

STATE OF NEW YORK

4469--A

Cal. No. 539

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 5, 2021

Introduced by Sens. MANNION, GAUGHRAN, HARCKHAM -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Disabilities -- recommitted to the Committee on Disabilities in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

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.

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

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1 (b) (1) The commissioner shall develop and implement a housing naviga-
2 tion curriculum statewide, for the purposes of training applicants in
3 delivering housing navigation services as defined in subdivision (a) of
4 this section. In developing and implementing such curriculum, the
5 commissioner may contract with an entity that has demonstrated appropri-
6 ate knowledge, expertise, and experience in housing navigator services
7 and training curriculums.

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

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

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

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

35 (4) The task force shall:

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

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

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

47 (iv) assist in the development of research methods which measure the
48 correlation between the housing navigator model and social determinants
49 of health;

50 (v) evaluate housing navigation as a reimbursable service and measur-
51 ing outcomes based on value-based payment methodologies and arrange-
52 ments; and

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

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

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

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

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

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