

departments, and child advocates, develop a statewide protocol for integrating child welfare and substance abuse treatment services that includes at a minimum the following:

(1) requiring cross-training for all child welfare and substance abuse treatment personnel;

(2) developing an approved curriculum for the cross-training and criteria for qualified trainers using best practices from other states;

(3) a plan for providing financial incentives for both child welfare personnel and addictions personnel who achieve specified levels of expertise;

(4) placing qualified addictions specialists, INCLUDING AN ADDICTION SPECIALIST UNDER § 50A OF ARTICLE 88A OF THE CODE, in all child welfare offices, based on a caseload formula developed by the Department;

(5) in all cases accepted for child abuse and neglect investigation or out-of-home placement, assuring that parents are screened for substance abuse and, where there is any reasonable suspicion of substance abuse, assuring that qualified addiction specialists have the:

(I) INFORMATION NEEDED REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE FAMILY AND ANY EVIDENCE THAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE EXISTS; AND

(II) opportunity to consult with the parents and children;

(6) specifying the circumstances under which a local department shall include in its petition for a child in need of assistance under Title 3, Subtitle 8 of the Courts Article a request that the court order comprehensive drug and alcohol assessment and testing;

(7) establishing a procedure for notifying the local department of the results of substance abuse assessment and testing;

(8) establishing a procedure for notifying an at-risk parent of the availability of substance abuse treatment; and

(9) developing procedures for routine consultation and reevaluation of progress in substance abuse treatment at every step as a child welfare case proceeds.

(b) No later than December 1, 2000, the Secretary of Human Resources and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit a report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Environmental Matters Committee that:

(1) sets forth the statewide protocol developed under this section; and

(2) identifies the amount and sources of funds that are being used to implement the statewide protocol developed under this section and the other requirements of this subtitle.