STATE OF NEW YORK

8576

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

September 13, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. COOK, ORTIZ, CRESPO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GOTTFRIED, LENTOL, RIVERA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

AN ACT to establish senior citizen alcoholism treatment and training demonstration programs

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The latest New York State census identifies twelve and three-tenths percent of the state's residents as age sixty-five or older. The New York state office of alcoholism and substance abuse services has identified chemical abuse and dependence among the elder population as a serious and growing problem. This can result from isolation, depression or the interaction of prescribed drugs. Too many professionals: doctors, nurses, pharmacists and social workers are unfamiliar with the science of gerontology and the special physiological and psychological needs of the elderly. In addition, many community-based programs and facilities, nursing homes and senior citizen centers are not aware of the incidence of chemical abuse and dependence among the elderly and do not have the expertise to recognize their clients' problems, resulting in a barrier to prevention, detection and treatment.

It is, therefore, the intention of the legislature to eliminate barriers to effective chemical abuse and dependence services through this act by establishing chemical abuse prevention, education and treatment demonstration programs for senior citizens in the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services.

§ 2. The commissioner of alcoholism and substance abuse services in consultation with the director of the office for the aging shall develop comprehensive chemical abuse prevention, education and treatment demonstration programs to address the unique needs of the elderly.

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

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§ 3. Subject to appropriation, funds for support of demonstration projects for the purposes stated in section two of this act shall be allocated to eligible local governments and not-for-profit providers through a request for proposal process to be designed by the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services in consultation with the office for the aging.

§ 4. In reviewing applications for funding, the commissioner of alcoholism and substance abuse services shall consider such factors as program cost-effectiveness; the ability of such proposals to offer programmatically appropriate, long-term, stable services; and the ability of such proposals to enable elderly persons to receive chemical abuse and dependence services; and geographic need. While incidence and prevalence shall be significant factors in the distribution of funds, demonstration projects approved pursuant to this act shall be established in regions across the state.

§ 5. No expenditure shall be made until the commissioner of alcoholism and substance abuse services has approved a program and fiscal plan for chemical abuse and dependence prevention, education and treatment demonstration projects. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

i. Specific criteria to be applied in evaluating the requests for proposal;

ii. Uniform program and cost standards;

iii. Criteria to be used to evaluate the outcome of the demonstration projects, including specific requirements to be met by providers of service.

§ 6. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.