STATE OF NEW YORK

6153

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 5, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing a comprehensive training program for care managers employed by care coordination organizations

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Ella's law".

§ 2. Section 13.23 of the mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new subdivision (d) to read as follows:

(d) The office shall establish a comprehensive training program, in conjunction with care coordination organizations and organizations that advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, for care managers employed by care coordination organizations which such care managers shall complete before working with clients. Such training program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Person-centered planning principles.

2. Effective communication strategies for individuals with developmental disabilities, including but not limited to how to best include and collaborate with people with developmental disabilities, their families, and support networks in all communications, meetings, and decision-making to design and implement plans that enhance quality of life and promote independence.

3. Understanding, respecting, and supporting the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities including but not limited to voting rights.

4. Cultural competence and sensitivity.

5. Advocacy skills for individuals with developmental disabilities.

6. Compliance with relevant laws and regulations pertaining to the care of individuals with developmental disabilities.

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

LBD02939-01-5

7. Knowledge of the health care system, available services, and resources, as well as an understanding of how to navigate the system on behalf of the individuals they serve. This shall include but not be limited to knowledge of self-direction systems, cross-system services, blended services, and the practices, programs, and services available to individuals with developmental disabilities through the office, department of health, and other New York state and federal agencies. This shall also include knowledge of Medicaid benefits offered through the office's waiver programs and their interaction with other Medicaid benefits.

8. Identifying and connecting individuals with appropriate community resources, financial assistance programs, and support services.

9. Skills in fostering collaboration and communication among members of an individual's care team, including health care providers, social services, and other stakeholders.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.