STATE OF NEW YORK

9039--A

IN ASSEMBLY

February 5, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER, SHIMSKY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a social worker 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 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 providing supervised post-graduate clinical social work experience as required for licensure as a licensed clinical social worker under section seventy-seven hundred four of the education law at no cost to participants.

(b) The commissioner shall establish and develop standards applicable to the program.

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

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

(2) the utilization of evidence based models with track records of clinical success;

(3) the provision of continuing education opportunities, at least one day per week, for participating licensed master social workers and licensed clinical social workers;

(4) the percentage of the pilot program participants who become licensed as a licensed clinical social worker; and

(5) the average length of employment for licensed clinical social workers employed with the community behavioral health organization.

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 This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed six years after such date.

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

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