STATE OF NEW YORK

7395

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 19, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. DARLING -- (at request of the Office of Mental Health) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to providing definitions of mental health and family and youth peer and requires the office of mental health to establish peer service qualification programs

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

Section 1. Section 7.03 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding six new subdivisions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 to read as follows:

3. "Mental health peer" or "MHP" means an individual with lived-experience who is actively in recovery from a mental health condition and has self-disclosed their mental health journey.

4. "Family peer advocate" or "FPA" means an individual with lived-experience as the biological, foster, or adoptive parent or primary caregiver of a child or youth with a social, emotional, behavioral, mental health, or developmental disability.

5. "Youth peer advocate" or "YPA" means an individual who self-identifies as a person with first-hand experience with mental health and/or co-occurring behavioral challenges as a young person or has received services in any one of the child-serving systems or programs pursuant to this chapter.

6. "New York state certified peer specialist" or "NYCPS" means a mental health peer who has specialized training and holds a credential from a certifying authority recognized by the commissioner.

7. "Credentialed family peer advocate" or "CFPA" means an individual verified to have met the criteria for a family peer advocate as defined in subdivision four of this section and who holds a credential from a certifying authority recognized by the commissioner.

8. "Credentialed youth peer advocate" or "CYPA" means an individual verified to have met the criteria for a youth peer advocate as defined

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

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in subdivision five of this section and who holds a credential from a certifying authority recognized by the commissioner.

§ 2. Subdivision (d) of section 7.07 of the mental hygiene law, as added by chapter 978 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The office of mental health shall foster programs for the training and development of persons capable of providing the foregoing services**, and for the qualification of persons capable of providing peer services as defined in subdivisions three, four, five, six, seven, and eight of section 7.03 of this article and in accordance with criteria established by the commissioner**.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.