STATE OF NEW YORK

8537

IN SENATE

February 12, 2024

Introduced by Sen. SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- 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 creating interagency placement committees to recommend treatment and rehabilitation programs or strategies for youths with co-existing mental 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 41.58 to read as follows:

§ 41.58 Interagency placement committees.

1. There is hereby established ten interagency placement committees in the state, one for each of the following regions: Long Island, New York City, Mid-Hudson, the Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, North Country, Central New York, the Southern Tier, the Finger Lakes, and Western New York. Each such committee shall be comprised of nine members, who shall be familiar with the region in which they are appointed and knowledgeable of the services under this section that are available in such region, and who shall be appointed as follows:

(a) three members to be appointed by the commissioner of mental health;

(b) three members to be appointed by the commissioner of developmental disabilities; and

(c) three members to be appointed by the commissioner of children and family services.

2. The purposes of the interagency placement committees established pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall be to ensure that youth with co-existing mental disabilities are being provided sufficient wraparound services to meet their needs. Each interagency placement committee shall establish a procedure under which families, schools, probation centers, and other appropriate establishments in their region may refer youths with co-existing mental disabilities to such interagency placement committee, to determine the best treatment and rehabilitation programs or strategies available for such youth and to recommend such determinations to the referring entity. In making such a determi-

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

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nation, interagency placement committees shall avoid recommending an in-patient setting for a youth unless there are no reasonable alternatives appropriate for such youth.

3. Upon receiving a referral of a youth with co-existing mental disabilities pursuant to subdivision two of this section, an interagency placement committee shall make its determination and recommendation of the best treatment and rehabilitation programs or strategies available for such youth pursuant to subdivision two of this section within two weeks of receiving such referral. Such determination shall be based upon a majority vote of the members of such interagency placement committee. The findings and reasoning for such determination and recommendation shall be provided to the entity that submitted such referral.

4. Beginning on the first of January next the date upon which this section shall have become a law, each interagency placement committee shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly, that shall contain information on identified gaps in treatment and rehabilitation options in their region for youths with co-existing mental disabilities, and any plans or recommendations to increase the availability of such services.

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