

7721

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

May 31, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. McDONALD -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a community housing wait list

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 7.15 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding  
2     three new subdivisions (c), (d) and (e) to read as follows:

3     (C) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY HOUSING WAIT LIST FOR  
4     INDIVIDUALS SEEKING HOUSING AND RELATED SERVICES WITHIN THE OFFICE OF  
5     MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM.

6     (1) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS SHALL  
7     APPLY:

8     (I) "COMMUNITY HOUSING WAIT LIST" SHALL MEAN A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS  
9     WITH A DOCUMENTED MENTAL ILLNESS WHO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR  
10    HOUSING PROGRAMS LICENSED, OPERATED OR FUNDED BY THE OFFICE OF MENTAL  
11    HEALTH AND HAVE APPLIED FOR OR BEEN REFERRED TO BUT HAVE NOT YET  
12    RECEIVED HOUSING SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SUPPORTED,  
13    SUPPORTIVE, SUPERVISED OR CONGREGATE.

14    (II) "HOUSING SERVICES PROVIDER" SHALL MEAN ANY HOLDER OF AN OPERATING  
15    CERTIFICATE ISSUED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE THIRTY-ONE OF THIS CHAPTER, OR  
16    EVERY HOUSING PROGRAM FUNDED, OPERATED, ADMINISTERED OR LICENSED BY THE  
17    OFFICE INCLUDING ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT MENTAL HEALTH HOUSING REFER-  
18    RAL SYSTEM AND EACH SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY OFFICE, OPERATED BY OR UNDER  
19    CONTRACT WITH A DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES PURSUANT TO ARTICLE  
20    FORTY-ONE OF THIS CHAPTER.

21    (III) "AGENCY OR INSTITUTION" SHALL INCLUDE ADULT HOMES, NURSING  
22    HOMES, FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS, HOMELESS SHELTERS, STATE PSYCHIATRIC  
23    CENTERS, HOSPITALS, CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND OTHER REFERRING ENTI-  
24    TIES.

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

LBD10718-03-3

1 (2) (I) EVERY SIXTY DAYS, EACH HOUSING SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL REPORT  
2 TO THE OFFICE THE NAME OF EACH PERSON WHO IS REFERRED TO, APPLIES FOR,  
3 IS ADMITTED TO, WITHDRAWS AN APPLICATION FOR OR IS DENIED ADMISSION TO  
4 THE PROVIDER'S HOUSING PROGRAM, ALONG WITH SUCH OTHER INFORMATION AS THE  
5 COMMISSIONER MAY REQUIRE.

6 (II) EVERY SIXTY DAYS, EACH AGENCY OR INSTITUTION MAKING REFERRALS FOR  
7 HOUSING SERVICES IN THE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM SHALL  
8 PROVIDE TO THE OFFICE THE NAMES OF PERSONS WHOM IT REFERRED TO A HOUSING  
9 SERVICES PROVIDER, ALONG WITH SUCH OTHER INFORMATION AS THE COMMISSIONER  
10 MAY REQUIRE.

11 (III) EVERY SIXTY DAYS, EACH COUNTY'S COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCY PERFORM-  
12 ING ASSESSMENTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES USING THE UNIFORM ASSESSMENT  
13 TOOL, AS REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION SEVEN  
14 HUNDRED THREE OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW, SHALL PROVIDE TO THE OFFICE THE NAME  
15 OF EACH PERSON WITH A DOCUMENTED MENTAL ILLNESS WHO IS ASSESSED AND  
16 MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE ARRAY OF THE OFFICE'S FUNDED,  
17 OPERATED, AND/OR LICENSED HOUSING PROGRAMS AND THE NAMES OF THOSE  
18 PERSONS IT HAS REFERRED TO HOUSING AND SERVICE PROVIDERS ALONG WITH SUCH  
19 OTHER INFORMATION AS THE COMMISSIONER MAY REQUIRE.

20 (D) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS  
21 FOR THE COMMUNITY HOUSING WAIT LIST IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT APPLICANTS  
22 AND PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS, HOUSING SERVICES  
23 PROVIDERS, REFERRING AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS, AND COMMUNITY BASED  
24 AGENCIES ARE ABLE TO SUBMIT WAIT LIST INFORMATION AND COPIES OF APPLI-  
25 CANTS AND REFERRALS DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS. SUCH  
26 POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS SHALL SAFEGUARD THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF  
27 INFORMATION CONCERNING PERSONS SEEKING HOUSING, AND ACCORD EACH PERSON  
28 ON THE WAIT LIST AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN COPY OF ALL  
29 PERSONAL INFORMATION MAINTAINED ON THE WAIT LIST. SUCH POLICIES AND  
30 PROCEDURES SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY HOUSING WAIT LIST TO INCLUDE  
31 ALL PERSONS ON ANY LOCAL OR STATE WAIT LIST FOR HOUSING BEFORE THE  
32 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION AND THE DATE UPON WHICH EACH SUCH  
33 PERSON WAS FIRST PLACED ON SUCH WAIT LIST. SUCH LIST SHALL ALSO INCLUDE  
34 PERSONS WHO ARE PLACED ON ANY SUCH LOCAL OR STATE WAIT LIST ON OR AFTER  
35 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

36 (E) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PREPARE A REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY HOUSING  
37 WAIT LIST OF PERSONS SEEKING HOUSING WITHIN THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM.  
38 THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING AND RELATED SERVICES  
39 FOR WHICH PERSONS ARE ASSESSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE OF THE  
40 EXECUTIVE LAW. SUCH REPORT, BROKEN OUT BY COUNTY, SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT  
41 BE LIMITED TO, (1) THE NUMBER OF ADULTS REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY HOUS-  
42 ING WAIT LIST; (2) THE NUMBER OF ADULTS THAT APPLIED FOR EACH CATEGORY  
43 OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICE; (3) THE NUMBER OF ADULTS, ADMITTED TO EACH CATE-  
44 GORY OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICE; (4) THE NUMBER OF ADULTS DENIED ADMISSION  
45 FOR EACH CATEGORY OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICE; (5) THE NUMBER OF ADULTS WHO  
46 WITHDREW APPLICATIONS FOR EACH CATEGORY OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICE; AND (6)  
47 THE NUMBER OF ADULTS ON THE STATEWIDE WAIT LIST FOR EACH CATEGORY OF  
48 RESIDENTIAL SERVICE. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE FOR EACH CATEGORY AND  
49 COUNTY, THE NUMBER OF MONTHS ON THE WAIT LIST FOR EACH PERSON. SUCH  
50 REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE TYPES, CAPACITIES AND VACANCY RATES OF RESIDEN-  
51 TIAL SERVICES OFFERED IN EACH COUNTY. THE REPORTS SHALL INCLUDE ANY  
52 ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE OFFICE TO REDUCE THE LENGTH OF THE WAIT LIST FOR  
53 EACH CATEGORY OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INCLUDING THE METHODS BY WHICH  
54 THE OFFICE PRIORITIZES THE PROVISIONS OF SERVICES TO PERSONS ON THE  
55 STATEWIDE COMMUNITY HOUSING WAIT LIST AND THE ACTIONS OF THE OFFICE TO  
56 INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE COMMUNITY HOUSING WAIT LIST AND THE AVAIL-

1 ABILITY OF COMMUNITY HOUSING AND SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH A DOCUMENTED  
2 MENTAL ILLNESS. THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE  
3 CHAIRPERSON OF THE SENATE MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
4 COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ASSEMBLY MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE ON  
5 OR BEFORE JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.  
6 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
7 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediate-  
8 ly, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation  
9 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are  
10 authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such  
11 effective date.