

An Act expanding access to mental health services

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LEAD: MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

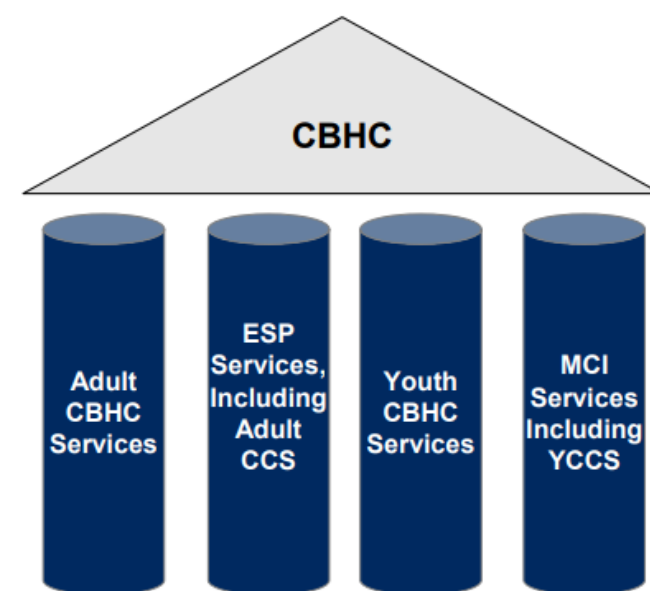
This comprehensive legislation builds on Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022 to expand access to mental health services across Massachusetts by increasing insurance coverage, removing prior authorization requirements, expanding provider eligibility, and improving emergency psychiatric care.

What problem does this bill address?

- YCCS are integral services within the CBHC model; however, they are not part of the original bill language since they were implemented after the Roadmap was introduced.

This bill would:

- Among many improvements to the Behavioral Health Roadmap, a key provision of this bill will amend Ch.177 of the Acts of 2022 to include youth community crisis stabilization services in the list of emergency services programs covered by insurance.



What would the updated bill language look like?

SECTION 49. Section 1 of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Domestic company” the following definition:-

“Emergency services programs”, all programs subject to contract between the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership and nonprofit organizations for the provision of community-based emergency psychiatric services, including, but not limited to, behavioral health crisis assessment, intervention and stabilization services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, through: (i) mobile crisis intervention services for youth; (ii) mobile crisis intervention services for adults; (iii) emergency service provider community-based locations; and (iv) adult community crisis stabilization services; **and (v) youth community crisis stabilization services**