



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

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NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

Legislative Update # 14

June 4, 2021

Several bills impacting behavioral health began their journey to the Governor's desk having been adopted by both chambers. The summaries of the bills are as follows:

Behavioral health related highlights of [Senate Bill 2](#) include:

- The Youth Suicide Advisory Board and the Office of the Child Advocate will jointly administer an evidence-based youth suicide prevention training program (Question, Persuade and Refer Institute Gatekeeper Training) in each local and district health department and offer it at least once every three years, starting by July 1, 2022.
- Expands the continuing education requirements for certain healthcare professionals to include at least two hours of training and education on screening for posttraumatic stress disorder, suicide risk, depression, and grief and suicide prevention training. This requirement applies to physician assistants; physical therapists; occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants; registered nurses and licensed practical nurses; behavior analysts; certified community health workers; and emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, or emergency medical instructors.
- Requires local and regional boards of education to integrate the principles and practices of social-emotional learning throughout the components of its district's professional development programs.
- Provides two student mental health wellness days taken nonconsecutively.
- Requires SDE to annually develop a document for local and regional boards of education that provides information on educational, safety, mental health, and food insecurity resources and programs available for students and their families.

[Senate Bill 89](#):

- Prohibits an insurance company from issuing a travel insurance policy in the state that excludes coverage because the insured person's spouse, child, or dependent relative who resides in his or her household or traveling companion, dies by suicide.

A quick postscript on legislative update 13:

[SB1](#) also created a Peer Support Services Task Force and requires DMHAS to develop and post online a mental health toolkit to help.

As always, I can be reached at mary.mason@ct.gov. While email is the best way to reach me, you can also text or call my cell phone at (860) 985-2120 since I am away from my desk phone.

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