

STATE OF NEW YORK

9101

IN SENATE

November 20, 2020

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a peer support services program for transgender and non-binary individuals

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 7.49 to read as follows:

§ 7.49 Transgender peer support program.

(a) The commissioner shall develop and establish regional or county-based peer support services programs for transgender and non-binary individuals. Services provided by the peer support program shall include, but not be limited to, peer counseling for mental illness including alcohol and substance abuse counseling, family support services, domestic violence, mental health and physical health.

(b) The commissioner shall foster programs for the training and development of persons capable of providing the services set forth in this section, including, but not limited to, a process of issuing, either directly or through contract, credentials for recognized or certified peer counselors.

(c) The office shall establish minimum qualifications for recognized or certified peer counselors in all phases of delivery of services to transgender and non-binary individuals who are evaluated and certified or recognized by the office on factors including, but not limited to, completion of approved courses of study or equivalent on-the-job experience in mental health counseling, alcoholism and substance abuse counseling or other credentials established or recognized by the office.

(d) The office shall establish procedures for issuing, directly or through contract, credentials to certified peer counselors who meet minimum qualifications, and shall further establish procedures to suspend, revoke or annul such credentials for good cause.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD17632-01-0