

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 261 entitled “An act relating to mitigating trauma and toxic stress during
4 childhood by strengthening child and family resilience” respectfully reports
5 that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose to the
6 Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
7 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 * * * Purpose and Status Update * * *

9 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

10 It is the purpose of this act to ensure a consistent family support system by
11 enhancing opportunities to build resilience among families throughout the
12 State that are experiencing the causes or symptoms of childhood adversity.
13 While significant efforts to provide preventative services are already well
14 under way in many parts of the State, better coordination is necessary to ensure
15 that gaps in services are addressed and redundancies do not occur. In this
16 regard, this act builds on the significant work advanced in 2017 Acts and
17 Resolves No. 43, including the principles for Vermont’s trauma-informed
18 system of care. The General Assembly supports a public health approach to
19 address childhood adversity wherein interventions pertaining to socioeconomic
20 determinants of health are employed in a manner that has the broadest societal

1 reach and in which specialized interventions are directed to individuals with
2 the most acute need.

3 Sec. 2. STATUS REPORT; COMPLETION OF ACT 43 REPORT

4 On or before November 1, 2018, the Agency of Human Services' Director
5 of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development shall submit to the Chairs
6 of the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on
7 Health and Welfare and to any existing Advisory Council on Child Poverty
8 and Strengthening Families a status report on the Agency's methodology and
9 progress in preparing the response plan required pursuant to 2017 Acts and
10 Resolves No. 43, Sec. 4, including any preliminary findings. The status report
11 shall include information as to the Agency's progress in implementing trauma-
12 informed training opportunities for child care providers

13 * * * Human Services Generally * * *

14 Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 3402 is added to read:

15 § 3402. DEFINITIONS

16 As used in this chapter:

17 (1) "Childhood adversity" means experiences that may be traumatic to
18 children and youths during the first 18 years of life, such as experiencing
19 violence or other emotionally disturbing exposures in their homes or
20 communities.

21 (2) "Resilience" means...

1 (3) “Toxic stress” means strong, frequent, or prolonged experience of
2 adversity without adequate support.

3 (4) “Trauma-informed” means a type of program, organization, or
4 system that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma and potential paths for
5 recovery; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families,
6 staff, and others involved in a system; responds by fully integrating knowledge
7 about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks actively to
8 resist retraumatization and build resilience among the population served.

9 Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 3403 is added to read:

10 § 3403. DIRECTOR OF TRAUMA PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE
11 DEVELOPMENT

12 There is created the permanent position of Director of Trauma Prevention
13 and Resilience Development within the Agency of Human Services for the
14 purpose of directing and coordinating systemic approaches across State
15 government that build childhood resiliency and mitigate toxic stress by
16 implementing a public health approach. The Director shall engage families
17 and communities to build the protective factors of parental resilience; social
18 connections; knowledge of parenting and child development; concrete support
19 in times of need; and social and emotional competence of children. The
20 Director shall:

1 (1) provide advice and support to the Secretary of Human Services and
2 facilitate communication and coordination among the Agency’s departments
3 with regard to childhood trauma, toxic stress, and the promotion of resilience
4 building;

5 (2) collaborate with both community and State partners, including the
6 Agency of Education and the Judiciary, to build consistency between trauma-
7 informed systems that address medical and social service needs and serve as a
8 conduit between providers and the public;

9 (3) provide support for and dissemination of educational materials
10 pertaining to childhood trauma, toxic stress, and the promotion of resilience
11 building, including to postsecondary institutions within Vermont’s State
12 College System;

13 (4) coordinate with partners inside and outside State government,
14 including the Child and Family Trauma Work Group; and

15 (5) evaluate the work of the Agency and the Agency’s grantees and
16 community contractors that addresses resilience and trauma-prevention using
17 results-based accountability methodologies.

18 Sec. 5. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

19 Sec. 4. ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES; RESPONSE PLAN

20 (a) On or before January 15, 2019, the Agency of Human Services shall
21 present to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services and

1 the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, in response to the work
2 completed by the Adverse Childhood Experiences Working Group established
3 pursuant to Sec. 3 of this act, a plan that specially addresses the integration of
4 evidence-informed and family-focused prevention, intervention, treatment, and
5 recovery services for individuals affected by adverse childhood experiences.

6 The plan shall address the coordination of services throughout the Agency and
7 shall propose mechanisms for:

8 (1) improving and engaging community providers in the systematic
9 prevention of trauma;

10 (2) case detection and care of individuals affected by adverse childhood
11 experiences; and

12 (3) ensuring that grants to the Agency of Human Services' community
13 partners related to children and families strive toward accountability and
14 community resilience.

15 (b) On or before February 1, 2018, the Agency of Human Services shall
16 update the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the House
17 Committees on Health Care and on Human Services on work being done in
18 advance of the response plan required by subsection (a) of this section.

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* * * Health Care * * *

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 702 is amended to read:

§ 702. BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH; STRATEGIC PLAN

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(c) The Blueprint shall be developed and implemented to further the following principles:

(1) ~~the primary care provider~~ The Blueprint community health team should serve a central role in the coordination of medical care and social services and shall be compensated appropriately for this effort;

(2) ~~use~~ Use of information technology should be maximized;

(3) ~~local~~ Local service providers should be used and supported, whenever possible;

(4) ~~transition~~ Transition plans should be developed by all involved parties to ensure a smooth and timely transition from the current model to the Blueprint model of health care delivery and payment;

(5) ~~implementation~~ Implementation of the Blueprint in communities across the State should be accompanied by payment to providers sufficient to support care management activities consistent with the Blueprint, recognizing that interim or temporary payment measures may be necessary during early and transitional phases of implementation; ~~and~~.

1 (6) ~~interventions~~ Interventions designed to prevent chronic disease and
2 improve outcomes for persons with chronic disease should be maximized,
3 should target specific chronic disease risk factors, and should address changes
4 in individual behavior; the physical, mental, and social environment; and
5 health care policies and systems.

6 (7) Providers should assess **trauma** and **toxic stress** to ensure that the
7 needs of the whole patient are addressed and opportunities to build **resilience**
8 and community supports are maximized.

9 * * *

10 Sec. **7**. 18 V.S.A. § 9382 is amended to read:

11 § 9382. OVERSIGHT OF ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATIONS

12 (a) In order to be eligible to receive payments from Medicaid or
13 commercial insurance through any payment reform program or initiative,
14 including an all-payer model, each accountable care organization shall obtain
15 and maintain certification from the Green Mountain Care Board. The Board
16 shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to establish standards and
17 processes for certifying accountable care organizations. To the extent
18 permitted under federal law, the Board shall ensure these rules anticipate and
19 accommodate a range of ACO models and sizes, balancing oversight with
20 support for innovation. In order to certify an ACO to operate in this State, the
21 Board shall ensure that the following criteria are met:

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(17) For preventing and addressing the impacts of childhood adversity, the ACO provides connections to existing community services and incentives, such as developing quality-outcome measurements for use by primary care providers working with children and families, developing partnerships between nurses and families, providing opportunities for home visits and other community services, such as parent-child centers, designated agencies, regulated child care programs, including those designated as specialized child care providers, and the Department of Health’s local offices as participating providers in the ACO.

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* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to ensuring a coordinated public health approach to addressing childhood adversity and promoting resilience”

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3 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE