
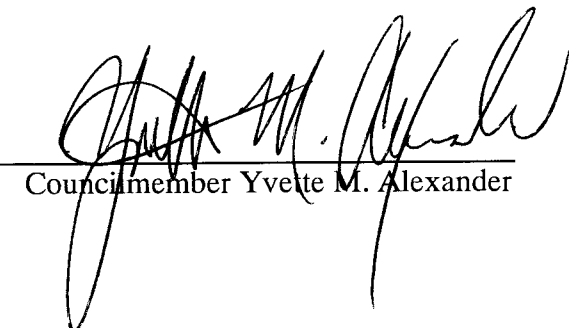


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2 
3 Councilmember Anita Bonds


Councilmember Yvette M. Alexander

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8 A BILL

10 _____
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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16 To establish a behavioral health access project to improve the mental health of children in
17 the District by promoting the integration of mental health care and primary care
18 by increasing pediatric primary care providers' understanding and ability to treat
19 children and adolescents with mental health issues which can be appropriately
20 managed in primary care.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

24 That this act may be cited as the "Behavioral Health System of Care Act of 2014".

25 Sec. 2. Definitions:

26 For the purpose of this act, the term:

27 (1) "Behavioral health" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section
28 section 5112(1) of the Department of Behavioral Health Establishment Act of 2013,
29 effective December 24, 2013 (D.C. Act 20-157; 60 DCR 12472),.

30 (2) "DBH" means the Department of Behavioral Health.

31 (3) "Pediatric primary care provider" means a person licensed under the laws of
32 the District to practice medicine or a person who practices medicine in the employment
33 of the government of the United States who conducts general well visits.

34 (4) "Program" means the Behavioral Health Access Project.

1 (5) "Youth" means an individual under the age of 22 receiving pediatric care in
2 the District.

3 Sec. 3. Establishment of behavioral health access project.

4 (1) DBH shall develop and have oversight over a collaborative program that:

5 (a) Provides timely mental health consultation to pediatric primary care
6 providers who need assistance managing patients' mental health needs, including
7 diagnosis and ongoing treatment;

8 (b) Encourages pediatric primary care providers to provide mental health
9 screening in regular child well visits;

10 (c) Proactively engages, provides mentoring, training, and education to
11 pediatric primary care physicians and their clinical teams to properly diagnose and
12 manage low-acuity mental health needs of patients;

13 (d) Provides consultative and referral services to youth under the age of 22
14 who exhibit a possible mental health or substance use disorder regardless of their
15 insurance coverage;

16 (e) Creates a multidisciplinary team consultative team consisting of
17 professionals from various fields of mental health that may consist of psychiatrists,
18 psychologists, clinical social workers, nurses, and other licensed medical professionals as
19 deemed necessary by the agency;

20 (g) Includes the ability to provide face-to-face consultations with the
21 patient when telephonic consultation with the physician is not sufficient; and

22 (h) Includes the ability to provide care coordinator and facilitated referral
23 services for youth requiring behavioral health treatment.

24 (2) The District may contract with non-profit organizations with expertise in
25 mental health to carry out the functions of the Program.

26 Sec. 4. Reporting Requirements.

1 By October 1, 2014, and then annually thereafter, DBH shall report the following
2 information to the Council the:

3 (1) Number of individual patients who participate from the Program;

4 (2) Number and percentage of pediatric primary care providers using the
5 Program; and

6 (3) Efforts used to engage physicians to participate in the Program,
7 including but not limited to:

8 (A) Number of physicians approached;

9 (B) Events attended; and

10 (C) Fora or conferences held.

11 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

12 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the
13 fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home
14 Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-
15 206.02(c)(3)).

16 Sec. 6. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of a
18 veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of
19 Congressional review by the Mayor as provided in section 601(c)(1) of the District of
20 Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat 813; D.C. Official
21 Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.
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