

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1814

S.P. 615

In Senate, April 17, 1997

An Act to Improve the Delivery of Mental Health Services in Maine.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LONGLEY of Waldo. (GOVERNOR'S BILL).
Cosponsored by Representative FULLER of Manchester and
Senators: MITCHELL of Penobscot, PARADIS of Aroostook, Representatives: BROOKS of
Winterport, JOYNER of Hollis, KERR of Old Orchard Beach, LOVETT of Scarborough,
MARVIN of Cape Elizabeth, MITCHELL of Portland.

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

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §3608, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 691, §7, is amended to read:

The department shall establish and oversee networks to participate with the area councils, as defined in section 3607, subsection 2, in the delivery of mental health services to children and adults under the authority of the department. A network consists of persons and organizations providing General Fund and Medicaid funded mental health services under contract or grant from the department in the corresponding area specified in section 3607, subsection 3. The local service networks must be established and operated in accordance with standards that are consistent with standards adopted by accredited health care organizations and other standards adopted by the department to establish and operate networks. Oversight must include, but is not limited to, establishing and overseeing protocols, quality assurance, writing and monitoring contracts for service, establishing outcome measures and ensuring that each network provides an integrated system of care. The department may adopt rules to carry out this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. This section may not be construed to supersede the authority of the Department of Human Services as the single state Medicaid agency under the Social Security Act, Title XII.

Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §3608, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Safety net services. The State is responsible for providing a safety net of adult mental health services for people with major mental illness who the department or its designee determines can not otherwise be served by the local service networks. The state-operated safety net must include, but is not limited to:

A. Backup emergency hospital beds for people requiring medical stabilization, assessment or treatment.

B. Intermediate and long-term treatment for people who need long-term structured care;

C. Forensic services;

D. Intensive case management; and

E. Other services as needed.

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SUMMARY

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6 This bill gives the Department of Mental Health, Mental
8 Retardation and Substance Abuse Services the authority to
10 continue building the community system of mental health services
12 that was begun by Public Law 1995, chapter 691. This bill gives
 the department oversight authority over all providers of mental
 health services that receive General Fund and Medicaid money and
 authorizes the department to establish rules to govern local
 service networks. The bill also defines the State's role in
 providing a safety net of services for people with mental illness.