

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 84 - L.D. 118

**An Act To Address Maine's Shortage of Behavioral Health Services for  
Minors**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §15003, sub-§9**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. DDD, §7, is further amended to read:

**9. Reports.** The department shall report by ~~August~~ January 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on the following matters:

A. ~~The operation of the program, including fiscal status of the accounts and funds from all sources, including blended, pooled and flexible funding, related to children's mental health care in the departments; numbers of children and families served and their residences by county; numbers of children transferred to care in this State and the types of care to which they were transferred; any waiting lists; delays in delivering services; the progress of the departments department in developing new resources implementing improvement strategies; and appeals procedures requested, held and decided; including the results of decided appeals and audits; and evaluations done on the program;~~

B. ~~The experiences of the departments in coordinating program administration and care delivery, including, but not limited to, progress on management information systems; uniform application forms, procedures and assessment tools; case coordination and case management; the use of pooled and blended funding; and initiatives Initiatives in acquiring and using federal and state funds grant funding; and~~

C. ~~Barriers to improved delivery of care to children and their families and the progress of the departments department in overcoming those barriers; and~~

D. The number of children served by crisis providers and the number of children who waited for the appropriate level of behavioral health treatment in a hospital emergency room during the preceding year. The department shall make a reasonable effort to obtain information from providers, including implementing a standardized system for the reporting of data. Data collected pursuant to this paragraph must protect the

confidentiality of all persons involved to the same extent as otherwise required by state or federal law or rule.

**Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §15003, sub-§10**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. DDD, §8, is repealed.

**Sec. 3. Standardized data.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall work with hospitals to develop a consistent and reliable system of data definitions and data collection to identify the number of children with behavioral needs who remain in hospital emergency rooms after they no longer need a medical hospital level of care pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 15003, subsection 9, paragraph D. The data must include the length of stay of a child in hospital beyond 48 hours after the child no longer needs a hospital level of care and the reasons for the extended stay, including, but not limited to, the lack of an appropriate hospital or residential bed or lack of community services. In the department's annual report due to the Legislature pursuant to Title 34-B, section 15003, subsection 9, for January 1, 2022, the annual report must include a description of the progress in developing standardized data pursuant to this section.