MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1440

H.P. 936

House of Representatives, March 30, 2023

Resolve, to Increase the Availability of Community Children's Behavioral Health Services by Providing Training and Career Opportunities for Behavioral Health Professionals

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

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, PERRY of Calais.

- Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to develop course curriculum, credential and career path for behavioral health professionals serving children in the community. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services and Office of Child and Family Services shall coordinate in the development of a course curriculum, credential and career path for behavioral health professionals. The course curriculum must be offered through community college courses around the State or by a contracted agency with multiple sites around the State. Individuals participating in the course curriculum must have a high school diploma or equivalent and a driver's license. The course curriculum must lead to a credential that is sufficient to satisfy department licensing requirements for any behavioral health professional providing services to children in the community. The department shall also coordinate the development of a career path for behavioral health professionals serving children in the community. The career path must allow for individuals who have met the course curriculum requirements with a corresponding credential that is portable across behavioral health fields.
- **Sec. 2. Incentives. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall explore options for providing incentives to individuals wishing to pursue the course curriculum developed pursuant to section 1, including but not limited to grants or free or reduced tuition.
- **Sec. 3. Weekly supervision requirements. Resolved:** That, no later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services shall require that all behavioral health professionals receive no less than one hour per week of supervision by a licensed clinician. The supervision may be in a group or individual setting.
- Sec. 4. MaineCare rates for behavioral health professionals serving children in the community. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rules in Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Section 28, Rehabilitative and Community Support Services for Children with Cognitive Impairments and Functional Limitations, and Section 65, Behavioral Health Services, to increase MaineCare rates for services provided by behavioral health professionals to children in the community. Rate increases must apply only to those behavioral health professionals who have completed the course curriculum requirements and received the credential pursuant to section 1 to allow for a livable wage to be earned by the behavioral health professional. The department shall increase the rates to take effect as new behavioral health professionals complete the course curriculum and credential requirements. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

37 SUMMARY

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services and Office of Child and Family Services to coordinate the development of a course curriculum, credential and career path for behavioral health professionals providing services to children in the community. The course curriculum must be offered through community college courses around the State or by a contracted agency with multiple sites around the State. The course curriculum must lead to a credential that is portable and sufficient to satisfy department licensing requirements for any behavioral

health professional serving children in the community. The department shall explore options for providing incentives to individuals wishing to pursue the course curriculum, including but not limited to grants or free or reduced tuition. The resolve also requires MaineCare program rates to be increased for services provided by behavioral health professionals with the training. The resolve requires that all behavioral health professionals providing services to children in the community receive one hour per week of clinical supervision.