



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 15

March 3, 2016

MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the City of New York to protect constituents' wellbeing and to promote the mental health of residents of all backgrounds in communities throughout the five boroughs; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City of New York to provide and promote prevention and treatment services and programs, while also advancing the range of policies needed to take on the structural issues at the root of many mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is further the goal of the City of New York to align mental health efforts around a single shared strategy in order to best coordinate resources and increase communication across agencies; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable that the City of New York establish a program for the coordination and implementation of these policies;

NOW THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Establishment of the Mental Health Council.

There is hereby established under the direction of the Office of the Mayor an interagency Mental Health Council (hereinafter the "Council").

- (a) The Council shall consist of two Co-Chairs and no fewer than twenty Council members, which Council members shall be City employees. One or more Honorary Members may be selected. The Chair of the New York City Community Services Board shall serve as an Honorary Member.
- (b) The two Co-Chairs and all Council members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. The two Co-Chairs, members and Honorary Members shall serve without compensation.

- (c) All Council members and Co-Chairs shall have voting privileges. Honorary Members may not exercise voting rights.
- (d) Council membership shall include City office or agency Commissioners or their designees from agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Human Resources Administration, the Administration for Children's Services, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and the Department for the Aging.
- (e) Representatives of the Department of Education and the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation shall be invited to participate in the Council.
- (f) The Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall serve as a technical advisor for the Council.

Section 2. Duties of the Council. The Council shall:

- (a) Serve as an advisory group to the Mayor on initiatives and methods to achieve the goals of the Administration's platform to promote mental wellbeing, increase access to high quality mental health care, and address structural determinants of mental health;
- (b) Advocate for mental health consumers and the support programs that have been created to remove barriers to treatment and ensure stable and productive lives;
- (c) Make recommendations to the Mayor regarding legislative and/or regulatory action to improve the lives of people suffering from mental illness and to promote mental health;
- (d) Support and work collaboratively with the network of organizations in the public and private sectors working to provide effective, high quality mental health and care; and
- (e) Educate the public about mental wellness and available resources.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Order shall take effect immediately.



Bill de Blasio
Mayor