STATE OF NEW YORK

8711

IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to repeal article 6-B of the county law; and in relation to a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system

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

Section 1. Article 6-B of the county law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2021, amending the county law relating to a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 6194-B and A. 7177-B, is REPEALED.

§ 2. The commissioner of the office of mental health, in consultation with the commissioner and the office of addiction services and supports, shall submit a report that details the resources necessary to make the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, otherwise known as the 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system, available, operational, and effective across the state. Such report shall address the following:

1. The assurance of twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week statewide coverage by National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Centers;

2. Strategies for identifying and supporting funding streams to meet the projected increase in volume;

3. Mechanisms relating to increasing and sustaining capacity for call, chat, text and follow-up at the centers including workforce capacity building and training;

4. Proposed operational, clinical and performance standards, including identifying reporting metrics on usage, services and impact, for all Lifeline call centers to be reported annually;

5. Proposed linguistically and culturally competent care training standards for all Lifeline call centers;

6. Multi-stakeholder input through a 9-8-8 Implementation Coalition;

7. Systems to maintain local resource and referral listings, as well as assure linkages to local community crisis services;

8. Follow-up services for individuals who contact 9-8-8 through call, text, and chat based on Lifeline best practices and guidelines; and

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

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9. Public messaging at the state level to distinguish from 911 and educate the public on the range of 9-8-8 services; which shall include public messaging for underserved and high risk populations.

The report shall be submitted on or before January twenty-first, two thousand twenty-two to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the minority leaders of the senate and the assembly.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2021 amending the county law relating to a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.6194-B and A.7177-B, takes effect.