 purposes of this act.

9 c. The coordinator shall coordinate efforts by public and  
10 private agencies and local family advocacy groups. Coordination  
11 shall include, but not be limited to, the identification of services  
12 provided by different agencies to avoid duplication; planning with  
13 all agencies to ensure that gaps in services are filled; and the  
14 coordination of activities for receiving and adopting input from  
15 local family advocacy groups.

16 6. a. There are established three regional family working  
17 groups which shall consist of representatives from each county  
18 within a region. The division shall establish the regions. The  
19 regional family working groups shall assess regional needs for  
20 family support services and make recommendations to the  
21 Statewide family working group. Members shall be designated by  
22 the coordinator in conjunction with the Statewide family  
23 advocacy organization. Members shall serve without  
24 compensation and shall include a family member of a person with  
25 a serious mental illness, a person with <sup>1</sup>a<sup>1</sup> serious mental illness  
26 or other representative of a group interested in advocating for  
27 persons with serious mental illness and their families.

28 b. There is established a Statewide family working group which  
29 shall consist of three members from each of the regional family  
30 working groups in the State. Members shall be designated by the  
31 respective regional family working groups and shall serve without  
32 compensation. The Statewide family working group members  
33 shall monitor the support services from their respective regions  
34 and provide recommendations to the coordinator regarding family  
35 support services.

36 7. The coordinator, in conjunction with the Statewide family  
37 advocacy organization and local family advocacy groups, shall  
38 work to expand and establish family support services throughout  
39 the State. The coordinator shall, at least annually, report in  
40 writing to the Statewide family advocacy organization and the  
41 division on the efforts of the regional family working groups to  
42 effectuate the purposes of this act.

43 8. a. No more than 10% of the monies appropriated pursuant  
44 to this act shall be allocated for administrative purposes.

45 b. The division and any agency funded by the division to  
46 provide family support services shall assist families in obtaining  
47 all other sources of funding before using funds appropriated  
48 pursuant to and available for the purposes of this act.

49 c. The services provided pursuant to this act shall not supplant  
50 any existing rights, entitlements or services for which the family  
51 or family member with a serious mental illness may be eligible.

52 9. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary,  
53 the family support services provided pursuant to this act shall be  
54 considered a State benefit and shall not be counted as income for

1 the purposes of State taxation or eligibility for other State  
2 benefits.

3 10. The commissioner shall, pursuant to the "Administrative  
4 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules  
5 and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

6 11. There is appropriated \$90,000 from the General Fund to  
7 the department to effectuate the purposes of this act.

8 12. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after enactment.

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13 Designated the "Family Support for Persons with A Serious  
14 Mental Illness Act;" appropriates \$90,000.

1 and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

2 11. There is appropriated \$90,000 from the General Fund to  
3 the department to effectuate the purposes of this act.

4 12. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after enactment.  
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7 STATEMENT  
8

9 This bill extends to the families of persons with a serious  
10 mental illness family support services equivalent to those  
11 provided to the families of persons with developmental  
12 disabilities under P.L.1993, c.98 (C.30:6D-33 et seq.).

13 The bill establishes in the Division of Mental Health and  
14 Hospitals of the Department of Human Services a program of  
15 family support services designed to strengthen and promote  
16 families who provide care in the community for a family member  
17 with serious mental illness.

18 The services to be provided, which shall vary in scope and  
19 intensity based upon the needs of a particular family unit, shall  
20 include, but not be limited to the following: service coordination,  
21 estate and transition planning, housing assistance, homemaker  
22 assistance, accessing vocational and employment services,  
23 after-school care, transportation, respite care, family education  
24 and training, medication education, and self-advocacy training,  
25 including entitlement training.

26 The program shall be monitored by the division and  
27 administered by a Statewide family advocacy organization  
28 through a coordinator, who shall be a full-time employee of that  
29 organization working under its direction. The coordinator shall  
30 be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of  
31 this position.

32 The coordinator shall, in conjunction with the three regional  
33 family working groups and the Statewide family working group  
34 established pursuant to this bill, adopt, review and revise, as  
35 needed, a State Family Support Services Plan for Families of  
36 Persons with A Serious Mental Illness. The plan shall:

37 (1) assess needs, establish goals and set priorities for the  
38 provision of family support services;

39 (2) provide for outreach and coordinated delivery of family  
40 support services; and

41 (3) identify and obtain additional funding for the program to  
42 supplement funds appropriated for the program.

43 The three regional family working groups shall consist of  
44 representatives from each county within a region and shall assess  
45 regional needs for family support and make recommendations to  
46 the Statewide family working group. The Statewide family  
47 working group shall consist of nine members, comprising three  
48 members from each of the three regional working groups of the  
49 State. The Statewide family working group members shall  
50 monitor the support services from their respective regions and  
51 provide recommendations to the coordinator regarding family  
52 support services. Members of the regional and Statewide family  
53 working groups shall serve without compensation.

54 The coordinator, in conjunction with the Statewide family

1 advocacy organization and local family advocacy groups, shall  
2 work to expand and establish family support services throughout  
3 the State. The coordinator shall, at least annually, report in  
4 writing to the Statewide family advocacy organization and the  
5 division on the efforts of the regional working groups.

6 The bill, which includes a \$90,000 appropriation to establish  
7 this family support services program and limits administrative  
8 costs to no more than 10% of the appropriation, takes effect on  
9 the 90th day after enactment.

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14 Designated the "Family Support for Persons with Serious Mental  
15 Illness Act;" appropriates \$90,000.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR CITIZENS AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 880

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 1, 1995

The Assembly Senior Citizens and Social Services Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 880 [1R].

This bill extends to the families of persons with a serious mental illness family support services equivalent to those provided to the families of persons with developmental disabilities under P.L.1993, c.98 (C.30:6D-33 et seq.).

The bill establishes in the Division of Mental Health Services (formerly the Division of Mental Health and Hospitals) of the Department of Human Services a program of family support services designed to strengthen and promote families who provide care in the community for a family member with a serious mental illness.

The services to be provided, which shall vary in scope and intensity based upon the needs of a particular family unit, shall include, but not be limited to the following: service coordination, estate and transition planning, housing assistance, homemaker assistance, accessing vocational and employment services, after-school care, transportation, respite care, family education and training, medication education, and self-advocacy training, including entitlement training.

The program shall be monitored by the division and administered by a Statewide family advocacy organization through a coordinator, who shall be a full-time employee of that organization working under its direction. The coordinator shall, in conjunction with the three regional family working groups and the Statewide family working group established pursuant to this bill, adopt, review and revise, as needed, a State Family Support Services Plan for Families of Persons with A Serious Mental Illness. The plan shall:

- (1) assess needs, establish goals and set priorities for the provision of family support services;
- (2) provide for outreach and coordinated delivery of family support services; and
- (3) identify and obtain additional funding for the program to supplement funds appropriated for the program.

The three regional family working groups shall consist of representatives from each county within a region and shall assess regional needs for family support and make recommendations to the Statewide family working group. The Statewide family working group shall consist of nine members, comprising three members from each of the three regional working groups in the State. The Statewide family working group members shall monitor the support services from their respective regions and provide recommendations to the coordinator regarding family support services. Members of the regional and Statewide family working groups shall serve without compensation.



The coordinator, in conjunction with the Statewide family advocacy organization and local family advocacy groups, shall work to expand and establish family support services throughout the State. The coordinator shall, at least annually, report in writing to the Statewide family advocacy organization and the division on the efforts of the regional working groups.

The bill includes a \$90,000 appropriation to establish the family support services program and limits administrative costs to no more than 10% of the appropriation.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1272 which was amended and released by this committee on this date.

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 880**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 6, 1994

The Senate Health Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 880 with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill extends to the families of persons with a serious mental illness family support services equivalent to those provided to the families of persons with developmental disabilities under P.L.1993, c.98 (C.30:6D-33 et seq.).

The bill establishes in the Division of Mental Health and Hospitals of the Department of Human Services a program of family support services designed to strengthen and promote families who provide care in the community for a family member with a serious mental illness.

The services to be provided, which shall vary in scope and intensity based upon the needs of a particular family unit, shall include, but not be limited to the following: service coordination, estate and transition planning, housing assistance, homemaker assistance, accessing vocational and employment services, after-school care, transportation, respite care, family education and training, medication education, and self-advocacy training, including entitlement training.

The program shall be monitored by the division and administered by a Statewide family advocacy organization through a coordinator, who shall be a full-time employee of that organization working under its direction. The coordinator shall, in conjunction with the three regional family working groups and the Statewide family working group established pursuant to this bill, adopt, review and revise, as needed, a State Family Support Services Plan for Families of Persons with A Serious Mental Illness. The plan shall:

- (1) assess needs, establish goals and set priorities for the provision of family support services;
- (2) provide for outreach and coordinated delivery of family support services; and
- (3) identify and obtain additional funding for the program to supplement funds appropriated for the program.

The three regional family working groups shall consist of representatives from each county within a region and shall assess regional needs for family support and make recommendations to the Statewide family working group. The Statewide family working group shall consist of nine members, comprising three members from each of the three regional working groups in the State. The Statewide family working group members shall monitor the support services from their respective regions and provide recommendations to the coordinator regarding family support services. Members of the regional and Statewide family working groups shall serve without compensation.

The coordinator, in conjunction with the Statewide family advocacy organization and local family advocacy groups, shall work to expand and establish family support services throughout the State. The coordinator shall, at least annually, report in writing to the Statewide family advocacy organization and the division on the efforts of the regional working groups.

The bill includes a \$90,000 appropriation to establish the family support services program and limits administrative costs to no more than 10% of the appropriation.

The committee adopted technical amendments to ensure that certain terms are used consistently in the bill.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 880

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 12, 1994

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 880 (1R).

Senate Bill 880 (1R) extends to the families of persons with a serious mental illness the family support services equivalent to those provided to the families of persons with developmental disabilities under P.L.1993, c.98 (C.30:6D-33 et seq.).

The bill establishes in the Division of Mental Health and Hospitals (DMHH) of the Department of Human Services a program of family support services designed to strengthen and promote families who provide care in the community for a family member with a serious mental illness.

The services to be provided, which will vary based upon the needs of a particular family unit, will include: service coordination, estate and transition planning, housing assistance, homemaker assistance, accessing vocational and employment services, after-school care, transportation, respite care, family education and training, medication education, and self-advocacy training, including entitlement training.

The program will be monitored by the division and administered by a Statewide family advocacy organization through a coordinator. The coordinator will, in conjunction with the three regional family working groups and the Statewide family working group established pursuant to this bill, adopt, review and revise, as needed, a State Family Support Services Plan for Families of Persons with A Serious Mental Illness. The Statewide family working group members shall monitor the support services from their respective regions and provide recommendations to the coordinator regarding family support services.

The coordinator, in conjunction with the Statewide family advocacy organization and local family advocacy groups, will work to expand and establish family support services throughout the State.

The bill includes a \$90,000 appropriation to establish the family support services program and limits the department's administrative costs to no more than 10% of the appropriation.

FISCAL IMPACT

In a fiscal estimate prepared by the Office of Legislative Services (OLS), OLS states that it is not able to determine the fiscal impact of this bill because data on the number of persons and families that might benefit from family support services and the type of family support services they may require are not available.

It is noted that DMHH already has contracts with eight community mental health agencies to provide services broadly defined as "family support." Total State expenditures for "family support" services are less than \$1 million and nearly 900 clients/families are being served. Information on the actual support services being provided are not available and would require a review of each agency's internal records. Furthermore, many of the persons that may be eligible for and benefit from "family support services" may already receive the services cited in the legislation. As such, DMHH would not incur any new costs.

OLS notes that the bill limits administrative costs to a maximum of 10%, or \$9,000, of the available appropriation. The legislation does not define an "administrative cost."