

Ensure Kids Can Access their Mental Health Services

HB.2403 & S.44

An Act to Protect Children's Mental Health Services

Lead Sponsors: Representative Malia and Senator Flanagan

The Issue:

Since 2007, the Court Monitor for the Rosie D remedy services (CBHI) has been acting in an ombudsman role, helping families to resolve access issues on both an individual and systemic level. As the court and the Commonwealth plan for disengagement of oversight, the establishment of the position of ombudsman within the Office of the Child Advocate is key to ensuring assistance is available to CBHI consumers.

Some of the Difficulties families face:

- Finding clinicians on their insurance plan who speak their language.
- Long waits for outpatient and in-home services.
- Lengthy stays in emergency departments or on medical units, awaiting inpatient placement.

An Act to Protect Children's Mental Health Services will mandate the establishment of the position of ombudsman in the Office of the Child Advocate. The ombudsman will be “hands on,” assisting families to resolve problems with accessing mental health care for their children. In this role, the ombudsman will track trends and make recommendations to policy makers to address systemic issues. needs of children by eliminating service caps, while remaining within the Legislature's funding appropriation.

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