STATE OF NEW YORK

10682

IN SENATE

August 14, 2026

Introduced by Sen. BOTTCHER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing multidisciplinary personnel teams

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

Section 1. Article 3 of the social services law is amended by adding a new title 7-A to read as follows:

TITLE 7-A

MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSONNEL TEAMS

Section 115-d. Findings and declarations.

115-e. Definitions.

115-f. Authorization to establish multidisciplinary personnel teams.

115-g. Information sharing and confidentiality.

115-h. Protocols for information sharing and oversight.

115-i. Protections and remedies.

115-j. Severability.

§ 115-d. Findings and declarations. 1. The legislature finds that homelessness poses a significant challenge to the health, safety, and welfare of individuals and families in New York state.

2. Prompt, coordinated, and confidential sharing of information among professionals is essential to ensuring the effective identification, assessment, and delivery of housing and supportive services.

3. It is hereby declared that multidisciplinary personnel teams, composed of appropriately trained professionals, must be empowered to share confidential information for these purposes, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

§ 115-e. Definitions. As used in this title, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Multidisciplinary personnel team" means any team of two or more professionals trained in the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals and families to housing and supportive services. Such team may include, but is not limited to:

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

LBD16256-01-6

(a) Health care providers, as defined in section eighteen of the public health law;

(b) Representatives of law enforcement or probation agencies;

(c) Legal counsel;

(d) Social services workers;

(e) Case managers or coordinators;

(f) Veterans services providers;

(g) Representatives of domestic violence victim service organizations;

(h) School personnel, including teachers or administrative officers;

(i) Housing or homeless services representatives; and

(j) Data analysts.

2. "Confidential information" means any information, whether in writing, electronically, or otherwise, that is designated as confidential under state or federal law or that is exchanged during team communications and meetings and which is protected from disclosure.

3. "Homeless" shall have the same meaning as set forth in section forty-nine of this chapter.

§ 115-f. Authorization to establish multidisciplinary personnel teams. 1. Notwithstanding any other law, any (a) county outside of a city with a population of one million or more persons in the state or (b) city with a population of one million or more persons in the state, may establish or approve a multidisciplinary personnel team with the purpose of expediting the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals and families to appropriate housing and supportive services.

2. In any county where such team is established, if a city within such county requests participation, the county shall allow appropriate city personnel to join the team, except where such participation would materially hinder the achievement of the team's objectives.

§ 115-g. Information sharing and confidentiality. 1. Any member of a multidisciplinary personnel team is authorized to disclose and exchange confidential information with other team members for purposes of identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals and families to housing and supportive services notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, including but not limited to section sixty-five hundred thirty of the education law.

2. A health care provider's use and disclosure of confidential information for purposes of identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals and families to housing and supportive services shall be treated as part of the health care provider's treatment activities under applicable law.

3. Any confidential information shared pursuant to this section shall be treated as strictly confidential. Discussions and records of such communications shall not be admissible as evidence in any judicial, administrative, or other legal proceeding.

4. Disclosure and exchange of confidential information may occur via telephonic, electronic, or in-person communication, including through a data sharing platform that is accessible to all members of a multidisciplinary personnel team, provided that reasonable measures are taken to verify the identity of the individuals involved.

§ 115-h. Protocols for information sharing and oversight. 1. Each multidisciplinary personnel team shall develop written protocols that include, but are not limited to, provisions for:

(a) Identifying the specific information or data elements to be shared, which shall be reasonably limited to that which is necessary to support the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals and families to housing and supportive services;

(b) Determining which agencies and personnel are authorized to access such information;

(c) Describing the secure methods by which information is to be exchanged, and the administrative, technical, and physical safeguards that shall be implemented;

(d) Establishing an information retention and disposal schedule; and

(e) Providing for uniform, written confidentiality agreements and ongoing security and privacy training for all team participants.

2. The protocols shall be distributed to each participating team member and made available to the department.

3. The adoption and periodic revision of such protocols shall not require the prior approval of any state agency and shall be subject to compliance with applicable state and federal law.

§ 115-i. Protections and remedies. 1. Any disclosure or use of confidential information in violation of this title shall be subject to all available legal remedies, including, but not limited to, civil penalties and injunctive relief.

2. Except as expressly provided herein, no provision of this title shall be construed to diminish or modify the rights or obligations under any other law governing the confidentiality of information.

§ 115-j. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this title shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.