

H.728

An act relating to developmental services' system of care

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 204A is amended to read:

CHAPTER 204A. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ACT

* * *

§ 8722. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of a person that is manifested before the person reaches ~~the age of 18~~ years of age and results in:

(A) ~~mental retardation~~ intellectual disability, autism, or pervasive developmental disorder; and

(B) deficits in adaptive behavior at least two standard deviations below the mean for a normative comparison group.

* * *

§ 8723. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND

INDEPENDENT LIVING; DUTIES

The ~~department~~ Department shall plan, coordinate, administer, monitor, and evaluate ~~state~~ State and federally funded services for people with

developmental disabilities and their families within Vermont. The ~~department of disabilities, aging, and independent living~~ Department shall be responsible for coordinating the efforts of all agencies and services, government and private, on a statewide basis in order to promote and improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Within the limits of available resources, the ~~department~~ Department shall:

(1) ~~Promote~~ promote the principles stated in section 8724 of this title and shall carry out all functions, powers, and duties required by this chapter by collaborating and consulting with people with developmental disabilities, their families, guardians, community resources, organizations, and people who provide services throughout the ~~state~~. State;

(2) ~~Develop and~~ develop, maintain, and monitor an equitably and efficiently allocated statewide system of community-based services that reflect the choices and needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families;

(3) ~~Acquire and~~ acquire, administer, and exercise fiscal oversight over funding for ~~these~~ community-based services ~~and identify needed resources and legislation,~~ including the management of State contracts;

(4) identify resources and legislation needed to maintain a statewide system of community-based services;

(5) ~~Establish~~ establish a statewide procedure for applying for services;

~~(5)(6)~~ Facilitate facilitate or provide pre-service or in-service training and technical assistance to service providers consistent with the system of care plan;

~~(6)(7)~~ Provide quality assessment and quality improvement support for the services provided throughout the state. maintain a statewide system of quality assessment and assurance for services provided to people with developmental disabilities and provide quality improvement support to ensure that the principles of service in section 8724 of this title are achieved;

~~(7)(8)~~ Encourage encourage the establishment and development of locally administered and locally controlled nonprofit services for people with developmental disabilities based on the specific needs of individuals and their families;

~~(8)(9)~~ Promote promote and facilitate participation by people with developmental disabilities and their families in activities and choices that affect their lives and in designing services that reflect their unique needs, strengths, and cultural values;

~~(9)(10)~~ Promote promote positive images and public awareness of people with developmental disabilities and their families;

~~(10)(11)~~ Certify certify services that are paid for by the ~~department.~~
Department; and

~~(11)~~(12) ~~Establish~~ establish a procedure for investigation and resolution of complaints regarding the availability, quality, and responsiveness of services provided throughout the ~~state~~ State.

* * *

§ 8725. SYSTEM OF CARE PLAN

* * *

(d) ~~The department~~ Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), on or before January 15 of each year, the Department shall report annually to the governor ~~and the general assembly~~ committees of jurisdiction regarding implementation of the plan and shall make annual revisions as needed, the extent to which the principles of service set forth in section 8724 of this title are achieved, and whether people with developmental disabilities have any unmet service needs, including the number of people on waiting lists for developmental services.

* * *

Sec. 2. SYSTEM OF CARE STUDY COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created a System of Care Study Committee to examine the process by which people with developmental disabilities and their families receive State-funded services, including the manner in which the System of Care Plan is created and reviewed prior to taking effect.

(b) Membership. The Study Committee shall be composed of the following 12 members:

(1) a representative of the House Committee on Appropriations, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) a representative of the House Committee on Human Services, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) a representative of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(4) a representative of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(5) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or a designee;

(6) the Director of the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living's Developmental Disabilities Services Division;

(7) a representative of the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council;

(8) a representative of the Vermont Council on Developmental and Mental Health Services;

(9) a representative of the Green Mountain Self Advocates;

(10) a representative of Vermont Family Network;

(11) a consumer or family member representing the State Program Standing Committee for Developmental Disabilities, who shall be appointed by the Standing Committee; and

(12) a nongovernmental member of the Developmental Disabilities Services Imagine the Future Task Force, who shall be appointed by the Task Force and who shall ensure that the findings and recommendations of the Task Force are included in the discussions of the Study Committee.

(c) Powers and duties. The Study Committee shall examine the process by which people with developmental disabilities and their families receive State-funded services, including the following tasks:

(1) review 18 V.S.A. chapter 204A;

(2) assess how Vermont's existing developmental disability service system compares with other programs administered by the Agency of Human Services in terms of prioritizing who receives services among the population of eligible recipients;

(3) identify concerns or shortcomings in the existing process for serving people with developmental disabilities and their families, if any;

(4) identify opportunities during the development of the System of Care Plan to augment community participation, legislative participation, or both, as necessary; and

(5) identify specific legislative changes to 18 V.S.A. chapter 204A that would ensure equitable distribution of services to people with developmental disabilities and their families, if necessary.

(d) Assistance. The Study Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council.

(e) Recommended Legislation.

(1) On or before December 15, 2014, the Study Committee shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislative changes to 18 V.S.A. chapter 204A, to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare.

(2) Any member or members of the Study Committee who do not support the report submitted by a majority of Study Committee members may prepare and submit a minority report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The house member representing the Committee on Human Services shall call the first meeting of the Study Committee to occur on or before August 15, 2014.

(2) The Study Committee shall select a chair from among its legislative members at the first meeting.

(3)(A) A majority of the members of the Study Committee shall be physically present at the same location to constitute a quorum.

(B) A member may vote only if physically present at the meeting location.

(4) The Study Committee shall cease to exist on January 1, 2015.

(g) Reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, legislative members of the Study Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for no more than four meetings.

(2) Other members of the Study Committee who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than four meetings.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.