STATE OF NEW YORK

4878--C

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. TAPIA, REYES, MAMDANI, LEE, EPSTEIN, RAJKUMAR, TAYLOR, WEPRIN, ROSENTHAL, WOERNER, LEVENBERG, STECK, O'PHARROW, COLTON, DAVILA, BURROUGHS, SHIMSKY, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, BURDICK, PEOPLES-STOKES, LUNSFORD, FORREST, KAY, ALVAREZ, SIMON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to the establishment of mental health clubhouses

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 Mental health clubhouses.

(a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the term "mental health clubhouse" or "clubhouse" means a facility that:

1. is accredited or is in the process of becoming accredited, by a recognized body or bodies approved by the office;

2. addresses psychosocial deficits and social determinants of health;

3. uses a therapeutic approach that emphasizes purposeful engagement, relationship development, and mutual support for people with serious mental illness;

4. has members and program staff work side by side to build and manage a non-clinical therapeutic community;

5. offers members a community-based rehabilitative environment that both addresses psychosocial needs of people living with serious mental

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

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illness and provides structures that offer support in natural, community environments;

6. offers support services for employment, education, health care, housing, and other services to broadly address health-related social care needs;

7. is an essential part of the continuum of care and works in tandem with other medical and behavioral health services;

8. relies on the restorative power of work and work-mediated relationships to build a firm foundation for growth and individual achievement for members;

9. emphasizes strengths-based teamwork and opportunities to contribute to operations through a work-ordered day; and

10. offers social and community-based recreational opportunities to contribute to a member's path and success in recovery.

(b) Mental health clubhouses; establishment. 1. Clubhouses shall be established within reasonable proximity to public transportation, if practicable. If feasible and within available resources, virtual clubhouse programming shall be implemented by an accredited clubhouse to ensure accessibility to clubhouse support services in rural areas or other parts of the state without access to a physical clubhouse.

2. The office shall develop a statewide implementation plan through technical advising and consultation with established clubhouses to assist with the accreditation process for any clubhouse in the state and with implementation of the provisions under this section within one year of the effective date of this article.

(c) Operational standards and core services. Membership of clubhouses shall be:

1. voluntary, free of cost, and open to any individual with a history of serious mental illness; and

2. shall receive accreditation or be in the process of becoming accredited within the first three years of operation by a recognized body.

(d) Oversight, compliance, and reporting. 1. Each clubhouse shall submit a comprehensive report every two years to the office detailing:

(i) clubhouse active membership statistics and daily service utilization;

(ii) employment placements and workforce development outcomes;

(iii) housing placements and homelessness prevention efforts; and

(iv) crisis intervention cases and emergency responses.

2. The office shall conduct biennial audits of all clubhouses to ensure compliance with regulations promulgated by the office consistent with this section and shall be research-based, utilizing information from sources with expertise in the operation and the accreditation of a clubhouse.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.