

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2004

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 by June 1, 2007.

~~Existing law requires the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to implement programs related to the use of alcohol and drugs, including the licensure of alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities serving adults.~~

~~This bill would state the Legislature's intent to enact legislation that would require all counties to develop an annual plan to develop an evidence-based methodology, which meets specified requirements, to provide services to adolescents with alcohol and other drug-related problems.~~

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

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

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. — It is the intent of the Legislature to enact~~
2 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
3 *following:*
4 *(a) Alcohol and drug use and abuse is a common problem*
5 *among California adolescents. According to the 2002 California*
6 *Student Survey, an alarming 26 percent of 11th graders reported*
7 *binge drinking (consumption of five drinks in a row on at least one*
8 *occasion) in the previous 30 days. In addition, 23 percent of 11th*
9 *graders reported marijuana use in the previous 30 days, and 15*
10 *percent reported use of marijuana in the past three days.*
11 *(b) The problem seems to be worsening, according to the*
12 *United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency*
13 *Prevention, which reports an increase of almost 150 percent for*
14 *drug violations among adolescents nationally in the past several*
15 *years.*
16 *(c) When adolescents drink alcohol, they typically binge*
17 *drink—a pattern of use that leads to alcoholism and problem*
18 *drinking later in life. Children who begin drinking before 15 years*
19 *of age are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those*
20 *who begin at 21 years of age. Underage alcohol consumption*
21 *leads to societal costs that average approximately \$530 per*
22 *household per year.*
23 *(d) However, despite the need for substance abuse treatment*
24 *programs, only 1 in 10 adolescents in California who need publicly*
25 *funded treatment actually receive it, according to the Legislative*
26 *Analyst's office. Moreover, there are few treatment programs in*

California that cater to the specific needs of adolescents. Research shows that the most successful programs for adolescents must involve the youth's family and community, and focus on the whole child—across health, education, and other social disciplines. Due to the lack of availability of adolescent-centered treatment programs, adolescents are often forced to seek treatment from programs that are designed for adults, resulting in inappropriate and ineffective treatment.

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

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

CHAPTER 3.7. ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
CARE PILOT PROGRAM

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

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

(b) The department shall provide a one-time grant of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to each of the participating counties to pay for the administrative costs of participating in the pilot project, and to pay for technical assistance to help the

1 coalition established pursuant to Section 11758.62 develop the
2 county plan. The department may seek assistance, including
3 financial and in-kind assistance, from other government,
4 educational, and private sources to pay for the above grants to
5 participating counties. The department shall distribute the grants
6 by February 1, 2005. Participating counties shall provide a local
7 match equal to the grant.

8 11758.62. (a) A participating county shall establish a
9 coalition comprised of representatives from all entities that receive
10 public funds for youth services, including, but not limited to,
11 mental health programs, substance abuse programs, probation
12 offices, school districts, public health programs, substance abuse
13 treatment providers, social services programs, law enforcement
14 agencies, and juvenile justice judges.

15 (b) The coalition shall define the primary components
16 necessary for an effective continuum of care and services for
17 adolescents with alcohol and other drug-related problems.

18 (c) The county alcohol and drug program administrator shall
19 assume the lead in recruiting and coordinating coalition members,
20 advising, and advancing the coalition's work. The administrator
21 shall integrate the work of the coalition with that of other
22 appropriate groups in the county.

23 11758.64. The coalition shall do all of the following:

24 (a) Create opportunities for agencies to share information and
25 increase awareness of the strengths and resources of other
26 agencies.

27 (b) Provide a vehicle through which agencies and
28 organizations can coordinate and streamline services and
29 eliminate duplication of resources, thereby maximizing the use of
30 funding available to the community while enhancing the
31 effectiveness of programs serving youth.

32 (c) Serve as a unified voice for adolescents, and thereby
33 influence the way in which all funds are disbursed, and cooperate
34 to use existing funds to maximize their effectiveness from both a
35 medical and economic perspective.

36 (d) Look beyond the traditional substance abuse treatment
37 model to achieve the goal of making adolescent substance abuse
38 treatment a communitywide endeavor.

39 (e) Take inventory of the county's existing capabilities for
40 protecting and caring for youth throughout the continuum of care.

1 (f) Identify gaps in the current system, by exploring existing
2 programs and services available in a broad array of settings, from
3 schools and afterschool programs to social service agencies, the
4 juvenile justice system, community activities, and treatment
5 programs.

6 (g) Define resources available in the county to serve
7 adolescents, whether the funds are designated specifically for
8 adolescent substance abuse services or simply for general
9 programs serving youth.

10 (h) Develop an annual plan for each of the three pilot years for
11 the provision of adolescent alcohol and drug services that
12 addresses the gaps by developing a thorough understanding of the
13 strengths and shortfalls of the communitywide adolescent
14 substance abuse care system using existing resources and
15 developing additional resources, as needed.

16 11758.66. (a) The annual plan shall do all of the following:

17 (1) Define the key components needed to provide an
18 evidence-based continuum of care for adolescents through an
19 assessment of county goals, capabilities, requirements, and
20 funding.

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

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

30 (4) Provide treatment in the least restrictive environment
31 appropriate.

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

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

36 (c) The annual plan shall be approved by the board of
37 supervisors.

38 11758.68. (a) The department shall complete an evaluation
39 of this pilot project and shall submit the evaluation to the

1 appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by
2 June 1, 2007.

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

5 (1) The lack of appropriate treatment for adolescents with
6 substance abuse problems.

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

9 (c) The evaluation shall include recommendations for the
10 Legislature regarding the continuation and improvement of the
11 project.

12 ~~legislation that will require all counties to develop an annual plan~~
13 ~~to ensure an evidence-based methodology to provide services to~~
14 ~~adolescents with alcohol and other drug-related problems that~~
15 ~~meets all of the following requirements:~~

16 ~~(a) The plan outlines existing county services for adolescents~~
17 ~~with alcohol and other drug-related problems, identifies service~~
18 ~~gaps, and sets goals and identifies solutions to ensure that those~~
19 ~~service gaps will be filled.~~

20 ~~(b) The plan requires the county to establish a coalition, under~~
21 ~~the direction and supervision of an adolescent substance abuse~~
22 ~~expert appointed by the county's board of supervisors, that is~~
23 ~~vested with the authority to define the primary components~~
24 ~~necessary for an effective continuum of care and services for~~
25 ~~adolescents with alcohol and other drug-related problems.~~

26 ~~(c) The plan requires the coalition to be comprised of~~
27 ~~representatives from all entities that receive public funds for youth~~
28 ~~services, including, but not limited to, mental health programs,~~
29 ~~substance abuse programs, probation offices, school districts,~~
30 ~~public health programs, substance abuse treatment providers,~~
31 ~~social services programs, law enforcement agencies, and juvenile~~
32 ~~justice judges.~~

33 ~~(d) The plan is required to be approved annually by the county~~
34 ~~board of supervisors.~~