

30:4C-74 to 30:4C-83

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Family preservation--children)

NJSA: 30:4C-74 to 30:4C-83

LAWS OF: 1993 **CHAPTER:** 157

BILL NO: S923

SPONSOR(S) DiFrancesco and Cafiero

DATE INTRODUCED: June 8, 1992

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Senior Citizens

SENATE: Womens Issues

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No Senate Committee substitute enacted

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** May 20, 1993

SENATE: February 9, 1993

DATE OF APPROVAL: June 29, 1993

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Senate. Womens Issues Committee.
C536 Public hearing on...services for children, October 1, 1992.
1992b Trenton, 1992.

[see especially p.43]

KBG:pp

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE, No. 923

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED JANUARY 25, 1993

Sponsored by Senators DiFRANCESCO and CAFIERO

1 AN ACT concerning children and supplementing Title 30 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

7 a. The obligation of the State to preserve the sanctity of the
8 family and prevent the placement of children outside the home
9 should be fulfilled in the context of a clear and consistent policy
10 which emphasizes the strengthening of families through the
11 application of intensive family preservation services;

12 b. In recent years, several states have found that family
13 preservation services can provide an effective, efficient and
14 humane alternative to out-of-home placement;

15 c. Family preservation services are based on the following
16 principles:

17 (1) Safety of the child is always the first concern,

18 (2) Children should be raised by their own families whenever
19 possible,

20 (3) An intervention should build on family strengths and be
21 responsive to family needs, and

22 (4) Improvement of family functioning is essential in order to
23 promote the child's health, safety and welfare, allowing the
24 family to remain intact and the children to remain at home; and

25 d. It is the intent of this act that a comprehensive family
26 preservation services program be provided in every county of the
27 State.

28 2. For the purposes of this act, "family preservation services
29 program" means an intensive, in-home family education and
30 crisis intervention program and "family preservation direct
31 services worker" means an individual employed by a
32 community-based service organization which provides intensive
33 family education and crisis intervention services to families
34 referred to the family preservation services program created
35 pursuant to this act.

36 3. a. The Department of Human Services may establish,
37 through purchase of service contracts with community-based
38 organizations, at least one family preservation services program
39 in each county in the State. The program shall provide services to
40 families whose children are at imminent risk of placement as
41 determined by agencies authorized to place children, or whose
42 children are being prepared for reunification.

43 b. The family preservation services program shall be based on
44 the following objectives:

45 (1) The prevention of out-of-home placement by enhancing

- 1 family functioning and problem solving;
- 2 (2) The development of appropriate crisis management and
3 parenting skills;
- 4 (3) The provision of services to families, as needed, including
5 transportation, emergency financial assistance for food, clothing
6 and housing, family counseling and substance abuse treatment; and
7 (4) The development of linkages with service networks and
8 community resources.
- 9 4. a. Subject to the guidelines and policies of the specific
10 contracts entered into by providers of family preservation
11 services, agencies authorized to place children in the State may
12 refer a family to the appropriate family preservation services
13 program. All members of the family who accept such services
14 shall be responsible for cooperating fully with the family
15 preservation direct services worker.
- 16 b. The family preservation services provided under this act
17 shall meet the following criteria:
- 18 (1) A family preservation direct services worker shall carry a
19 caseload of a maximum of two families at any given time, except
20 that during the last week of the provision of services with one of
21 the two families, the worker may carry a third case. The family
22 preservation direct services worker may serve a total of 18
23 families within a 12 month period;
- 24 (2) An eligible family shall receive an initial visit by the
25 family preservation direct services worker within 24 hours of the
26 referral. The program shall provide services to a family for four
27 to eight weeks, as appropriate. The worker shall conduct a
28 follow-up evaluation of the family at three, six and 12 months
29 after the family has completed the program;
- 30 (3) Family preservation services shall be provided in the
31 family's home, community or the child's school, consistent with
32 the needs of the family. The family preservation direct services
33 worker shall visit the family for no less than five hours per week.
34 The worker shall be available to provide services to the family
35 24-hours a day, seven days a week;
- 36 (4) The family preservation direct services worker shall
37 develop, in consultation with the family, a service plan which
38 addresses the reasons for the consideration of the out-of-home
39 placement. The plan shall also include, but not be limited to, an
40 assessment of the family's strengths and problems, a statement
41 of options designed to solve the problems and the identification
42 of appropriate resources that will be needed to maintain the
43 progress achieved through the program; and
- 44 (5) The agency referring the family shall identify the services
45 which will be provided to the family during and after the
46 provision of family preservation services.
- 47 5. A family preservation services direct services worker shall
48 possess a master's degree in the social sciences or shall have
49 graduated from a fully accredited college or university and have
50 at least one and half years experience in providing services to
51 families in crisis. The supervisor of a family preservation direct
52 services worker shall possess a master's or doctorate degree in
53 social work, psychology, education or counseling and five years
54 experience of providing treatment services to families and two

1 years supervisory experience.

2 6. The Department of Human Services shall develop a manual
3 of standards on the operation and programmatic aspects of family
4 preservation services.

5 7. There is established a Family Preservation Services
6 Coordinating Unit in the Department of Human Services. The
7 unit shall consist of persons with knowledge of and experience
8 with the family preservation services program in the State and in
9 all facets of the operation of the program. The coordinating unit
10 personnel shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Human
11 Services. The coordinating unit shall develop, monitor and
12 implement all phases of the family preservation services
13 initiative and its activities will include the provision of technical
14 support and the establishment and the monitoring of all family
15 preservation services programs throughout the State.

16 8. The Commissioner of Human Services shall report to the
17 Governor and the Legislature by December 31 of each year, on
18 the family preservation services program. The annual report
19 shall contain, but not be limited to:

20 a. The number of families receiving services through the
21 program;

22 b. The number of children placed in foster care, group homes
23 and residential treatment facilities, both in-State and
24 out-of-State;

25 c. The average cost of providing services to a family through
26 the program;

27 d. The number of children who remain with their families for
28 one year after receiving services through the program; and

29 e. Any recommendations needed to improve the delivery of
30 family preservation services in the State.

31 9. The Department of Human Services shall seek to maximize
32 any available federal funding which may be used for the purposes
33 of administering or providing family preservation services. Any
34 federal funding made available under this section shall be used to
35 supplement and shall not supplant State funds used to carry out
36 the purposes of this act.

37 10. The Commissioner of Human Services, following prior
38 review and approval from the Office of Management and Budget,
39 may transfer funds appropriated for substitute care services to
40 purchase family preservation services established pursuant to this
41 act.

42 11. The Commissioner of Human Services shall, pursuant to
43 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
44 et seq.), promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the
45 purposes of this act.

46 12. This act shall take effect immediately.

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51 Establishes a family preservation services program in DHS.

1 regulation, educational and experiential requirements for family
2 preservation direct services workers and their supervisors.

3 A family preservation direct services worker and a family
4 preservation direct services worker supervisor shall attend
5 required training sessions on the family preservation services
6 program provided by the Division of Youth and Family Services in
7 the Department of Human Services.

8 7. The Commissioner of Human Services shall report to the
9 Governor and the Legislature by December 31 of each year, on
10 the effectiveness of the family preservation services program.
11 The annual report shall contain, but not be limited to:

12 a. The number of families receiving services through the
13 program;

14 b. The number of children placed in foster care, group homes
15 and residential treatment facilities, both in-State and
16 out-of-State;

17 c. The average cost of providing services to a family through
18 the program;

19 d. The estimated cost of out-of-home placements which would
20 have been necessary if children in the program had not remained
21 united with their families;

22 e. The number of children who remain with their families for
23 one year after receiving services through the program; and

24 f. Any recommendations needed to improve the delivery of
25 family preservation services in the State.

26 8. The Commissioner of Human Services shall, pursuant to the
27 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
28 seq.), promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes
29 of this act.

30 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

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33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill permits the Department of Human Services, through
36 service contracts with community-based organizations, to
37 establish a family preservation services program in each of the
38 State's counties. The program, based on the Homebuilders
39 Model, would provide intensive, in-home family education and
40 crisis intervention services to families who have one or more
41 children at imminent risk of placement by the Division of Youth
42 and Family Services, the Division of Mental Health and Hospitals,
43 the Division of Juvenile Services or the Family Court.

44 The objectives of the family preservation services program
45 include:

46 1. The prevention of out-of-home placement by enhancing
47 family functioning and problem solving;

48 2. The development of appropriate crisis management and
49 parenting skills;

50 3. The provision of services to families, as needed, including
51 transportation, emergency financial assistance for food, clothing
52 and housing, family counseling and substance abuse treatment; and

53 4. The development of linkages with service networks and
54 community resources.

1 A family would be referred to the program by the Division of
2 Youth and Family Services (DYFS), the Division of Mental Health
3 and Hospitals, the Division of Juvenile Services and the Family
4 Court. Once the family is determined to be eligible by a DYFS
5 screener, they would be provided services in the community
6 pursuant to a service plan for four to eight weeks, with a
7 follow-up evaluation at three, six and 12 months after the initial
8 referral. The service plan would address the reasons for the
9 consideration of the out-of-home placement and would identify
10 the specific goals that need to be met in order to maintain the
11 progress achieved through the program.

12 Under the provisions of the bill, the Commissioner of Human
13 Services would be required to report to the Governor and the
14 Legislature on the effectiveness of the family preservation
15 services program. The report would include:

16 1. The number of families receiving services through the
17 program;

18 2. The number of children placed in foster care, group homes,
19 and residential treatment facilities, both in-State and
20 out-of-State;

21 3. The average cost of providing services through the program;

22 4. The estimated cost of out-of-home placements which would
23 have been necessary if children in the program had not remained
24 united with their families;

25 5. The number of children who remain with their families for
26 one year after receiving services through the program; and

27 6. Any recommendations needed to improve the delivery of
28 family preservation services in the State.

29 Currently, 14 counties provide family preservation services to
30 families who have children at imminent risk of placement.
31 Collectively, these counties served 871 families and 60% of these
32 families have remained intact three months after the completion
33 of services.

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38 Establishes a family preservation services program in DHS.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR CITIZENS AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE, No. 923

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 22, 1993

The Assembly Senior Citizens and Social Services Committee favorably reports the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 923.

The substitute permits the Department of Human Services, through service contracts with community-based organizations, to establish at least one family preservation services program in each of the State's counties. The program, based on the Homebuilders Model, would provide intensive, in-home family education and crisis intervention services to families who have one or more children at imminent risk of placement as determined by agencies authorized to place children, or whose children are being prepared for reunification. The objectives of the family preservation services program include:

1. The prevention of out-of-home placement by enhancing family functioning and problem solving;
2. The development of appropriate crisis management and parenting skills;
3. The provision of services to families, as needed, including transportation, emergency financial assistance for food, clothing and housing, family counseling and substance abuse treatment; and
4. The development of linkages with service networks and community resources.

Subject to the guidelines and policies of the specific contracts entered into by the providers of family preservation services, agencies authorized to place children in the State may refer a family to a family preservation services program. Once the family is determined to be eligible, they would be provided services in the community pursuant to a service plan for four to eight weeks, as appropriate, with a follow-up evaluation at three, six and 12 months after the initial referral. The service plan would address the reasons for the consideration of the out-of-home placement and would identify the specific goals that need to be met in order to maintain the progress achieved through the program. In addition to the service plan, agencies referring the family would identify the services which will be provided to the family during and after the provision of services.

The substitute would also establish a Family Preservation Services Coordinating Unit in the Department of Human Services. The unit, which would consist of people with knowledge of and experience with, the family preservation services program, would develop, monitor and implement all phases of the family preservation services program throughout the State.

Under the provisions of the substitute, the Commissioner of Human Services would be required to report to the Governor and

the Legislature on the effectiveness of the family preservation services program. The report would include:

1. The number of families receiving services through the program;
2. The number of children placed in foster care, group homes, and residential treatment facilities, both in-State and out-of-State;
3. The average cost of providing services through the program;
4. The number of children who remain with their families for one year after receiving services through the program; and
5. Any recommendations needed to improve the delivery of family preservation services in the State.

Other provisions of the substitute direct the Department of Human Services to maximize any available federal funding and would allow the commissioner to transfer any funds appropriate for substitute care services to purchase family preservation services.

Currently, family preservation services programs exist in 14 counties. Collectively, these programs are able to serve 871 families annually, and 60% of the families served have remained intact three months after the completion of services.

This substitute is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 1813 which was released by this committee on this date.

SENATE WOMEN'S ISSUES, CHILDREN
AND FAMILY SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 923

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 25, 1993

The Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services favorably reports Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 923.

The substitute permits the Department of Human Services, through service contracts with community-based organizations, to establish at least one family preservation services program in each of the State's counties. The program, based on the Homebuilders Model, would provide intensive, in-home family education and crisis intervention services to families who have one or more children at imminent risk of placement as determined by agencies authorized to place children, or whose children are being prepared for reunification. The objectives of the family preservation services program include:

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