

A 2232 -- Redline

Introduced to Amended -- Expands responsibilities of Child Advocacy Center-Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board and establishes Problematic Sexual Behavior Program.*

Deletions ~~struck~~ · Insertions underlined

A2232 1R [First Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No.

Assemblywoman Donlon, Assemblymen Bailey, Singh and Karabinchak SYNOPSIS Expands responsibilities of Child Advocacy Center-Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board and establishes ~~"Problematic~~Problematic Sexual Behavior ~~Program";~~Program.

~~appropriates \$8.5~~CURRENT million.VERSION OF TEXT As reported by the Assembly Children, Families and Food Security Committee on September 17, 2026, with amendments.

~~CURRENT~~An ~~VERSION~~Act ~~OF~~concerning ~~TEXT~~child ~~—~~advocacy ~~Introduced~~centers ~~Pending~~and ~~Technical~~multi-disciplinary ~~Review~~teams by ~~1[,]~~Legislative ~~and~~Counsel ~~amending and supplementing P.L.2017, c.90 1[, and making an appropriation]1.~~

~~An Act concerning child advocacy centers and multi-disciplinary teams, amending and supplementing P.L.2017, c.90, and making an appropriation.~~

"Problematic sexual behavior" means behavior, initiated by youth under the age of 18, involving the use sexual body parts in a manner that is developmentally inappropriate or potentially harmful to themselves or the person or persons impacted by the behavior. "Problematic sexual behavior" also includes technology facilitated adverse sexualized behaviors that can be considered problematic and harmful including, but not limited to, sexting, posting sexual images, and exposure to pornography and other sexually explicit electronic communication.

"Program" means the "Problematic Sexual Behavior Program" established pursuant to section ~~7~~1[7] ~~81~~ of P.L. , c. (C) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

c. The board shall consist of ~~1[14]~~ 171 members as follows:

(1) ~~the~~ the Commissioner of Children and Families, the Attorney General, the Chairperson of the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Director of the Problematic Sexual Behavior Program established pursuant to section 8 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), 1 and the [Chapter Coordinator] Executive Director of New Jersey Children's Alliance or their designees, who shall serve ex officio;

and (2) ~~[ten]~~ [ten] ~~13~~1[13] 121 public members, with at least 10 years' experience, background, or specialized knowledge in child welfare, child advocacy centers, and multidisciplinary teams, to be appointed by the Governor, including a representative of the New Jersey Prosecutors' Association, a law guardian, a multidisciplinary team coordinator, a pediatrician with expertise in child abuse and neglect, a psychologist with expertise in child abuse and neglect and problematic sexual behaviors in children, a representative of a child advocacy center, a representative of a victim or family advocacy ~~group,~~group with expertise in child abuse and neglect and problematic sexual behaviors in children, a law enforcement officer with experience in child abuse and neglect investigations, an academician with experience and expertise in child abuse and neglect research or a related field[;] , a representative of the leadership of a care management organization contracted with the Division of Children's System of Care, ~~a~~1a specialized care coordinator or a specialized care coordinator ~~supervisor,~~supervisor 1 , a representative of the State Central ~~Registry[;]~~Registry[;] ~~1~~1 , and one member with general expertise in child welfare and multidisciplinary teams.

g. The Department of Children and Families shall provide professional and clerical staff to the board as necessary to effectuate the purposes of ~~this~~1[the act, act] P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.107 et seq.)1.

h. (1) ~~The~~ The board shall establish a Problematic Sexual Behavior Subcommittee to:

(a) ~~provide~~ provide oversight of the Statewide response to reports of problematic sexual behavior;

(b) ~~review~~ review the Problematic Sexual Behavior Program established in section ~~7~~1[7] ~~81~~ of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

(c) ~~make~~ make recommendations to the department that will enable the program to improve the effectiveness of the services provided to youth who engage in or have been impacted by problematic sexual behavior and their families;

and (d) ~~evaluate~~ evaluate the need for new or expanded services or programs to enhance the Statewide response to reports of problematic sexual behavior.

(2) ~~The~~ The board shall appoint at least ~~nine~~1[nine] 111 members to the subcommittee consisting of:

(a) ~~the~~ the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency;

and (b) ~~at~~ at least ~~six~~1[six] eight1 public members, including:

~~a~~1a county representative prosecutor of with a at experience, background, or specialized knowledge in child welfare advocacy cases center; and problematic sexual behavior;

a representative of the State Central Registry;1 a county prosecutor with at experience, background, or

specialized knowledge in child welfare cases and problematic sexual behavior;

(c) ~~A~~ A minimum of one public member shall serve on both the subcommittee and the board.

(d) ~~The~~ The members of the subcommittee shall serve for a term of three years or until the appointment of a successor.

(e) ~~Members~~ Members of the subcommittee shall be appointed and hold their initial organizational meeting within 45 days after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

(f) ~~The~~ The subcommittee shall designate a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members, except that the assistant commissioner of the Division of Children's System of Care and the assistant commissioner of the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, or their designees, shall not serve as the chairperson or vice chairperson of the subcommittee.

(g) ~~The~~ The subcommittee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of employees of the Department of Children and Families and seek the advice of experts as required and as may be available for the purposes of conducting the reviews required by this subsection.

[and] c. apply for and accept any grant of money from the State or federal government or other sources, which may be available to establish, expand, or improve child advocacy centers or multidisciplinary teams pursuant to section 7 of [this act] P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.113). Any monies received by the board shall be deposited in the "Child Advocacy Center-Multidisciplinary Team Fund" established pursuant to section 6 of [this act] P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.112) or the "Child Treatment Assistance Fund" established pursuant to section ~~9~~1~~9~~ 101 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), as appropriate;

and d. administer, in coordination with the Department of Children and Families, the 1["Child Treatment Assistance Fund"] "Child Treatment Assistance ~~Fund-Fund~~"1.

(1) ~~every~~ every child advocacy center or multidisciplinary team in the State applying for [certification] an annual progress review pursuant to subsection b.

and (2) ~~the~~ the State's child advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams incorporate best practices and standards in providing child abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services to survivors of child abuse and neglect.

(1) ~~a~~ a multidisciplinary team response in an investigation of child abuse and neglect by representatives of the following core disciplines:

(2) ~~the~~ the designation of a private, child-friendly interview and family meeting room which provides an environment that is physically and psychologically safe for, and provides comfort to, a survivor of child abuse and neglect and the survivor's family during the course of an investigation of child abuse and neglect; (3) ~~protocols~~ protocols governing the forensic interview of a survivor of child abuse and neglect that comply with the 2010 Guidelines of Practice for Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams in New Jersey and current best practice standards and nationally recognized methods for forensic interviews, New Jersey Court Rules, relevant case law, and internal or external peer review;

(4) ~~an~~ an interdisciplinary case review process that describes the responsibilities of each team member in an investigation of child abuse and neglect and the provisions of the services to a survivor of child abuse and neglect and the survivor's family;

(5) ~~a~~ a uniform system to identify, track, collect, and coordinate information obtained during an investigation of child abuse and neglect, and to monitor the progress and outcomes of the investigation;

(6) ~~procedures~~ procedures to facilitate communication, collaboration, coordination, information sharing, problem solving, and decision making between team members during and immediately after a multidisciplinary team meeting, and during an investigation of child abuse and neglect;

(7) ~~a~~ a dispute resolution process to resolve interdisciplinary conflicts that may arise between team members during the course of an investigation of child abuse and neglect;

(8) ~~the~~ the provision of services, supports, and other assistance in a culturally competent manner to a survivor of child abuse and neglect and the survivor's family during an investigation of child abuse and neglect;

(9) ~~on-going, on-going,~~ specialized interdisciplinary training for team members, based on the ~~multidisciplinary~~ multidisciplinary team's ~~team's~~ 1 most recent progress ~~review~~ review for training requirements outlined in the standard developed by the National Children's Alliance1, to enhance their basic skills and expertise in the investigation and prevention of child abuse and neglect;

(10) ~~mechanisms~~ mechanisms and processes to allow the center to self-evaluate the effectiveness of its operations and its success in investigating child abuse and neglect;

(11) ~~the~~ the establishment of county based child advocacy center-multidisciplinary team advisory boards, consistent with standards developed by the National Children's Alliance and all other applicable standards relating to child advocacy center-multidisciplinary team advisory boards, to oversee the operations and administration of the child advocacy center or multidisciplinary team;

(12) ~~the~~ the creation of an education and outreach program to train professionals from State and local governmental and community-based social services agencies in providing multidisciplinary services to

survivors of child abuse and neglect and their families, and to educate the community on child maltreatment and child abuse prevention techniques;

~~(13)(13) procedures~~ procedures to apply for and accept any grant of money from the State or federal government or other sources, which may be available to child advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams;

and ~~-(14)(14) reporting~~ reporting requirements on the use of grant funds received by a child advocacy center or multidisciplinary team pursuant to section 7 of [this act] P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.113).

of this section, the board shall certify that a child advocacy center or multidisciplinary team is in compliance with the provisions of ~~this~~ 1[~~this act, act~~] P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.113)1.

P.L.2017, c.90, s.5) 6. Section 7 of P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.113) is amended to read as follows: creating a screening and referral process by 1[~~by which~~which] for 1 cases involving youth who ~~engage~~ 1[engage] have been engaged 1 in or have been impacted by problematic sexual behavior and their families;

establishing a 1[a] specialized assessment team within the State Central ~~Registry~~ Registry specialized positions within care management organizations 1 to refer youth who ~~engage~~ 1[engage] have been engaged 1 in or have been impacted by problematic sexual behavior and their families to treatment and other appropriate services;

Since the publication of the Workgroup's report, the Department of Children and Families and the Child Advocacy Center-Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board established pursuant to section 3 of ~~P.L.2107, 1[P.L.2107] P.L.20171,~~ c.90 (C.9:6-8.19) have worked to implement its recommendations and institute a sustainable referral and treatment process for youth who engage in or have been impacted by problematic sexual behaviors and their families.

(1) institute a Statewide, coordinated response to reports of problematic sexual behavior referred to the program by the Sexual Contact Between Youth Screening and Referral Team established pursuant to section ~~8~~ 1[8] 91 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

c. (1) The program shall 1coordinate with care management organizations to 1 select specialized care coordinators to ensure coverage of the northern, central, and southern regions of the State and provide care coordination services, upon request, to youth who engage in or are impacted by problematic sexual behavior and their families. The number of specialized care coordinators selected by the program shall be based on the determined needs of residents for services relating to, and the number of reports of, problematic sexual behavior in each of the regions.

(3) A specialized care coordinator shall be assigned to provide care coordination services 1, at no cost, 1 to a youth who engages in or is impacted by problematic sexual behavior and the youth's family until such time all requested services have been arranged for and engaged in by the youth and the youth's ~~family.~~ family 1or efforts to contact the youth's family have been unsuccessful, or the youth's family declines to accept care coordination service 1.

9. (New section) a. The program shall form a Sexual Contact Between Youth Screening and Referral Team, consisting of State Central Registry representatives, to conduct a telephone assessment of and determine whether a report of child abuse or neglect received by the State Central Registry involves problematic sexual behavior, and whether the report warrants a referral to the Problematic Sexual Behavior Program established pursuant to section ~~7~~ 1[7] 81 of ~~P.L. P.L., c. , c. ,~~ (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

of section ~~7~~ 1[7] 81 of P.L. , ~~c. c. (C.) (pending (C.) (pending~~ before the Legislature as this bill);

and (4) develop standards to facilitate the payment of medical and mental health care services provided to youth who engage in or have been impacted by problematic sexual behaviors pursuant to section ~~7~~ 1[7] 81 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and their families who may not otherwise have access to such services.

10. (New section) There is established in the Department of Children and Families a fund to be known as the "Child Treatment Assistance Fund." The fund, administered by the board and in coordination with the department, shall be the repository of monies appropriated to cover the cost of the medical and mental health services provided through the program established pursuant to section ~~7~~ 1[7] 81 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) to youth who engage in or have been impacted by problematic sexual behavior and their families.

~~11-111.~~ (New section) The ~~board program and shall the develop~~ Department a system of Children data collection, analysis, and Families reporting shall of promulgate information rules concerning and the regulations, effectiveness pursuant of to the services provided by the "Administrative program Procedure to Act," youth P.L.1968, who c.410engage (C.52:14B-1 in et or seq.), have as been may impacted necessary by problematic sexual behavior and their families, to effectuate be forwarded to the purposes Problematic Sexual Behavior Subcommittee established pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection act-h.

of section 3 of P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.109), including any recommendations to improve the functioning

of the program.1 ~~12~~ 1[12.] (New section) There is appropriated \$8,500,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Children and Families to effectuate the purposes of this act as follows:

- (1) ~~Statewide~~ Statewide coordinated response to reports of problematic sexual behavior;
- (2) ~~positions~~ positions of specialized care coordinators selected by the program pursuant to subsection c.
- (3) ~~training~~ training of mental health providers, in evidence-based treatment and prevention modalities pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b.
- (4) ~~provision~~ provision of support, technical assistance, and training on evidence-based prevention, intervention, and response relating to problematic sexual behavior to specialized care coordinators, community leaders, stakeholders, and social services professionals pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection b.

and (5) ~~data~~ data collection, analysis, and reporting of information concerning problematic sexual behavior in the ~~State~~ State.11 ~~1[11.]~~ 12.1 (New section) The board and the Department of Children and Families shall promulgate rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

~~STATEMENT This bill expands the responsibilities of the Child Advocacy Center Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board (the board) established in P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.107 et seq.) and establishes the Problematic Sexual Behavior Program (the program).~~

~~Specifically, the bill amends various sections of P.L.2017, c.90 (C.9:6-8.108 et seq.) to: (1) include definitions relating to the establishment of the program;~~

~~(2) stipulate that the board is to establish an annual progress review, instead of a certification process, as originally required by law, for the State's child advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams;~~

~~(3) establish a Problematic Sexual Behavior Subcommittee;~~

~~and (4) administer, in coordination with the DCF, the "Child Treatment Assistance Fund" established in the bill.~~

~~The bill also amends P.L.2017, c.90 to increase the number of members of the board from 10, as originally provide by the law, to 13, update the guidelines of practice for child advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams must adopt to receive satisfactory annual progress reviews, and clarify how the grants distributed by the DCF to centers and teams, through the Child Advocacy Center Multidisciplinary Team Fund, are to be spent.~~

~~The bill establishes the Problematic Sexual Behavior Program administered by the New Jersey Children's Alliance and funded by the DCF. The purpose of the program is to institute a Statewide, coordinated response to, and address the medical and mental health care services needs of those impacted by, problematic sexual behavior.~~

~~The bill also establishes the "Child Treatment Assistance Fund" in the DCF.~~

~~The fund is to be the repository of monies appropriated to cover the cost of the medical and mental health care services provided through the program.~~

~~As defined in the bill, "problematic sexual behavior" means behavior, initiated by youth under the age of 18, involving the use sexual body parts in a manner that is developmentally inappropriate or potentially harmful to the person or persons impacted by the behavior, and also includes technology facilitated adverse sexualized behaviors that can be considered problematic and harmful.~~

~~The bill appropriates \$8,500,000 from the General Fund to the DCF to effectuate the purposes of the bill.~~