



**Substitute House Bill No. 6729**

**Public Act No. 23-121**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF VARIOUS ADVISORY BOARDS AND COUNCILS.**

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

Section 1. Section 17a-470 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

Each [state hospital,] state-operated facility [or the Whiting Forensic Hospital] for the treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities or persons with substance use disorders, or both, [except the Connecticut Mental Health Center, may] shall have an advisory board appointed by the superintendent or director of the facility for terms to be decided by such superintendent or director. The superintendent or director shall appoint at least two persons with lived experience with a behavioral health disorder to the advisory board. In any case where the present number of members of an advisory board is less than the number of members designated by the superintendent or director of the facility, [he] the superintendent or director shall appoint additional members to such board in accordance with this section in such manner that the terms of an approximately equal number of members shall expire in each odd-numbered year. The superintendent or director shall fill any vacancy

**Substitute House Bill No. 6729**

that may occur for the unexpired portion of any term. No member [may] shall serve more than two successive terms plus the balance of any unexpired term to which [he] the member had been appointed. The superintendent or director of the facility shall be an ex-officio member of the advisory board. Each member of an advisory board of a state-operated facility within the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services assigned a geographical territory shall be a resident of the assigned geographical territory. Members of said advisory boards shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses involved in the performance of their duties. At least one-third of such members shall be from regional behavioral health action organizations, established pursuant to section 17a-484f, and at least one-third shall be members of the catchment area councils, as provided in section 17a-483, for the catchment areas served by such facility, except that members serving as of October 1, 1977, shall serve out their terms.

Sec. 2. Section 17a-471a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in consultation and coordination with the advisory council established under subsection (b) of this section, shall develop policies and set standards related to clients residing on the Connecticut Valley Hospital campus and to the discharge of such clients from the hospital into the adjacent community. Any such policies and standards shall [assure] ensure that no discharge of any client admitted to Whiting Forensic Hospital under commitment by the Superior Court or transfer from the Department of Correction shall take place without full compliance with sections 17a-511 to 17a-524, inclusive, 17a-566 to 17a-575, inclusive, 17a-580 to 17a-603, inclusive, and 54-56d.

(b) There is established a Connecticut Valley Hospital Advisory Council that shall advise the Commissioner of Mental Health and

**Substitute House Bill No. 6729**

Addiction Services on policies concerning, but not limited to, building use, security, clients residing on the campus and the discharge of clients from the campus into the adjacent community. In addition, the advisory council shall periodically review the implementation of the policies and standards established by the commissioner in consultation with the advisory council. The council shall be composed of six members appointed by the mayor of Middletown, [six] eight members appointed by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services and one member who shall serve as chairperson appointed by the Governor. On and after January 1, 2024, at least two members appointed by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall have lived experience with a behavioral health disorder.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17a-450a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall constitute a successor department to the Department of Mental Health. Whenever the words "Commissioner of Mental Health" are used or referred to in the following general statutes, the words "Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof and whenever the words "Department of Mental Health" are used or referred to in the following general statutes, the words "Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 4-5, 4-38c, 4-77a, 4a-12, 4a-16, 5-142, 8-206d, 10-19, 10-71, 10-76d, 17a-14, 17a-26, 17a-31, 17a-33, 17a-218, 17a-246, 17a-450, 17a-451, 17a-453, 17a-454, 17a-455, 17a-456, 17a-457, 17a-458, 17a-459, [17a-460,] 17a-464, 17a-465, 17a-466, 17a-467, 17a-468, 17a-470, as amended by this act, 17a-471, 17a-472, 17a-473, 17a-474, 17a-476, 17a-478, 17a-479, 17a-480, 17a-481, 17a-482, 17a-483, 17a-498, 17a-499, 17a-502, 17a-506, 17a-510, 17a-511, 17a-512, 17a-513, 17a-519, 17a-528, 17a-560, 17a-561, 17a-562, 17a-565, 17a-581, 17a-582, 17a-675, 17-836a, 17b-

**Substitute House Bill No. 6729**

28, 17b-59a, 17b-222, 17b-223, 17b-225, 17b-359, 17b-694, 19a-82, 19a-495, 19a-498, 19a-507a, 19a-576, 19a-583, 20-14i, 20-14j, 21a-240, 21a-301, 27-122a, 31-222, 38a-514, 51-51o, 52-146h and 54-56d.

Sec. 4. Section 17a-460 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)