STATE OF NEW YORK

5161

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 25, 2021

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- 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 and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to enacting the "New York City Training and Comprehension of Trauma in Children (TACTIC) Act"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York City Training and Comprehension of Trauma in Children (TACTIC) Act".

§ 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 7.49 to read as follows:

§ 7.49 New York city training and comprehension of trauma in children (TACTIC) council.

(a) For purposes of this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Trauma informed care" shall mean trauma informed care as described by the substance abuse and mental health services administration of the United States department of health and human services, or any successor agency, department, or governmental entity.

2. "Teacher" shall mean all persons engaged in classroom teaching of students, on a full-time or part-time basis, including but not limited to, instructors, counselors, assistants or aides.

(b) (i) There is hereby established within the office a New York city training and comprehension of trauma in children (TACTIC) council.

(ii) The TACTIC council shall consist of eight members, four of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly and four of whom shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate. Of the four members appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one shall be a pediatrician, one shall be a child psychologist and two shall be trauma informed care specialists. Of the four members appointed by the tempo-

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

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rary president of the senate, one shall be a behavioral health specialist, one shall be a neurologist and two shall be trauma informed care specialists.

(iii) The office, in conjunction with the TACTIC council and the New York city department of child trauma informed care shall:

(1) provide an annual trauma informed care training program to teachers in schools located in the city of New York. Such program shall include training and instruction led by a district trauma informed care specialist, including, but not be limited to, understanding the effects of trauma on students, recognizing the signs and symptoms of trauma in students and learning best practices for assisting and supporting students who are experiencing or have experienced trauma;

(2) establish a mandatory trauma informed care certification program for teachers. Such program shall be conducted through an online platform over a span of six to nine months; and

(3) establish, in conjunction with the department of child trauma informed care, monthly trauma informed care parenting workshops, to assist parents of children who are experiencing or have experienced trauma. Such workshops shall be offered by the city school district of the city of New York and shall be led by district trauma informed care specialists.

(c) The TACTIC council shall review the information provided by the department of child trauma informed care pursuant to paragraph two of subdivision b of section 21-970 of the administrative code of the city of New York and shall report to the office and the state legislature with recommendations to effectively implement and improve child trauma informed care provided in schools.

§ 3. Title 21-A of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new chapter 8-a to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8-a
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

§ 21-970 Department of child trauma informed care.

a. There is hereby established within the department, a department of child trauma informed care.

b. The department of child trauma informed care shall:

1. Assist in establishing trauma informed care parenting workshops pursuant to section 7.49 of the mental hygiene law.

2. Compile and report to the training and comprehension of trauma in children council, pursuant to section 7.49 of the mental hygiene law, on child trauma informed care provided to schools within the city school district, including, but not limited to, providing information regarding school involvement, the number of students identified as experiencing trauma, details of teacher certification, trauma incidents occurring in schools and parental assistance provided.

3. Administer the mandatory trauma informed care certification program for all teachers within the city school district.

4. Assign trauma informed care specialists to each borough superintendent's office to supervise district trauma informed care specialists.

5. Assign district trauma informed care specialists to each school located within the city school district to implement the annual trauma informed care training program to teachers and to present the parenting workshops within the district. Such district trauma informed care specialists shall report to the trauma informed care specialists assigned to each borough superintendent's office.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.