

STATE OF NEW YORK

3635

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 28, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER, SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law and the social services law, in relation to housing navigation services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section
2 13.44 to read as follows:

3 § 13.44 Housing navigation services.

4 (a) The office shall establish and provide housing navigation services
5 for individuals with a developmental or intellectual disability as
6 defined in section 1.03 of the mental hygiene law. Housing navigation
7 services shall include but not be limited to:

8 (1) collaborating with individuals to develop an individualized hous-
9 ing action plan, that at a minimum, shall assist individuals in finding
10 appropriate housing that meets their specific housing goals;

11 (2) supporting individuals that apply for state and federal assistance
12 programs;

13 (3) coordinating and assisting housing transitions for individuals,
14 taking into consideration their specific needs; and

15 (4) collaborating with individuals to craft a housing sustainability
16 plan to ensure that such individuals are able to secure and maintain
17 stable housing, and have access to and are able to utilize the necessary
18 services and support to achieve their housing goals.

19 (b) (1) The commissioner shall develop and implement a housing naviga-
20 tion curriculum statewide, for the purposes of training applicants in
21 delivering housing navigation services as defined in subdivision (a) of
22 this section. In developing and implementing such curriculum, the
23 commissioner may contract with an entity that has demonstrated appropri-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 ate knowledge, expertise, and experience in housing navigator services
2 and training curriculums.

3 (2) The commissioner, in consultation with the regional offices under
4 his or her jurisdiction shall perform a statewide assessment of the need
5 for housing navigation services, and shall provide additional outreach
6 regarding the availability of housing navigation training in regions of
7 the state where there is the greatest demonstrated need.

8 (c) (1) The commissioner shall establish a housing navigation task
9 force to perform tasks that will help to ensure the successful implemen-
10 tation of the housing navigation services established by this section.
11 The task force shall be co-chaired by the commissioner or his or her
12 designee, the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability
13 assistance or his or her designee, and a representative of New York
14 state homes and community renewal. Ensuring adequate geographic repre-
15 sentation, an additional ten individuals shall be selected for the task
16 force. Such individuals shall have professional experience in the fields
17 of affordable housing development, banking, financial planning, and in
18 delivering housing services for individuals with developmental or intel-
19 lectual disabilities as a non-profit provider. The members shall be
20 selected by the commissioner in consultation with the other state agency
21 representatives on the task force.

22 (2) The task force shall meet as often as is necessary, but no less
23 than three times per year, and under circumstances as are appropriate to
24 fulfilling its duties as required under this section.

25 (3) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but
26 may be reimbursed for actual costs incurred for participation on such
27 task force.

28 (4) The task force shall:

29 (i) coordinate with the commissioner and the regional offices to help
30 ensure access to housing navigation services in the regions of the state
31 with the greatest demonstrated need;

32 (ii) create or utilize written information that may be used as a
33 resource for increasing public awareness of housing navigation resources
34 as well as educating parents, individuals, provider agencies and other
35 stakeholders about the opportunities for non-certified housing in all
36 five regions of the office;

37 (iii) provide recommendations on the appropriateness of and ways to
38 implement a housing navigator train-the-trainer program using the hous-
39 ing navigator training curriculum;

40 (iv) assist in the development of research methods which measure the
41 correlation between the housing navigator model and social determinants
42 of health;

43 (v) evaluate housing navigation as a reimbursable service and measur-
44 ing outcomes based on value-based payment methodologies and arrange-
45 ments; and

46 (vi) examine the feasibility of expanding housing navigation services
47 to other systems of care that are involved in the delivery of housing
48 services, including but not limited to high utilization Medicaid service
49 enrollees who reside in the state of New York.

50 § 2. Section 366 of the social services law is amended by adding a new
51 subdivision 7-d to read as follows:

52 7-d. The commissioner of health in consultation with the commissioner
53 of the office for people with developmental disabilities is authorized
54 to submit the appropriate waivers, including but not limited to, those
55 authorized pursuant to section eleven hundred fifteen of the federal
56 social security act, in order to achieve the purpose of high-quality

1 housing navigation services pursuant to section 13.44 of the mental
2 hygiene law for a population of persons with developmental or intellec-
3 tual disabilities, as such terms are defined in section 1.03 of the
4 mental hygiene law.

5 § 3. Subdivision (b) of section 5.07 of the mental hygiene law is
6 amended by adding a new paragraph 5 to read as follows:

7 (5) The commissioner of the office for people with developmental disa-
8 bilities shall include the following in the portion of the statewide
9 comprehensive plan required by this subdivision for services provided to
10 persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities: (i) information
11 related to progress implementing and the effectiveness of housing navi-
12 gation services as defined in section 13.44 of the mental hygiene law,
13 and (ii) any other information deemed appropriate by such commissioner.

14 § 4. This act shall take effect April 1, 2022. Effective immediately,
15 the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation neces-
16 sary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
17 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.