

Community Violence Prevention Task Force

Legal Authority: Section 151 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024

Section 151

(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive office of health and human services shall establish a task force to review the availability of federal funding to support community violence prevention programs and to make recommendations to maximize federal funding in an equitable manner that supports community violence prevention service delivery across the commonwealth.

The task force shall consist of: the secretary of health and human services or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of public health or a designee; the director of Medicaid or a designee; and 9 persons to be appointed by the secretary of health and human services, 2 of whom shall represent organizations that have received a grant through the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, 2 of whom shall represent recipients of the gun violence prevention grant through the department of public health, 2 of whom shall have lived experience with the impacts of community violence of which at least 1 shall have received services from a community violence intervention or prevention program, 1 of whom represents a hospital that currently operates a hospital-based violence prevention program in the commonwealth, 1 of whom represents a hospital in the commonwealth that does not currently operate a hospital-based violence prevention program and 1 of whom represents behavioral health care clinicians with experience providing trauma informed care.

(b) The task force shall consider: (i) whether federal funds may be applied equitably to community violence prevention programs, in clinical and nonclinical settings, across geographic regions; (ii) the ability of existing community violence prevention and intervention programs to implement any federal requirements to be eligible for funding; and (iii) any impact federal funding may have on the service delivery model of violence prevention services in the commonwealth.

(c) The task force shall submit its recommendations to the governor and the clerks of the house of representatives and senate not later than December 2, 2024.

(d) If the task force recommends that the secretary of health and human services pursue an amendment to the Medicaid state plan and seek any federal approval necessary to access federal funds to support equitable access to community violence prevention services, then the secretary shall pursue such an amendment and shall seek any such federal approval in accordance with the recommendations and findings of the task force.