STATE OF NEW YORK

9039

IN ASSEMBLY

February 5, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a social worker residency pilot program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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 7.49 to read as follows:

§ 7.49 Social worker residency pilot program.

(a) Subject to appropriation, the commissioner shall establish up to three, three-year pilot programs in community behavioral health organizations, as defined in article thirty-one of this chapter, for the purposes of creating social worker residency pilot programs to support the ongoing retention and recruitment of licensed clinical social workers licensed by the department.

(b) Such pilot programs shall provide supervised post-graduate clinical social work experience as required by the department of education pursuant to section seven thousand seven hundred four of the education law at no cost to the resident.

(c) The commissioner shall establish and develop all other standards applicable to the program.

(d) The commissioner shall develop evaluation criteria for the pilot programs, which shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) any improved ability for community behavioral health organizations to recruit newly licensed clinical social workers as part of the pilot program;

(2) substantive focus of the pilot program training on evidence based models with track records of clinical success;

(3) the pilot program providing continuing education for participating social workers shall provide such continuing education at least one day per week;

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

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(4) the pilot program providing clinical supervision shall provide hours for the social work graduates which count towards licenses that increase their scope of practice;

(5) the percentage of the pilot program participants who achieve a full licensed clinical social worker license; and

(6) the average length of employment for licensed clinical social workers employed with community behavioral health organizations hosting the social worker residency pilot program.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed six years after such date.