

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1319**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Verrelli and Assemblywoman Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board in Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in DHS.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1    **AN ACT** establishing the Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board  
2       and supplementing Chapter 9A of Title 30 of the Revised  
3       Statutes.

4  
5       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6       *of New Jersey:*

7  
8       1. There is established in the Division of Mental Health and  
9       Addiction Services in the Department of Human Services the  
10      Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board.

11      a. The purpose of the board shall be to review all aspects of  
12      behavioral mental health services in New Jersey and make  
13      recommendations for legislation or other such action as it deems  
14      appropriate with regard to improving, expanding, and facilitating  
15      the provision of behavioral mental health services to the citizens of  
16      this State, including, but not limited to: coordinating services  
17      among providers; facilitating access to comprehensive behavioral  
18      mental health care and treatment; maximizing the effective use of  
19      available funding; establishing new programs or revising existing  
20      programs; promoting enhanced communication and information  
21      exchanges; and any other matters the advisory board deems  
22      necessary and appropriate.

23      b. The board shall consist of 17 members as follows:

24          (1) the Commissioners of Health, Human Services, and Children  
25          and Families, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio;

26          (2) Four public members to be appointed by the Governor, as  
27          follows:

28              one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey  
29              Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies; one person  
30              upon the recommendation of the National Alliance on Mental  
31              Illness New Jersey; one person upon the recommendation of the  
32              Mental Health Association in New Jersey; and one person upon the  
33              recommendation of the New Jersey Primary Care Association;

34          (3) Five public members to be appointed by the President of the  
35          Senate, as follows: one person upon the recommendation of the  
36          New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Emergency  
37          Physicians; one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey  
38          Association of Health Plans; one psychiatrist upon the  
39          recommendation of the Medical Society of New Jersey; one health  
40          care provider, upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Office  
41          of the Drug Policy Alliance, who specializes in substance abuse  
42          treatment; and one person upon the recommendation of the National  
43          Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence New Jersey; and

44          (4) Five public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
45          General Assembly, as follows: one person upon the  
46          recommendation of the New Jersey Hospital Association; one  
47          person upon the recommendation of the Advocates for Children of  
48          New Jersey; one health care provider, upon the recommendation of

1 the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics,  
2 who specializes in treating children and adolescents; one health care  
3 provider, upon the recommendation of the Health Care Association  
4 of New Jersey, who specializes in treating geriatric patients; and  
5 one person upon the recommendation of Parent to Parent New  
6 Jersey.

7 c. Vacancies in the membership of the board shall be filled in  
8 the same manner provided for the original appointments.

9 d. The board shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
10 appointment of its members, and shall select a chairperson and vice-  
11 chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall  
12 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board.

13 e. The public members shall serve without compensation, but  
14 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
15 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available  
16 to the board.

17 f. The board shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail  
18 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
19 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
20 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

21 g. The Department of Human Services shall provide staff  
22 support to the board.

23  
24 2. No later than one year following the effective date of this  
25 act, and annually thereafter, the board shall report to the Governor,  
26 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
27 (C.52:14-19.1), its findings and recommendations with regard to  
28 improving the provision of behavioral mental health services in  
29 New Jersey. The second report submitted pursuant to this section,  
30 and each annual report thereafter, shall include a description and  
31 analysis of any actions taken on recommendations included in the  
32 prior year's report.

33  
34 3. The Commissioner of Human Services may adopt, pursuant  
35 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-  
36 1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of  
37 this act.

38  
39 4. This act shall take effect immediately.  
40  
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#### 42 STATEMENT

43  
44 This bill establishes the Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board  
45 in the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the  
46 Department of Human Services (DHS). The purpose of the board will  
47 be to review all aspects of behavioral mental health services in New  
48 Jersey and make recommendations for legislation or other such action

1 as it deems appropriate with regard to improving, expanding, and  
 2 facilitating the provision of behavioral mental health services to the  
 3 citizens of this State, including, but not limited to: coordinating  
 4 services among providers; facilitating access to comprehensive  
 5 behavioral mental health care and treatment; maximizing the effective  
 6 use of available funding; establishing new programs or revising  
 7 existing programs; promoting enhanced communication and  
 8 information exchanges; and any other matters the advisory board  
 9 deems necessary and appropriate.

10 The board will consist of 17 members: the Commissioners of  
 11 Health, Human Services, and Children and Families, or their  
 12 designees, who would serve ex officio; and 14 public members, with  
 13 four members to be appointed by the Governor, and five members  
 14 each to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the  
 15 General Assembly.

16 The members to be appointed by the Governor would include: one  
 17 person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association of  
 18 Mental Health and Addiction Agencies; one person upon the  
 19 recommendation of the National Alliance on Mental Illness New  
 20 Jersey; one person upon the recommendation of the Mental Health  
 21 Association in New Jersey; and one person upon the recommendation  
 22 of the New Jersey Primary Care Association.

23 The members to be appointed by the President of the Senate would  
 24 include: one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey  
 25 Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians; one  
 26 person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association of  
 27 Health Plans; one psychiatrist upon the recommendation of the  
 28 Medical Society of New Jersey; one health care provider, upon the  
 29 recommendation of the New Jersey Office of the Drug Policy  
 30 Alliance, who specializes in substance abuse treatment; and one person  
 31 upon the recommendation of the National Council on Alcoholism and  
 32 Drug Dependence New Jersey. The members to be appointed by the  
 33 Speaker of the General Assembly would include: one person upon the  
 34 recommendation of the New Jersey Hospital Association; one person  
 35 upon the recommendation of the Advocates for Children of New  
 36 Jersey; one health care provider, upon the recommendation of the New  
 37 Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, who  
 38 specializes in treating children and adolescents; one health care  
 39 provider, upon the recommendation of the Health Care Association of  
 40 New Jersey, who specializes in treating geriatric patients; and one  
 41 person upon the recommendation of Parent to Parent New Jersey.

42 Vacancies in the membership will be filled in the same manner  
 43 provided for the original appointments. The board will organize as  
 44 soon as practicable following appointments, and will select a  
 45 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members. The  
 46 chairperson will appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the  
 47 board.

1       The public members will serve without compensation, but will be  
2 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their  
3 duties and within the limits of funds available to the board, and the  
4 board will be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the  
5 services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal  
6 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require  
7 and as may be available to it for its purposes. DHS will provide staff  
8 support to the board.

9       The board also will submit an annual report to the Governor and to  
10 the Legislature with its findings and its recommendations with regard  
11 to improving the provision of behavioral mental health services in  
12 New Jersey. The second report submitted, and each report thereafter,  
13 will include a description and analysis of any actions taken on  
14 recommendations included in the prior year's report.