

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1603

H. P. 1357

House of Representatives, April 13, 1977

On Motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick, referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Kerry of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsor: Mrs. Kane of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Assure Coordination and Adequate Services to Children by Community Mental Health Centers.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

34 MRSA §§ 2053-A, 2054-A, 2055-A and 2056-A are enacted to read:

§ 2053-A. Definitions

The term "community mental health center" means a legal entity through which comprehensive mental health services are provided in accordance with 42 U.S.C.A., Section 268g.

§ 2054-A. Governing body

The governing body of a community mental health center shall be composed, where practicable, of individuals who reside in the center's catchment area and who, as a group, represent the residents of that area.

In order to increase the awareness by the community mental health centers of the needs and problems of children at risk served by related state agencies and service systems, the Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Corrections and the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services shall each nominate one member per state department of that governing body. The nominees shall be chosen from the staff of the departmental programs and offices which serve clients of the mental health center catchment area. In the case of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, the commissioner shall nominate educational administrators who are employed in a school system or educational

program within the catchment area of the community mental health center. At least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the members of such body shall be individuals who are not providers of health care as defined in 42 U.S.C.A., Section 2689 (c) (2).

§ 2055-A. Governmental agencies

In the case of a community mental health center which is operated by a governmental agency, the requirements of section 2053-A shall not apply with respect to such center, but the governmental agency operating the center shall appoint a committee to advise it with respect to the operations of the center, which committee shall be composed of individuals according to the criteria set forth in section 2054-A.

§ 2056-A. Contracts

State and federal funds which are subject to the control of the Department of Mental Health and Corrections and which are used for the support of community mental health programs shall be expended only on the basis of contracts. The contracts shall, among other requirements, specify the types of services to be provided, the method of payment to the agency and the requirements to be used for evaluating the provision of services.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The primary source for mental health care provided by state, federal and local community funds are the 8 community mental health centers. In an effort to enhance cooperation with and effective utilization of community mental health centers by state agencies responsible for children at-risk populations, the governing structures of the community mental health centers are required by this bill to include appointed representatives of the Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Corrections and Department of Educational and Cultural Services which serve children. To assure accountability of funds which are disbursed by the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, this bill requires that all such funds emanating from the department of community programs must be disbursed under specific contracts which outline certain criteria for provision of service. This bill is submitted due to the concern that children are not being served adequately by the community mental health centers and in proportion to the number of children present in the Maine population.