

STATE OF NEW YORK

8608--A

IN SENATE

June 18, 2020

Introduced by Sen. CARLUCCI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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:

1 Section 1. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section
2 7.48 to read as follows:

3 § 7.48 Frontline workers trauma informed care advisory council.

4 (a) The commissioner shall establish the frontline workers trauma
5 informed care advisory council within the office. The council shall
6 consist of, at a minimum, the commissioner or his or her designee; the
7 commissioner of the department of health or his or her designee; the
8 commissioner of aging or his or her designee; the commissioner of the
9 office for people with developmental disabilities or his or her designee; the commissioner of the office for addiction services and supports
10 or his or her designee; the commissioner of the department of
11 corrections and community supervision; the commissioner of the office of
12 children and family services or his or her designee; the commissioner of
13 the department of labor or his or her designee; a representative of the
14 state conference of local mental hygiene service directors as created
15 under article forty-one of this chapter; and twenty-one additional
16 members of which seven shall be appointed by the governor, six shall be
17 appointed by the speaker of the assembly, six shall appointed by the
18 temporary president of the senate, and one each shall be appointed by
19 the minority leader of the assembly and the senate. Each appointed
20 member shall be a representative of one of the following: (1) behav-
21 ioral health advocacy organizations; (2) health care provider organiza-
22 tions; (3) employee organizations representing nurses, doctors, and
23 other frontline workers; (4) human service providers, including but not
24 limited to a human service provider as defined pursuant to subdivision
25 four of section four hundred sixty-four-b of the social services law;
26

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

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1 (5) law enforcement agencies; (6) individuals who have expertise in
2 fields of discipline related to trauma informed care; and any other
3 group, association, organization, or individual deemed appropriate by
4 the commissioner. For purposes of this section, frontline workers shall
5 include, but shall not be limited to, healthcare workers, first respon-
6 ders, direct care workers, public safety workers, transportation work-
7 ers, food service workers and others who have been exposed to trauma
8 associated with the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, pandemic while in the
9 line of duty.

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

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

17 (d) The council shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.