

Appendix A: Daniel's Law Task Force Charge - Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2023 Part OO

Section 1. Subject to available appropriation, the office of mental health, in collaboration with the office of addiction services and supports, shall establish the Daniel's Law task force, consisting of individuals with expertise in trauma-informed, community-led responses and diversions for mental health, alcohol use or substance use crises, as well as individuals affected by police responses to mental health, alcohol use or substance use crises.

(a) The Daniel's Law task force shall consist of the following ten members: (1) the commissioner of mental health, or their designee, who shall serve as chair; (2) the commissioner of addiction services and supports, or their designee; (3) the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services, or their designee; (4) one member appointed by the temporary president of the senate; (5) one member appointed by the speaker of the assembly; the commissioner of mental health, in consultation with the commissioner of addiction services and supports, shall appoint the following individuals: (6) one individual with experience in crisis response through the State Emergency Medical Services Council; (7) one individual working as a licensed mental health professional; (8) one individual who is employed as a crisis response call center personnel or crisis intervention personnel; (9) one representative of the New York Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors; and (10) an individual with lived experience mental health and/or alcohol use or substance use disorder.

The task force shall conduct outreach and engage stakeholders, including but not limited to healthcare professionals with experience providing mental health and/or alcohol use or substance use disorder services; individuals or the primary caregiver for individuals with lived experience with mental health and/or alcohol use or substance use disorder; individuals employed in the mental health or addiction field; crisis response call center personnel, first responders; and individuals employed by not-for-profits with experience in working with individuals experiencing mental health, alcohol use or substance use crises.

(b) The Daniel's Law task force's focus shall include, but not be limited to: identifying potential operational and financial needs to support trauma-informed, community and public health-based crisis response and diversion for anyone in the state experiencing a mental health, alcohol use, or substance use crisis; reviewing and recommending programs and systems operating within the state or nationally that could be deployed as a model crisis and emergency services system; and identifying potential funding sources for expanding mental health, alcohol use and substance use crisis response and diversion services.

(c) The Daniel's Law task force shall convene no later than one hundred twenty days following the effective date of this section and meet as frequently as its business may require, but it shall host at least three statewide town halls. A link to information regarding the task force and their activities shall be made available on the office of mental health's website.

(d) The Daniel's Law task force members shall receive no compensation for their participation but task force members shall be reimbursed for expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

(e) Assistance from state and local agencies. All departments and agencies of the state or subdivision thereof, and local governments of this state shall, at the request of the chair to the maximum extent possible, provide the task force such facilities, assistance, and data to enable the task force to carry out its duties pursuant to this act. Any confidential data, when received by the task force, shall be kept confidential and shall be used solely to carry out the purposes set forth in this act.

(f) The office of mental health shall: prepare a written report summarizing opinions and recommendations from the Daniel's Law task force which includes a list of existing, publicly accessible mental health, alcohol use, and substance use crisis response and diversion services. The report shall examine the effectiveness of programs established in the state to provide crisis responses and diversion services for mental health, alcohol use, and substance abuse crises and make recommendations for the expansion of programs and services for individuals experiencing mental health, alcohol use, or substance abuse crises to receive treatment while limiting arrest or incarceration.

(g) This report shall be submitted to the governor, speaker of the assembly and temporary president of the senate no later than December 31, 2025 and shall be posted on the office of mental health's website.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the provisions of section one of this act shall expire and be deemed repealed April 1, 2026.