

1 AN ACT concerning mental health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children's Mental Health Act is amended by
5 changing Section 5 as follows:

6 (405 ILCS 49/5)

7 Sec. 5. Children's Mental Health Partnership; Children's
8 Mental Health Plan.

9 (a) The Children's Mental Health Partnership (hereafter
10 referred to as "the Partnership") created under Public Act
11 93-495 and continued under Public Act 102-899 shall advise
12 State agencies and the Children's Behavioral Health
13 Transformation Initiative on designing and implementing
14 short-term and long-term strategies to provide comprehensive
15 and coordinated services for children from birth to age 25 and
16 their families with the goal of addressing children's mental
17 health needs across a full continuum of care, including social
18 determinants of health, prevention, early identification, and
19 treatment. The recommended strategies shall build upon the
20 recommendations in the Children's Mental Health Plan of 2022
21 and may include, but are not limited to, recommendations
22 regarding the following:

23 (1) Increasing public awareness on issues connected to

1 children's mental health and wellness to decrease stigma,
2 promote acceptance, and strengthen the ability of
3 children, families, and communities to access supports.

4 (2) Coordination of programs, services, and policies
5 across child-serving State agencies to best monitor and
6 assess spending, as well as foster innovation of adaptive
7 or new practices.

8 (3) Funding and resources for children's mental health
9 prevention, early identification, and treatment across
10 child-serving State agencies.

11 (4) Review ~~Facilitation~~ of research on best practices
12 and model programs and dissemination of this information
13 to State policymakers, practitioners, and the general
14 public.

15 (5) Monitoring programs, services, and policies
16 addressing children's mental health and wellness.

17 (6) Growing, retaining, diversifying, and supporting
18 the child-serving workforce, with special emphasis on
19 professional development around child and family mental
20 health and wellness services.

21 (7) Supporting the design, implementation, and
22 evaluation of a quality-driven children's mental health
23 system of care across all child services that prevents
24 mental health concerns and mitigates trauma.

25 (8) Improving the system to more effectively meet the
26 emergency and residential placement needs for all children

1 with severe mental and behavioral challenges.

2 (b) The Partnership shall have the responsibility of
3 developing and updating the Children's Mental Health Plan and
4 advising the relevant State agencies on implementation of the
5 Plan. The Children's Mental Health Partnership shall be
6 comprised of the following members:

7 (1) The Governor or the Governor's ~~his or her~~
8 designee.

9 (2) (Blank). ~~The Attorney General or his or her~~
10 ~~designee.~~

11 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services
12 or the Secretary's ~~his or her~~ designee.

13 (4) The State Superintendent of Education or the State
14 Superintendent's ~~his or her~~ designee.

15 (5) The Director of the Department of Children and
16 Family Services or the Director's ~~his or her~~ designee.

17 (6) The Director of the Department of Healthcare and
18 Family Services or the Director's ~~his or her~~ designee.

19 (7) The Director of the Department of Public Health or
20 the Director's ~~his or her~~ designee.

21 (8) The Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice
22 or the Director's ~~his or her~~ designee.

23 (9) The Secretary of Early Childhood or the
24 Secretary's ~~his or her~~ designee.

25 (10) The Director of the Criminal Justice Information
26 Authority or the Director's ~~his or her~~ designee.

1 (11) One member of the General Assembly appointed by
2 the Speaker of the House.

3 (12) One member of the General Assembly appointed by
4 the President of the Senate.

5 (13) One member of the General Assembly appointed by
6 the Minority Leader of the Senate.

7 (14) One member of the General Assembly appointed by
8 the Minority Leader of the House.

9 (15) Up to 25 representatives from the public
10 reflecting a diversity of age, sexual orientation, gender
11 identity, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and
12 geographic location, to be appointed by the Governor.
13 Those public members appointed under this paragraph must
14 include, but are not limited to:

15 (A) a family member or individual with lived
16 experience in the children's mental health system;

17 (B) a child advocate;

18 (C) a community mental health expert,
19 practitioner, or provider;

20 (D) a representative of a statewide association
21 representing a majority of hospitals in the State;

22 (E) an early childhood expert or practitioner;

23 (F) a representative from the K-12 school system;

24 (G) a representative from the health care sector;

25 (H) a substance use prevention expert or
26 practitioner, or a representative of a statewide

1 association representing community-based mental health
2 substance use disorder treatment providers in the
3 State;

4 (I) a violence prevention expert or practitioner;

5 (J) a representative from the juvenile justice
6 system;

7 (K) a school social worker; and

8 (L) a representative of a statewide organization
9 representing pediatricians.

10 (16) Two co-chairs appointed by the Governor, one
11 being a representative from the public and one being the
12 Director of the Department of Public Health or the
13 Director's designee.

14 The public co-chair is included among the 25 public
15 representatives appointed under paragraph (15), and the
16 Director of Public Health (or the Director's designee) serving
17 as co-chair is the same individual listed under paragraph (7).

18 The members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed
19 for 4-year terms ~~4 years~~ with the ~~one~~ opportunity for
20 reappointment, ~~except as otherwise provided for in this~~
21 ~~subsection. Members who were appointed by the Governor and are~~
22 ~~serving on January 1, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act~~
23 ~~102-899) shall maintain their appointment until the term of~~
24 ~~their appointment has expired. For new appointments made~~
25 ~~pursuant to Public Act 102-899, members shall be appointed for~~
26 ~~one year, 2 year, or 4 year terms, as determined by the~~

1 ~~Governor, with no more than 9 of the Governor's new or existing~~
2 ~~appointees serving the same term. Those new appointments~~
3 ~~serving a one-year or 2-year term may be appointed to 2~~
4 ~~additional 4-year terms. If a vacancy occurs in the~~
5 ~~Partnership membership, the vacancy shall be filled in the~~
6 ~~same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of~~
7 ~~the term.~~

8 ~~The Partnership shall be convened no later than January~~
9 ~~31, 2023 to discuss the changes in Public Act 102-899.~~

10 The members of the Partnership shall serve without
11 compensation ~~but may be entitled to reimbursement for all~~
12 ~~necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their~~
13 ~~official duties as members of the Partnership from funds~~
14 ~~appropriated for that purpose.~~

15 The Partnership may convene and appoint special committees
16 ~~or study groups~~ to operate under the direction of the
17 Partnership. ~~Persons appointed to such special committees or~~
18 ~~study groups shall only receive reimbursement for reasonable~~
19 ~~expenses.~~

20 (b-5) The Partnership shall include an adjunct council
21 comprised of up to 10 ~~no more than 6~~ youth aged 16 ~~14~~ to 25 and
22 up to 4 representatives of 4 different community-based
23 organizations that focus on youth mental health. Of the
24 community-based organizations that focus on youth mental
25 health, one of the community-based organizations shall be led
26 by an LGBTQ-identified person, one of the community-based

1 organizations shall be led by a person of color, and one of the
2 community-based organizations shall be led by a woman. Of the
3 representatives appointed to the council from the
4 community-based organizations, at least one representative
5 shall be LGBTQ-identified, at least one representative shall
6 be a person of color, and at least one representative shall be
7 a woman. The council members shall be appointed by the Chair of
8 the Partnership and shall reflect the racial, gender identity,
9 sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic, ethnic, and
10 geographic diversity of the State, including rural, suburban,
11 and urban appointees. The council shall make recommendations
12 to the Partnership regarding youth mental health, including,
13 but not limited to, identifying barriers to youth feeling
14 supported by and empowered by the system of mental health and
15 treatment providers, barriers perceived by youth in accessing
16 mental health services, gaps in the mental health system,
17 available resources in schools, including youth's perceptions
18 and experiences with outreach personnel, agency websites, and
19 informational materials, methods to destigmatize mental health
20 services, and how to improve State policy concerning student
21 mental health. The mental health system may include services
22 for substance use disorders and addiction. The council shall
23 meet at least 4 times annually.

24 (c) (Blank).

25 (d) The Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership has
26 the following powers and duties:

1 (1) Reviewing or facilitating needs ~~Conducting~~
2 ~~research~~ assessments to better understand the challenges
3 ~~determine the needs~~ and gaps of programs, services, and
4 policies related to ~~that touch~~ children's mental health.

5 (2) Monitoring policy development related to
6 children's mental health in Illinois at the local, State,
7 and federal level, especially regarding interagency
8 collaboration, varying modes of mental health services
9 delivery, and considering ~~Developing policy statements for~~
10 ~~interagency cooperation to cover all aspects of mental~~
11 ~~health delivery, including~~ social determinants of health,
12 prevention, early identification, and treatment.

13 (3) Raising awareness about ~~Recommending policies and~~
14 ~~providing information on~~ effective programs for delivery
15 of mental health services.

16 (4) Promoting ~~Using funding from federal, State, or~~
17 ~~philanthropic partners, to fund pilot programs or research~~
18 ~~activities to resource~~ innovative practices by
19 organizational partners that will address children's
20 mental health. However, the Partnership may not provide
21 direct services.

22 (4.1) Working ~~The Partnership shall work~~ with
23 community networks and the Children's Behavioral Health
24 Transformation Initiative team to implement a community
25 needs assessment, that will raise awareness of gaps in
26 existing community-based services for youth.

1 (5) Submitting an annual report, on or before December
2 15 ~~30~~ of each year, to the Governor and the General
3 Assembly on the progress of the Plan, any recommendations
4 regarding State policies, laws, or rules necessary to
5 fulfill the purposes of the Act, and any additional
6 recommendations regarding mental or behavioral health that
7 the Partnership deems necessary.

8 (6) (Blank).

9 (7) Regularly reviewing aggregate and de-identified
10 data on the need for children's behavioral health services
11 in Illinois that is collected by the Behavioral Health
12 Care and Ongoing Navigation (BEACON) portal to ensure that
13 system transformation can continue to be driven by data.

14 The Partnership may designate a fiscal and administrative
15 agent that can accept funds to carry out its duties as outlined
16 in this Section.

17 The Department of Public Health shall provide technical
18 and administrative support for the Partnership.

19 (e) (Blank). ~~The Partnership may accept monetary gifts or~~
20 ~~grants from the federal government or any agency thereof, from~~
21 ~~any charitable foundation or professional association, or from~~
22 ~~any reputable source for implementation of any program~~
23 ~~necessary or desirable to carry out the powers and duties as~~
24 ~~defined under this Section.~~

25 (f) On or before January 1, 2027, the Partnership shall
26 submit recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly

1 that includes recommended updates to the Act to reflect the
2 current mental health landscape in this State.

3 (Source: P.A. 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-594, eff. 6-25-24;
4 103-885, eff. 8-9-24; 104-417, eff. 8-15-25.)