

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2004

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2483

Introduced by Assembly Member Chan
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Hancock)
(Coauthor: Senator Vasconcellos)

February 19, 2004

An act to add Chapter 3.7 (commencing with Section 11758.60) to Part 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to substance abuse.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2483, as amended, Chan. Adolescent alcohol and substance abuse care.

Existing law, the Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Program Act of 1998, requires the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, in collaboration with counties and providers, to establish community-based recovery programs to intervene and treat the problems of alcohol and drugs among youth.

This bill would establish a 3-year pilot program to require the department to provide a one-time grant to prescribed counties to establish a coalition of representatives from all entities that receive public funds for youth services that would, among other things, develop an annual plan for each of the 3 pilot years to ensure an evidence-based methodology to provide services to adolescents with alcohol and other drug-related problems. The bill would require the department to

evaluate the program and to report to the Legislature, *the Governor, and other interested agencies* by June 1, 2007.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Alcohol and drug use and abuse is a common problem
4 among California adolescents. According to the 2002 California
5 Student Survey, an alarming 26 percent of 11th graders reported
6 binge drinking (consumption of five drinks in a row on at least one
7 occasion) in the previous 30 days. In addition, 23 percent of 11th
8 graders reported marijuana use in the previous 30 days, and 15
9 percent reported use of marijuana in the past three days.

10 (b) The problem seems to be worsening, according to the
11 United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
12 Prevention, which reports an increase of almost 150 percent for
13 drug violations among adolescents nationally in the past several
14 years.

15 (c) When adolescents drink alcohol, they typically binge
16 drink—a pattern of use that leads to alcoholism and problem
17 drinking later in life. Children who begin drinking before 15 years
18 of age are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those
19 who begin at 21 years of age. Underage alcohol consumption leads
20 to societal costs that average approximately five hundred thirty
21 dollars (\$530) per household per year.

22 (d) However, despite the need for substance abuse treatment
23 programs, only 1 in 10 adolescents in California who need publicly
24 funded treatment actually receive it, according to the Legislative
25 Analyst's Office. Moreover, there are few treatment programs in
26 California that cater to the specific needs of adolescents. Research
27 shows that the most successful programs for adolescents must
28 involve the youth's family and community, and focus on the whole
29 child—across health, education, and other social disciplines. Due
30 to the lack of availability of adolescent-centered treatment
31 programs, adolescents are often forced to seek treatment from
32 programs that are designed for adults, resulting in inappropriate
33 and ineffective treatment.



1 (e) Youth are served best when they are provided a streamlined
2 continuum of care, from the first prevention and early intervention
3 efforts through screening, assessment, treatment, relapse
4 prevention, and aftercare. Studies show that when agencies
5 collaborate in developing a research-based, integrated system of
6 care, they can maximize their effectiveness while making optimal
7 use of limited resources. Yet, the limited funds available for
8 substance abuse prevention and treatment are delivered to
9 counties, schools, and prisons through a fragmented system of
10 more than 15 separate funding streams lacking a central focal
11 point.

12 SEC. 2. Chapter 3.7 (commencing with Section 11758.60) is
13 added to Part 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, to
14 read:

15

16 CHAPTER 3.7. ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE
17 ABUSE CARE PILOT PROGRAM
18

19 11758.60. (a) A three-year pilot program is hereby
20 established, to be administered by the State Department of Alcohol
21 and Drug Programs to provide grants to all of the following
22 counties that elect to participate, to develop an annual county plan
23 to ensure an evidence-based methodology to provide services to
24 adolescents with alcohol and other drug-related problems:

- 25 (1) The County of Alameda.
- 26 (2) The City and County of San Francisco.
- 27 (3) The County of Orange.
- 28 (4) The County of Mendocino.

29 (b) The department shall provide a one-time grant of one
30 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to each of the participating
31 counties to pay for the administrative costs of participating in the
32 pilot project, and to pay for technical assistance to help the
33 coalition established pursuant to Section 11758.62 develop the
34 county plan. The department may seek assistance, including
35 financial and in-kind assistance, from other government,
36 educational, and private sources to pay for the above grants to
37 participating counties. The department shall distribute the grants
38 by February 1, 2005. Participating counties shall provide a local
39 match equal to the grant.



1 11758.62. (a) A participating county shall establish a
2 coalition comprised of representatives from all entities that receive
3 public funds for youth services, including, but not limited to,
4 mental health programs, substance abuse programs, probation
5 offices, school districts, public health programs, substance abuse
6 treatment providers, social services programs, law enforcement
7 agencies, and juvenile justice judges.
8 (b) The coalition shall define the primary components
9 necessary for an effective continuum of care and services for
10 adolescents with alcohol and other drug-related problems.
11 (c) The county alcohol and drug program administrator shall
12 assume the lead in recruiting and coordinating coalition members,
13 advising, and advancing the coalition’s work. The administrator
14 shall integrate the work of the coalition with that of other
15 appropriate groups in the county.
16 11758.64. The coalition shall do all of the following:
17 (a) Create opportunities for agencies to share information and
18 increase awareness of the strengths and resources of other
19 agencies.
20 (b) Provide a vehicle through which agencies and
21 organizations can coordinate and streamline services and
22 eliminate duplication of resources, thereby maximizing the use of
23 funding available to the community while enhancing the
24 effectiveness of programs serving youth.
25 (c) Serve as a unified voice for adolescents, and thereby
26 influence the way in which all funds are disbursed, and cooperate
27 to use existing funds to maximize their effectiveness from both a
28 medical and economic perspective.
29 (d) Look beyond the traditional substance abuse treatment
30 model to achieve the goal of making adolescent substance abuse
31 treatment a communitywide endeavor.
32 (e) Take inventory of the county’s existing capabilities for
33 protecting and caring for youth throughout the continuum of care.
34 (f) Identify gaps in the current system, by exploring existing
35 programs and services available in a broad array of settings, from
36 schools and afterschool programs to social service agencies, the
37 juvenile justice system, community activities, and treatment
38 programs.
39 (g) Define resources available in the county to serve
40 adolescents, whether the funds are designated specifically for



1 adolescent substance abuse services or simply for general
2 programs serving youth.

3 (h) Develop an annual plan for each of the three pilot years for
4 the provision of adolescent alcohol and drug services that
5 addresses the gaps by developing a thorough understanding of the
6 strengths and shortfalls of the communitywide adolescent
7 substance abuse care system using existing resources and
8 developing additional resources, as needed.

9 11758.66. (a) The annual plan shall do all of the following:

10 (1) Define the key components needed to provide an
11 evidence-based continuum of care for adolescents through an
12 assessment of county goals, capabilities, requirements, and
13 funding.

14 (2) Require that every component of the continuum of care be
15 geared to the specific needs of the adolescent and use
16 research-based practices to produce measurable outcomes across
17 all agencies involved in the youth's care.

18 (3) Require that all programs that are part of an integrated
19 continuum of care for adolescents be relevant, developmentally
20 appropriate and meaningful for the youth they serve, and for the
21 youth's family and the community, and that they address each
22 stage of an adolescent's involvement with alcohol and other drugs.

23 (4) Provide treatment in the least restrictive environment
24 appropriate.

25 (5) Require a periodic evaluation of the youth's response to
26 treatment, with care or services adjusted as needed.

27 (b) Participating counties shall complete their initial annual
28 plan within six months of receiving funding from the department.

29 (c) The annual plan shall be approved by the board of
30 supervisors.

31 11758.68. (a) The department shall complete an evaluation
32 of this pilot project and shall submit the evaluation to the
33 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, *the*
34 *Governor, and other interested agencies* by June 1, 2007.

35 (b) The evaluation shall examine the effectiveness of the pilot
36 project in solving both of the following problems:

37 (1) The lack of appropriate treatment for adolescents with
38 substance abuse problems.

39 (2) The lack of coordination between existing county programs
40 serving adolescents with substance abuse problems.



- 1 (c) The evaluation shall include recommendations for the
- 2 Legislature regarding the continuation and improvement of the
- 3 project.

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