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LRB094 06294 LCB 44617 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1397

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 1397 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
5 by adding Section 6d as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/6d new)

7 Sec. 6d. Alternate care plans for children and youth.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Children entering the child welfare system
10 experience trauma related not only to abuse and neglect but
11 also to out of home placement.

12 (2) Untreated, the effects of trauma escalate over
13 time.

14 (3) Placement instability causes service delays and
15 interruptions that jeopardize children's physical and
16 emotional well-being.

17 (4) A significant portion of children entering
18 residential programs designed to treat complex clinical or
19 development needs do so only after multiple failed foster
20 care placements and without any intensive service
21 intervention.

22 (5) Relevant and timely service intervention has a
23 direct impact on the quality of life for children in care,
24 the length of time the children are in care and the

1 long-term outcomes when the children leave care.

2 (b) To ensure that children and youth have efficient and
3 effective access to interventions, programs, and services when
4 needs are identified, the Department shall implement
5 procedures for the establishment of regionally based,
6 multi-disciplinary teams that shall be responsible for
7 developing and ensuring the implementation of plans for youth
8 in care. The Department shall promulgate rules and procedures
9 for the appointment of the teams and for use of uniform
10 assessment tools.

11 (c) The teams shall:

12 (1) Use a team-decision making process that
13 collaboratively determines the optimal plan for the youth.

14 (2) Focus on the current and immediate clinical and
15 social needs of the youth.

16 (3) Administer a uniform assessment tool, as provided
17 for in Department rules, to assist in determining the
18 child's current level of functioning and well-being.

19 (4) Be empowered to identify youth's service and
20 placement needs without restriction to program type.

21 (5) Identify the best plan to meet the child's need
22 based on the individual strengths, needs, and
23 circumstances of the child's case.

24 (d) The Department shall establish criteria for
25 identifying cases and shall define events that require a
26 meeting of participants in addition to the appointed team
27 members. The criteria or events shall include, at a minimum,
28 all children or youths who have experienced 2 unplanned
29 placement disruptions within a period of 18 months.

30 (e) Participants in a meeting required by the Department
31 shall include:

32 (1) individuals with relevant current information
33 about the child or youth;

34 (2) individuals with a professional capacity that is

1 critical to informed, sound decision-making of the team
2 about the individual youth;

3 (3) current foster parents or other caregiver, the
4 caseworker, and supervisor;

5 (4) depending on the child's age and presenting issues,
6 the youth; and

7 (5) if appropriate, a psychologist, early childhood
8 specialist, education advisor, nurse, therapist, any
9 existing SOC provider of services, the child's guardian ad
10 litem, probation personnel, and any relevant Department of
11 Children and Family Services specialist.

12 (f) The biological families of the child may be included at
13 the meeting, where appropriate.

14 (g) The Department may assign staff of the Department to
15 coordinate, prepare, and facilitate the team meetings.

16 (h) The Department shall develop quality assurance
17 mechanisms to track the appropriateness of service
18 recommendations and implementation performance. The quality
19 assurance mechanisms shall include measures to collect data as
20 to timeliness and effectiveness of the team's decision, as well
21 as service gaps that are identified as the by product of these
22 meetings.

23 (i) By January 15th of each year, the Department shall
24 report to the General Assembly identified service gaps and
25 recommendations for addressing the identified service needs."