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Int. No. 1495

By Council Members Gutiérrez, Farías and Restler

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to creating resources for doulas

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 17-199.10 of chapter 1 of title 17 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding new subdivisions e, f and g to read as follows:

e. Doula bill of rights. No later than 6 months after the effective date of the local law that added this subdivision, the commissioner shall develop a doula bill of rights that informs doulas on the laws that affect them, including any city or state hospital and public health laws on a doula's access to hospital spaces. The commissioner shall post the resource conspicuously on the department's website and share the resource with the citywide doula program and the health and hospitals corporation.

f. Doula feedback. No later than 6 months after the effective date of the local law that added this subdivision, the commissioner shall post conspicuously on the department's website a submission form for doulas to submit information on their experience working with birthing people in hospitals in the city. No later than 1 year after the effective date of the local law that added this subdivision and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall submit to the mayor, the speaker of the council, and the doula advisory council established pursuant to subdivision g of this section, and post conspicuously on the department's website, a summary of the feedback received.

g. Doula advisory council established. The commissioner shall establish and maintain a doula advisory council.

1. The doula advisory council shall study doula services in the city and advise the citywide doula program established pursuant to subdivision d on best practices to support doulas and birthing people using doulas.

2. The doula advisory council shall be composed of the following individuals:

(a) The commissioner or such commissioner's designee, who shall serve as chair;

(b) Two individuals who have given birth in the city in the last 2 years appointed by the mayor;

(c) Two doulas appointed by the speaker of the council, and

(d) Upon invitation by the commissioner, a representative of the health and hospitals corporation.

3. The chair may invite members of the public, officers, and representatives of relevant federal, state, and local agencies and authorities to participate in the work of the doula advisory council.

4. Each member of the doula advisory council shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member. In the event of a vacancy on the advisory council, a successor shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term. All members of the doula advisory council shall serve without compensation.

5. All appointments required by this subdivision shall be made no later than 90 days after the effective date of this local law.

6. The chair shall convene the first meeting of the doula advisory council no later than 30 days after the last member has been appointed, except that where not all members of the doula advisory council have been appointed within the time specified in section four, the chair shall convene the first meeting of the task force within 10 days of the appointment of a quorum. The doula advisory council shall meet no less than once each quarter to carry out the duties described in paragraph 1 of this subdivision.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

JGP
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