

CHAPTER 281

AN ACT establishing the “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” telephone helpline, and supplementing Title 9 of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.9:3A-15 “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline.

1. a. The Department of Children and Families shall establish, in coordination with University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University, or another entity, a toll-free “Mom2Mom Peer Support Program” helpline, or a similar helpline.

b. The helpline shall be accessible 24 hours a day, seven days per week, and shall respond to calls from mothers, caregivers, and their families. The staff of the helpline shall seek to identify the mothers, children, caregivers, and their families who should be referred to further support and counseling services, and provide informational resources.

c. The peer staff shall be trained by University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University, or another entity, and, to the greatest extent possible, shall be mothers of children with special needs, who are:

(1) familiar with developmental disabilities, brain injury, behavioral healthcare issues, medical illness, cancer, and the emotional and mental health burden and psychological tension, depression, and anxieties unique to these mothers, children, and their families, or

(2) trained to provide reciprocal peer support services involving children with special needs and family life, mental health, personal stress management, and other emotional or psychological disorders or conditions which may be likely to adversely affect the personal and related well-being of children, mothers, caregivers, and their families.

d. The Department of Children and Families and University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University, or another entity, shall provide for the confidentiality of the names of the callers, the information discussed, and any referrals for further peer support or counseling; provided, however, that the Department of Children and Families and Rutgers, the State University, or another entity, may establish guidelines providing for the tracking of any person who exhibits a severe emotional or psychological disorder or condition which the operator handling the call reasonably believes might result in harm to the child or mother or any other person.

C.9:3A-16 List of credentialed resources, behavioral health care providers.

2. University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University, or another entity, shall maintain a list of credentialed resources and behavioral health care providers throughout the State, and shall provide case management services to ensure that mothers, children, and their families receive ongoing counseling and a continuum of care in New Jersey. The continuum of services shall utilize applicable State and federal guidelines while providing ongoing peer support.

C.9:3A-17 Annual consultation.

3. In establishing the helpline authorized under the provisions of section 1 of P.L.2013, c.281 (C.9:3A-15) the Commissioner of Children and Families and University Behavioral HealthCare of Rutgers, the State University, or another entity, shall consult on an annual basis with the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Human Services, the Division of Children's System of Care in the Department of Children and Families, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and at least two State recognized child advocacy groups.

4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month next following the date of enactment, but the Department of Children and Families and Rutgers, the State University, or another entity, may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

Approved January 17, 2014.