

ASSEMBLY, No. 2251

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCF to establish certain training protocols for staff of children crisis intervention service units and screening centers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning children and youth with developmental
2 disabilities and supplementing Title 9 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. a. The Department of Children and Families, in
8 collaboration with the Department of Human Services, shall
9 develop training protocols for clinicians, screeners, and other health
10 care professionals, employed by children's crisis intervention
11 services units and screening centers, on the specialized needs of,
12 and the provision of health care services to, children and youth with
13 developmental disabilities experiencing psychiatric or behavioral
14 health crises. The training protocols shall be offered in both
15 traditional and online formats.

16 b. These training protocols shall include, but not be limited to,
17 the following:

18 (1) guidelines for identifying children and youth with
19 developmental disabilities who are experiencing psychiatric or
20 behavioral health crises;

21 (2) guidelines on communicating with children and youth with
22 developmental disabilities who are experiencing psychiatric or
23 behavioral health crises;

24 (3) guidelines on communicating with children and youth with
25 developmental disabilities who are nonverbal, including training on
26 assistive devices used by such children;

27 (4) guidelines for assessing, stabilizing, evaluating, and treating
28 children and youth with developmental disabilities who are
29 experiencing psychiatric or behavioral health crises; and

30 (5) guidelines for assessing, stabilizing, evaluating, and treating
31 children and youth with developmental disabilities who are
32 displaying aggressive behaviors, including training on behavioral
33 interventions and safety protocols.

34 c. The department may provide in-service training of
35 clinicians, screeners, and other health care professionals employed
36 by children's crisis intervention services units and screening
37 centers, according to the training protocols established pursuant to
38 subsection a. of this section, on the specialized needs of, and the
39 provision of health care services to, children and youth with
40 developmental disabilities experiencing psychiatric or behavioral
41 health crises.

42

43 2. The Department of Children and Families, in accordance
44 with Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
45 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the
46 provisions of this act.

47

48 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to develop training protocols for clinicians, screeners, and other health care professionals, employed by children's crisis intervention services units and screening centers, on the specialized needs of, and the provision of health care services to, children and youth with developmental disabilities experiencing psychiatric or behavioral health crises. The protocols would be offered in both traditional and online formats.

The training protocols would include, but not be limited to guidelines: for identifying children and youth with developmental disabilities who are experiencing psychiatric or behavioral health crises or who are displaying aggressive behaviors; on communicating with children and youth with developmental disabilities who are experiencing psychiatric or behavioral health crises; on communicating with children and youth with developmental disabilities who are nonverbal, including training on assistive devices used by such children; for assessing, stabilizing, evaluating, and treating children and youth with developmental disabilities who are experiencing psychiatric or behavioral health crises; and for assessing, stabilizing, evaluating, and treating children and youth with developmental disabilities who are displaying aggressive behaviors, including training on behavioral interventions and safety protocols.

The bill also allows DCF to provide in-service training of clinicians, screeners, and other health care professionals employed by children's crisis intervention services units and screening centers, according to the training protocols established in the bill, on the specialized needs of children and youth with developmental disabilities who are experiencing psychiatric and behavioral health crises.