
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1722 Session of
1990

INTRODUCED BY JONES, WILLIAMS, PORTERFIELD, MUSTO, FATTAH,
DAWIDA AND BELAN, JUNE 29, 1990

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, JUNE 29, 1990

AN ACT

1 Providing for the Care Coordinator Program for Mothers and Their
2 Children.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Care
7 Coordinator Program for Mothers and Their Children Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings and purpose.

9 (a) Findings.--Dependence on alcohol and other drugs is
10 having a devastating effect on children and families in this
11 Commonwealth. In particular, there is concern about the use of
12 alcohol and other drugs by pregnant women and women with
13 children. Chemical dependency, coupled with the factors that
14 lead to it, negatively affects a parent's ability to care for
15 his or her children, frequently contributes to the risk of child
16 abuse and neglect and can result in poor physical and
17 psychological health and developmental delay in childhood.

(b) Purpose.--The purpose of this act is to establish demonstration programs designed to coordinate services for women and children that are designed to treat chemical dependency in parents, protect the health, safety and welfare of children and prevent children from becoming chemically dependent themselves.

Section 3. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Child." An individual who is under 18 years of age.

"Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

"Provider." A hospital, health care facility or drug and alcohol provider licensed by the Department of Health which provides or can readily access maternity, obstetrical, prenatal care, pediatric services and family medicine.

Section 4. Health care center-based programs for women who are addicted and their children.

The department, through grants to providers, shall establish a program for women who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs and their children to be known as "MATCH" or "Mothers and Their Children" program. The purpose of the program shall be to coordinate comprehensive services that will address the needs and welfare of mothers and their children. The department shall attempt to target those areas of this Commonwealth where data documents a high incidence of substance abuse among childbearing women or adverse birth outcomes as demonstrated by mortality and low birth-weight rates in excess of the Statewide rates.

Section 5. Eligibility for funding.

In order to qualify for funding under this program, a provider must meet the following requirements relating to care

1 coordinators:

2 (1) The provider shall designate staff employed by the
3 facility to carry out the duties of care coordinators.

4 (2) Care coordinators shall be assigned to each woman
5 and child under the provider's care if, on the basis of a
6 referral from a physician, the pregnant woman, mother or
7 child is targeted by the physician as showing symptoms of
8 being addicted to alcohol or other drugs.

9 (3) The provider shall develop a protocol for the
10 targeting of pregnant women and newborn children under the
11 provider's care who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs.

12 (4) Care coordinators shall develop a coordinated,
13 comprehensive service and treatment plan for a mother and her
14 child or children referred under this section. The treatment
15 plan shall be based on the care coordinator's assessment of
16 the chemical addiction of the mother as well as other medical
17 and social needs and factors that shall include, but not be
18 limited to, the following considerations:

19 (i) The health of the mother.

20 (ii) The health of the child or children.

21 (iii) The mother's parenting skills, including her
22 strengths as well as her weaknesses.

23 (iv) The child's or children's developmental
24 potential, including plans for reassessment at
25 appropriate age intervals.

26 (v) The quality of the parent-child interaction and
27 the extent to which it should be reinforced or remedied.

28 (vi) The number and age of other children in the
29 household.

30 (vii) Social support systems, including immediate

1 and extended family, available to the mother and child or
2 children.

3 (viii) The mother's ability to provide or obtain
4 services for the child, including, but not limited to,
5 the mother's financial resources.

6 (ix) Housing for the mother and child or children in
7 her custody.

8 (5) Prior to, or as soon as possible after the discharge
9 of the mother and prior to the discharge of her child from
10 the provider's care, the care coordinator shall assess the
11 mother and her child or children's eligibility and need for
12 State-approved alcohol and other drug treatment and
13 detoxification programs, including outpatient and residential
14 treatment programs and determine what specific, appropriate
15 services are available to the mother and child or children
16 under the following programs:

17 (i) Medical assistance pursuant to Title 19 of the
18 Social Security Act (Public Law 74-271, 42 U.S.C. § 301
19 et seq.), including early periodic screening, diagnosis
20 and treatment for individuals under 21 years of age.

21 (ii) The Women, Infant and Children (WIC)
22 supplemental food program authorized by section 17 of the
23 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-642, 42 U.S.C.
24 § 1786).

25 (iii) Cash assistance pursuant to Article IV of the
26 act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public
27 Welfare Code.

28 (iv) Programs for mothers and children developed
29 pursuant to Title 5 of the Social Security Act.

30 (v) Programs and services provided pursuant to the

1 act of October 20, 1966 (3rd Sp.Sess., P.L.96, No.6),
2 known as the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of
3 1966.

4 (vi) Social services provided by the county children
5 and youth office.

6 (6) The care coordinator shall be responsible for
7 advising a woman that she and/or her child or children have
8 been targeted by a physician as having symptoms suggestive of
9 addiction to alcohol or other drugs and shall advise the
10 mother of a plan of treatment and services prepared on behalf
11 of the mother and her child or children.

12 (7) The care coordinator shall provide the woman with a
13 description of services and a treatment plan for which she
14 and her child or children are eligible and shall request the
15 mother's approval of the care plan. The care plan shall
16 contain documentation of such approval. The care plan shall
17 indicate that the coordinator will assist the woman in
18 obtaining services and benefits needed by the mother and
19 child or children and for which the mother and child or
20 children are eligible.

21 (8) The care coordinator shall advise the mother of the
22 availability of specialized outreach services under this
23 section or otherwise provided in the community.

24 (9) The care coordinator shall provide follow-up and
25 monitoring for women and children for up to one year
26 following their referral to the care coordinator to ensure
27 that recommended services for the women and child or children
28 have been received.

29 Section 6. Outreach services requirements.

30 A provider must arrange for the provision and availability of

1 outreach services to meet the specific needs of pregnant women
2 and mothers addicted to alcohol and other drugs and their
3 children. Outreach services may include the utilization of
4 medical vans to areas in a community where there is a high
5 incidence of chemical dependency among childbearing women or
6 high mortality and low birth-weight rates for infants as
7 determined by the department. Outreach services shall also
8 include home visitation, when possible, to help enroll women in
9 prenatal care and programs for treatment of alcohol and other
10 drug addictions. The provider shall indicate whatever existing
11 resources are available to fulfill this objective and shall
12 avoid duplication of services. The provider shall indicate to
13 the department the hours during which the outreach services are
14 provided so as to maximize the provider's effectiveness and
15 serve the greatest number of women who are addicted and their
16 children.

17 Section 7. Report to General Assembly.

18 Within one year following the effective date of this act and
19 every year thereafter, the department shall submit to the
20 General Assembly a report on the programs established pursuant
21 to this act. The report shall include, but not be limited to,
22 information concerning the providers selected to participate in
23 the program, the number of women and children served, types of
24 services arranged for and provided to women and children, the
25 cost of care coordinators and outreach services, the
26 effectiveness of services provided and recommendations on ways
27 to improve the program.

28 Section 8. Guidelines.

29 The department shall issue guidelines that provide criteria
30 for grants to eligible providers in accordance with the

- 1 provisions of this act.
- 2 Section 9. Effective date.
- 3 This act shall take effect immediately.