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I N A S S E M B L Y

February 20, 2014

Introduced by M. of A. WEISENBERG, TITONE, ROSENTHAL, MOSLEY, MILLMAN, CURRAN, RAIA, DUPREY, WALTER, COLTON, KEARNS, LUPARDO, CAHILL, JACOBS, CUSICK, COOK, JAFFEE, McKEVITT, CERETTO, PALUMBO, DiPIETRO, RA, CROUCH, FINCH, WEPRIN, PERRY, ZEBROWSKI -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GIGLIO, HAWLEY, HEASTIE, HIKIND, KOLB, MARKEY, PALMESANO, RIVERA, SCARBOROUGH, SCHIMEL, SIMANOWITZ, SWEENEY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT relating to the administration of services to people with developmental disabilities

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

1 Section 1. The legislature hereby finds that the policy known as the
2 "front door" is being implemented to allocate services to people with
3 developmental disabilities based on person-centered planning. Widespread
4 reports suggest that the number of persons in critical need is growing
5 larger and more severe for a broad range of people with developmental
6 disabilities, including those transitioning out of school, those living
7 with aging caregivers, and those who live at home but are in need of
8 more intensive services. Compounding this situation, it has been found
9 that while individuals linger in inappropriate settings there are vacancies
10 that remain at provider agencies. To reduce delays and create a
11 more efficient and seamless coordination of services, it is paramount
12 that transparent and more timely guidance is provided to individuals in
13 need of services and their families. In addition, clear guidance must be
14 given to providers of services to ensure that services are utilized in a
15 meaningful and thoughtful manner.

16 S 2. The commissioner of the office for people with developmental
17 disabilities, in collaboration with the developmental disabilities advisory
18 council established pursuant to section 13.05 of the mental hygiene
19 law, shall develop a plan for implementing the front door process. Such
20 commissioner shall submit the plan to the temporary president of the

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

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senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than January 1, 2015 and implement guidelines putting the plan into effect no later than April 1, 2015. The plan shall consist of proposals to address the following:

(a) The critical needs of people with developmental disabilities living at home with persons whose ability to act as caregiver has been diminished by age, disability or any other relevant factors and develop clear and transparent guidelines for when in-home placement is appropriate and when out-of-home placement is appropriate.

(b) Develop, and update quarterly, waiting lists for services provided to people with developmental disabilities.

(c) Provide clear and specific guidelines outlining criteria for when self-direction is and is not appropriate for individuals.

(d) Provide guidelines for a clear, expeditious and transparent process for allocating residential placements and other critical services to persons based on their individual needs. Such process shall be consistent across the state and where exceptions are made such exceptions shall be made in explicit recognition of clear and rational factors. Such guidelines shall:

(1) Ensure that critical needs are met in a timely fashion;

(2) Provide an expedited appeals process to review and approve of requests for critical services when the state has not responded to such requests within 21 business days.

(3) Provide linguistically and culturally appropriate information on services and access to services in a universally clear and transparent manner.

(4) Provide designated staff which may include a Medicaid service coordinator to assist prospective service recipients and their families with navigating the front door process.

(5) Provide a process to ensure that people in crisis are not subject to the front door process and receive immediate services.

(6) Report on the extent to which the front door policy, as it has been implemented, is consistent with applicable requirements for the home and community based waiver regarding timeliness of decisions, comprehensiveness of necessary services, choice, persons centered planning and other matters affecting the appropriateness and adequacy of services for people with developmental disabilities.

(7) Provide guidelines to facilitate and support the evaluation of post-secondary options for individuals with developmental disabilities consistent with subparagraph 5 of paragraph b of subdivision 1 of section 4402 of the education law.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.