STATE OF NEW YORK

7377

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 11, 2025

Introduced by Sen. BROUK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the public health 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 public health law is amended by adding a new article 29-L to read as follows:

ARTICLE 29-L

MENTAL HEALTH CLUBHOUSES

Section 2999-nn. Definitions.
2999-oo. Mental health clubhouses; establishment.
2999-pp. Operational standards and core services.
2999-qq. Oversight, compliance, and reporting.

§ 2999-nn. Definitions. For the purposes of this article, 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 of mental health;

2. addresses psychosocial deficits and social drivers of health;

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

4. uses blended leadership of professional mental health staff and individuals with lived experience to create and manage the therapeutic community and its services in a nonclinical setting;

5. offers members a community-based rehabilitative environment that both addresses often unmet psychosocial needs of people living with serious mental illness and provides structures that offer support in natural, community environments;

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

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

LBD08603-04-5

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

§ 2999-oo. Mental health clubhouses; establishment. 1. Clubhouses shall be established within reasonable proximity to public transportation. In rural areas, virtual clubhouse programming shall be implemented to ensure accessibility.

2. The department and the office of mental health shall develop a statewide implementation plan through technical advising and consultation with established clubhouses for the provisions of this article within one year of the effective date of this article.

§ 2999-pp. Operational standards and core services. 1. Membership of clubhouses shall be voluntary, free of cost, and open to any individual with a history of serious mental illness.

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

§ 2999-qq. Oversight, compliance, and reporting. 1. Each clubhouse shall submit a comprehensive report to the department and the office of mental health detailing:

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

(b) employment placements and workforce development outcomes;

(c) housing placements and homelessness prevention efforts; and

(d) crisis intervention cases and emergency responses.

2. The department shall conduct biennial audits of all clubhouses to ensure compliance with state regulations.

3. The department shall, in consultation with clubhouses, provide a biennial report detailing outcome measurements to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly, including but not limited to:

(a) employment outcomes for clients;

(b) housing outcomes for clients;

(c) an estimate of fiscal savings or losses incurred through use and funding of clubhouses; and

(d) comprehensive needs assessments and recommendations.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall apply to mental health clubhouses established on or after January 1, 2026.