STATE OF NEW YORK

9525

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing peer support services for family members of individuals affected by substance use disorders

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

Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 19.18-b to read as follows:

§ 19.18-b Peer support services for families of substance abusers.

1. For purposes of this section "peer support services" means participant-centered services that emphasize knowledge and wisdom through lived experience in which peers are encouraged to share their own personal experience and first-hand knowledge of substance abuse, addiction, and recovery to support those with family members affected by substance use disorders.

2. The commissioner, in consultation with the department of health, shall develop a pilot program to provide peer support services for families of individuals affected by substance use disorders. The commissioner shall identify and establish where such pilot program's services will be provided. Such pilot program shall provide services to family members including but not limited to:

(a) developing coping plans;

(b) raising awareness of existing social and other support services;

(c) modeling coping skills;

(d) accompanying clients to medical appointments;

(e) providing non-clinical crisis support after periods of hospitalization or incarceration of family members;

(f) working with participants to identify strengths;

(g) educating program participants about various modes of recovery, including, but not limited to, medication assisted treatment; and

(h) peer engagement coordination with law enforcement departments, fire departments and other first responder departments to learn how to assist any individual that is suffering from an apparent overdose.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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