

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3635--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 28, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER, SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law and the social services law, in relation to housing navigation services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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 13.44 to read as follows:

§ 13.44 Housing navigation services.

(a) The office shall establish and provide housing navigation services for individuals with a developmental or intellectual disability as defined in section 1.03 of this chapter. Housing navigation services shall include but not be limited to:

(1) collaborating with individuals to develop an individualized housing action plan, that at a minimum, shall assist individuals in finding appropriate housing that meets their specific housing goals;

(2) supporting individuals that apply for state and federal assistance programs;

(3) coordinating and assisting housing transitions for individuals, taking into consideration their specific needs; and

(4) collaborating with individuals to craft a housing sustainability plan to ensure that such individuals are able to secure and maintain stable housing, and have access to and are able to utilize the necessary services and support to achieve their housing goals.

(b) (1) The commissioner shall develop and implement a housing navigation curriculum statewide, for the purposes of training applicants in delivering housing navigation services as defined in subdivision (a) of this section. In developing and implementing such curriculum, the

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

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1 commissioner may contract with an entity that has demonstrated appropri-  
2 ate knowledge, expertise, and experience in housing navigator services  
3 and training curriculums.

4 (2) The commissioner, in consultation with the regional offices under  
5 his or her jurisdiction shall perform a statewide assessment of the need  
6 for housing navigation services, and shall provide additional outreach  
7 regarding the availability of housing navigation training in regions of  
8 the state where there is the greatest demonstrated need.

9 (c) (1) The commissioner shall establish a housing navigation task  
10 force to perform tasks that will help to ensure the successful implemen-  
11 tation of the housing navigation services established by this section.  
12 The task force shall be co-chaired by the commissioner or his or her  
13 designee, the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability  
14 assistance or his or her designee, the commissioner for the office of  
15 mental health or his or her designee, the commissioner for the office of  
16 addiction services and supports or his or her designee, and a represen-  
17 tative of New York state homes and community renewal. Ensuring adequate  
18 geographic representation, an additional ten individuals shall be  
19 selected for the task force. Such individuals shall have professional  
20 experience in the fields of affordable housing development, banking,  
21 financial planning, and in delivering housing services for individuals  
22 with developmental or intellectual disabilities as a non-profit provid-  
23 er. The members shall be selected by the commissioner in consultation  
24 with the other state agency representatives on the task force.

25 (2) The task force shall meet as often as is necessary, but no less  
26 than three times per year, and under circumstances as are appropriate to  
27 fulfilling its duties as required under this section.

28 (3) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but  
29 may be reimbursed for actual costs incurred for participation on such  
30 task force.

31 (4) The task force shall:

32 (i) coordinate with the commissioner and the regional offices to help  
33 ensure access to housing navigation services in the regions of the state  
34 with the greatest demonstrated need;

35 (ii) create or utilize written information that may be used as a  
36 resource for increasing public awareness of housing navigation resources  
37 as well as educating parents, individuals, provider agencies and other  
38 stakeholders about the opportunities for non-certified housing in all  
39 five regions of the office;

40 (iii) provide recommendations on the appropriateness of and ways to  
41 implement a housing navigator train-the-trainer program using the hous-  
42 ing navigator training curriculum;

43 (iv) assist in the development of research methods which measure the  
44 correlation between the housing navigator model and social determinants  
45 of health;

46 (v) evaluate housing navigation as a reimbursable service and measur-  
47 ing outcomes based on value-based payment methodologies and arrange-  
48 ments; and

49 (vi) examine the feasibility of expanding housing navigation services  
50 to other systems of care that are involved in the delivery of housing  
51 services, including but not limited to high utilization Medicaid service  
52 enrollees who reside in the state of New York.

53 § 2. Section 366 of the social services law is amended by adding a new  
54 subdivision 7-d to read as follows:

55 7-d. The commissioner of health in consultation with the commissioner  
56 of the office for people with developmental disabilities is authorized

1 to submit the appropriate waivers, including but not limited to, those  
2 authorized pursuant to section eleven hundred fifteen of the federal  
3 social security act, in order to achieve the purpose of high-quality  
4 housing navigation services pursuant to section 13.44 of the mental  
5 hygiene law for a population of persons with developmental or intellec-  
6 tual disabilities, as such terms are defined in section 1.03 of the  
7 mental hygiene law.

8 § 3. Subdivision (b) of section 5.07 of the mental hygiene law is  
9 amended by adding a new paragraph 6 to read as follows:

10 (6) The commissioner of the office for people with developmental disa-  
11 bilities shall include the following in the portion of the statewide  
12 comprehensive plan required by this subdivision for services provided to  
13 persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities: (i) information  
14 related to progress implementing and the effectiveness of housing navi-  
15 gation services as defined in section 13.44 of this chapter, and (ii)  
16 any other information deemed appropriate by such commissioner.

17 § 4. This act shall take effect April 1, 2023. Effective immediately,  
18 the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation neces-  
19 sary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are  
20 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.