

# SENATE NO. 1140



## **AN ACT** ESTABLISHING THE CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND EVALUATION INSTITUTE

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,  
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. (a) There shall be a Children's Behavioral Health Research and Evaluation  
2 Institute within the executive office of health and human services. The Institute shall be  
3 responsible for creating and sustaining the capacity within the executive office and its  
4 constituent agencies for annually determining the demand, delivery, cost, and effectiveness of  
5 the behavioral health services for children and adolescents across state agencies. The work of  
6 the Institute shall be designed to promote high-quality, safe, effective, timely, efficient,  
7 equitable and family-centered behavioral health care for children through research and reporting  
8 and other related activities, including identification of effective, evidence-based practices for  
9 children, adolescents, and families; training in those practices; ensuring accountability through  
10 monitoring of outcomes; and design and implementation of procedures for program evaluation

11 and quality improvement. The Institute shall be assigned staff by the Secretary of Health and  
12 Human Services who may, subject to appropriation, employ such additional staff or consultants  
13 as s/he may deem necessary. The Institute Director, appointed by the secretary of health and  
14 human services, shall create an advisory board consisting of the Secretary of Health and Human  
15 Services, the Commissioners of the Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, Social  
16 Services, Youth Services, and such other persons, both within state government and in private  
17 life as s/he deems appropriate. The Advisory Board shall be chaired by the secretary of health  
18 and human services.

19 (b) The Institute shall develop and coordinate the implementation of evidence-based procedures  
20 for effective children's behavioral health services. For this purpose, the Institute shall identify  
21 the steps needed to achieve this goal; estimate the cost of implementation; project the  
22 anticipated short-term or long-term financial savings achievable to the commonwealth, and  
23 document changes in the behavioral health status of children in the commonwealth.

24 (c) The Institute may, subject to chapter 30B, contract with an independent child and adolescent  
25 research and training organization to provide the Institute with technical assistance related to its  
26 duties including, but not limited to, identification, design, and implementation of effective,  
27 evidence-based behavioral health interventions for children and adolescents; training of  
28 program leaders and providers in those intervention procedures; ensuring accountability through  
29 monitoring of intervention outcomes; design and implementation of research programs,  
30 including those for performance measurement and program evaluation; and the preparation of  
31 reports, including any reports as required by this section. The independent research and training  
32 organization shall have a history of demonstrating the skill and expertise necessary to: (i)

33 conduct rigorous systematic reviews of the scientific evidence base, to identify effective,  
34 evidence-based behavioral health interventions for children and adolescents; (ii) design and  
35 implement training for program leaders and behavioral health providers in the use of those  
36 effective interventions; (iii) design and implement procedures for monitoring child and  
37 adolescent progress during and after behavioral health interventions; (iv) collect, analyze and  
38 aggregate data related to the effectiveness and impact of interventions; (v) identify, through  
39 data analysis, quality improvement areas; (vi) work with and interpret data and clinical  
40 performance measures from provider organizations, including those serving Medicaid-eligible  
41 children and adolescents; (vii) establish and maintain security measures necessary to maintain  
42 confidentiality and preserve the integrity of the data; and (vii) design and implement behavioral  
43 health care quality improvement interventions with behavioral health care service providers and  
44 their organizations. To the extent possible, the independent organization shall collaborate with  
45 other organizations that develop, collect and publicly report data on behavioral health care  
46 procedures and outcomes.

47 (d) Any independent organization under contract with the Institute shall develop and update on  
48 an annual basis a reporting plan. The reporting plan shall be consistent with the requirements of  
49 subsections (b) and (c).

50 (e) The Institute shall prepare and file a report, not less than annually, with the Joint Committee  
51 on Children and Families, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and the  
52 clerks of the house and senate on its progress in achieving the goals of identifying and  
53 disseminating effective child and adolescent behavioral health programs, filling gaps in the

- 54 availability of such programs for children who qualify for and need such services, and providing
- 55 research and evaluation of behavioral health programs for children and adolescents.