

STATE OF NEW YORK

2982

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 26, 2021

Introduced by Sens. PARKER, LIU -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing the New York state council on mental health emergency and crisis response

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 7.42 to read as follows:

3 § 7.42 New York state council on mental health emergency and crisis
4 response.

5 (a) There is hereby created in the office, the New York state advisory
6 council on mental health emergency and crisis response. The council
7 shall consist of, at a minimum: the commissioner or his or her designee;
8 the commissioner of the department of corrections and community super-
9 vision or his or her designee; an individual representing the state
10 conference of local mental hygiene directors as established under arti-
11 cle forty-one of this chapter; an individual representing the mental
12 hygiene legal service as established under article forty-seven of this
13 chapter; and thirty-two additional members of which twelve shall be
14 appointed by the governor, eight shall be appointed by the speaker of
15 the assembly, eight shall be appointed by the temporary speaker of the
16 senate, and two each shall be appointed by the minority leader of the
17 assembly and senate. Each appointed representative shall be represen-
18 tative of the following and shall represent each geographic area of the
19 state. Members shall be knowledgeable in various aspects of mobile
20 crisis mental health services and shall include, but not be limited to:
21 (i) representatives of mobile crisis outreach teams; (ii) statewide
22 organizations representing mental health providers; (iii) statewide
23 advocacy groups representing individuals with a psychiatric condition;
24 (iv) representatives of hospitals including but not limited to hospitals
25 operating a comprehensive psychiatric emergency program; (v) physicians

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

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1 and other health and mental health professionals with experience in the
2 delivery of mental health crisis services; and (vi) first responders and
3 law enforcement.

4 (b) The council shall make recommendations to the commissioner on
5 topics including but not limited to: (i) identifying best practices for
6 response to mental health crises; (ii) initiatives to increase training
7 opportunities and participation of mental health professionals, and
8 other qualified individuals as members of mobile crisis outreach teams;
9 (iii) identify training needs and methods to improve diversion from
10 hospitalization after response from a mobile crisis outreach team; (iv)
11 identify the need for establishing mobile crisis outreach teams in each
12 region of the state and accessing alternatives to hospitalization; (v)
13 public education and outreach on the benefit of mobile crisis outreach
14 teams and how to access their services; and (vi) any other recommenda-
15 tion deemed appropriate by the council.

16 (c) The term of office of each member shall be two years. Vacancies
17 shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of an unexpired term.
18 The members shall continue in office until the expiration of their terms
19 and until their successors are appointed and have qualified. No member
20 shall be appointed to the state council for more than four consecutive
21 terms.

22 (d) The council shall meet as frequently as its business may require.
23 The presence of a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The
24 members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services
25 as members.

26 (e) The commissioner, upon request of the council, shall designate an
27 officer or employee of the office to act as secretary of the council,
28 and shall assign from time to time such other employees as the council
29 may require.

30 (f) The council shall develop and submit a report to the governor, the
31 speaker of the assembly, and the temporary president of the senate no
32 later than December thirty-first, two thousand twenty-one and annually
33 thereafter, pertaining to the recommendations required by this section,
34 and recommendations to effectively implement any initiative identified
35 by the council and other recommendations deemed appropriate by the
36 commissioner.

37 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
38 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment
39 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation
40 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
41 completed on or before such effective date.