



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Committee Bill No. 5677**

LCO No. 4997



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Community violence" means intentional acts of interpersonal  
3 violence committed by individuals who are not intimately related to the  
4 victim.

5 (2) "Community violence prevention services" means evidence-  
6 based, trauma-informed, supportive and nonpsychotherapeutic  
7 services provided by a qualified violence prevention professional for the  
8 purpose of promoting improved health outcomes and positive  
9 behavioral change, preventing injury recidivism and reducing the  
10 likelihood that individuals who are victims of community violence will  
11 commit or promote violence themselves. Such services may be provided  
12 within or outside of a clinical setting and may include the provision of  
13 peer support and counseling, mentorship, conflict mediation, crisis  
14 intervention, targeted case management, referrals to certified or licensed  
15 health care professionals or social services providers, patient education

16 or screening services to victims of community violence.

17 (3) "Prevention professional" has the same meaning as defined by the  
18 National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) under NUCC Code  
19 Number 405300000X or its successor.

20 (4) "Qualified violence prevention professional" means a prevention  
21 professional who meets all of the conditions specified in subsection (c)  
22 of this section.

23 (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Social Services,  
24 in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall amend  
25 the Medicaid state plan to make community violence prevention  
26 services available, to the extent permitted by federal law, to any  
27 Medicaid beneficiary who has: (A) Received medical treatment for an  
28 injury sustained as a result of an act of community violence, and (B) been  
29 referred by a certified or licensed health care provider or social services  
30 provider to receive community violence prevention services from a  
31 qualified violence prevention professional, after such provider  
32 determines such beneficiary to be at elevated risk of a violent injury or  
33 retaliation resulting from another act of community violence.

34 (2) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek any federal  
35 approvals necessary to implement this section, including, but not  
36 limited to, any state plan amendments or federal waivers by the federal  
37 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This subsection shall be  
38 implemented only to the extent that federal financial participation is  
39 available, and any necessary federal approvals have been obtained.

40 (c) Any prevention professional seeking certification as a qualified  
41 violence prevention professional shall:

42 (1) Complete at least six months of full-time equivalent experience in  
43 providing community violence prevention services through  
44 employment, volunteer work or as part of an internship experience;

45 (2) Complete an accredited training and certification program for  
46 qualified violence prevention professionals, approved in accordance

47 with subsection (d) of this section, or be certified as a violence  
48 prevention professional by the Health Alliance for Violence  
49 Intervention prior to October 1, 2021;

50 (3) Complete annually at least four hours of continuing education,  
51 offered by the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention or any other  
52 provider approved by the Commissioner of Public Health, in the field  
53 of community violence prevention services; and

54 (4) Satisfy any other requirements established by the Commissioner  
55 of Public Health for certification as a qualified violence prevention  
56 professional.

57 (d) On or before January 1, 2022, the Department of Public Health  
58 shall approve at least one governmental or nongovernmental  
59 accrediting body with expertise in community violence prevention  
60 services to review and approve training and certification programs for  
61 qualified violence prevention professionals. The accrediting body shall  
62 approve programs that such body determines, in its discretion, will  
63 adequately prepare individuals to provide community violence  
64 prevention services to individuals who are victims of community  
65 violence. Such programs shall include at least thirty-five hours of  
66 training, collectively addressing all of the following:

67 (1) The profound effects of trauma and violence and the basics of  
68 trauma-informed care;

69 (2) Community violence prevention strategies, including, but not  
70 limited to, conflict mediation and retaliation prevention related to  
71 community violence;

72 (3) Case management and advocacy practices; and

73 (4) Patient privacy and the federal Health Insurance Portability and  
74 Accountability Act of 1996, P.L. 104-191, as amended from time to time,  
75 (HIPAA).

76 (e) Any entity that employs or contracts with a qualified violence

77 prevention professional to provide community violence prevention  
78 services shall:

79 (1) Maintain documentation that the qualified violence prevention  
80 professional has met all of the conditions described in subsection (c) of  
81 this section; and

82 (2) Ensure that the qualified violence prevention professional is  
83 providing community violence prevention services in compliance with  
84 any applicable standards of care, rules, regulations and governing law  
85 of the state or federal government.

86 (f) Nothing in this section shall alter the scope of practice for any  
87 health care professional or authorize the delivery of health care services  
88 in a setting or in a manner that is not currently authorized.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To make community violence prevention services provided by a qualified violence prevention professional a covered service under the Medicaid program, and to provide for training and certification of qualified violence prevention professionals.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.; REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.  
REP. HALL, 7th Dist.

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