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LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2021

CHAPTER 33

AN ACT to direct the commissioner of mental health to create a workgroup and report regarding frontline worker trauma informed care; to repeal section 7.48 of the mental hygiene law relating thereto; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof

Became a law February 16, 2021, with the approval of the Governor.

Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

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

Section 1. Section 7.48 of the mental hygiene law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2020, amending the mental hygiene law relating to establishing the frontline workers trauma informed care advisory council, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.8608-A and A.10629-A, is REPEALED.

Section 2. The commissioner of mental health shall convene a workgroup and report on frontline workers trauma informed care, which may include but not be limited to representatives of the state conference of local mental hygiene service directors under article forty-one of the mental hygiene law; behavioral health advocacy organizations; health care provider organizations; employee organizations representing nurses, doctors, and other frontline workers; human service providers as defined under section four hundred sixty-four-b of the social services law; law enforcement agencies; and individuals with expertise in fields of discipline related to trauma informed care. The workgroup shall meet regularly and as often as is necessary to carry out the responsibilities required by this section and a link to information regarding the workgroup and their activities shall be made available on the office of mental health's website. Such report shall (1) identify evidence-based tools to track the impact of COVID-19 associated collective trauma and the needs of frontline workers; (2) identify or develop training opportunities for organizations that employ frontline workers on how to support the mental health and wellness of their impacted employees; (3) identify evidenced-based trauma-informed support resources and learning opportunities for frontline workers; (4) identify or develop a mechanism to inform and refer impacted frontline workers experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 to behavioral health services and supports; (5) consult with any organization, government entity, agency, or person that the workgroup determines may be able to provide information and expertise on the development and implementation of trauma informed care for frontline workers; and (6) provide recommendations for how available funding may be utilized to support the frontline workforce. Such commissioner shall issue an interim report, on or before March 1, 2021 in relation to the immediate trauma informed care needs of frontline workers; and a final report, on or before December 1, 2021, which shall include findings and recommendations identified or developed by the workgroup on the long term trauma informed care needs of frontline workers. Such reports shall be submitted to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly.

Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2020 amending the mental hygiene law relating to establishing the frontline workers trauma informed care advisory council, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.8608-A and A.10629-A, takes effect and section two of this act shall expire and be deemed repealed December 1, 2021.

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