

STATE OF NEW YORK

10629

IN ASSEMBLY

June 10, 2020

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Gunther) --
read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing the
frontline workers trauma informed care advisory council

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 7.48 to read as follows:

§ 7.48 Frontline workers trauma informed care advisory council.

(a) The commissioner shall establish the frontline workers trauma informed care advisory council within the office. The council shall consist of, at a minimum, the commissioner or his or her designee; the commissioner of the department of health or his or her designee; the commissioner of aging or his or her designee; the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities or his or her designee; the commissioner of the office for addiction services and supports or his or her designee; the commissioner of the department of corrections and community supervision; and twenty-one additional members of which seven shall be appointed by the governor, six shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, six shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, and one each shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly and the senate. Each appointed member shall be a representative of one of the following: (1) behavioral health advocacy organizations; (2) health care provider organizations; (3) employee organizations representing nurses, doctors, and other frontline workers; (4) human services organizations; (5) law enforcement agencies; (6) individuals who have expertise in fields of discipline related to trauma informed care; and any other group, association, organization, or individual deemed appropriate by the commissioner. For purposes of this section, frontline workers shall include, but shall not be limited to, healthcare workers, first responders, direct care workers, public safety workers, transportation workers, food service workers and others who have been exposed to trauma associated

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

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1 with the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, pandemic while in the line of
2 duty.

3 (b) Council members shall receive no compensation for their services
4 as members of the council, but shall be reimbursed for actual and neces-
5 sary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The members
6 of the council shall choose one member of the council to be a chair-
7 person and one member to be co-chairperson.

8 (c) The council shall be established within thirty days of the effec-
9 tive date of this section.

10 (d) The council shall:

11 (1) Identify evidence-based tools to track the impact of COVID-19
12 associated collective trauma and the needs of frontline workers;

13 (2) Identify or develop training opportunities for organizations that
14 employ frontline workers on how to support the mental health and well-
15 ness of their impacted employees;

16 (3) Identify evidenced-based trauma-informed support resources and
17 learning opportunities for frontline workers;

18 (4) Identify or develop a mechanism to inform and refer impacted
19 frontline workers experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 to
20 behavioral health services and supports;

21 (5) Consult with any organization, government entity, agency, or
22 person that the council determines may be able to provide information
23 and expertise on the development and implementation of trauma informed
24 care for frontline workers; and

25 (6) Submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, and
26 the temporary president of the senate by December first, two thousand
27 twenty on the duties described in this section, including recommenda-
28 tions to effectively implement any initiative identified or developed by
29 the workgroup and included in its report.

30 (e) To the extent federal funds are available, grants shall be made
31 available to entities that employ frontline workers or other organiza-
32 tions with relevant experience, for the sole purpose of providing
33 support and implementing strategies or initiatives identified by the
34 frontline workers trauma informed care workgroup for their workforce.

35 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.