

RESOLUTION NO. 476 -2020, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 27-2020, A LOCAL LAW MANDATING INCREASED TRAINING FOR CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER OR WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SETTING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (“PART TWO OF THE CPS TRANSFORMATION ACT”)

WHEREAS, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on March 3, 2020, a proposed local law entitled, **“A LOCAL LAW MANDATING INCREASED TRAINING FOR CASES INVOLVE CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER OR WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SETTING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (“Part Two of the CPS Transformation Act”)**”; and said local law in final form is the same as when presented and introduced; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the said local law be enacted in form as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. 27-2020, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

A LOCAL LAW REQUIRING MANDATING INCREASED TRAINING FOR CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER OR WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SETTING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (“Part Two of the CPS Transformation Act”)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that reports which come to the Child Protective Services Unit (CPS) within the Department of Social Services (DSS) sometimes involve children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and children with other developmental disabilities.

This Legislature further finds and determines that communicating effectively with and fully understanding the behavior of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and children with other developmental disabilities requires specific expertise which the typical CPS Caseworker may not possess.

This Legislature further finds and determines that in order to ensure children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and children with other developmental disabilities who are the subject of reports to CPS are protected as well as possible, there must be a team of Caseworkers within CPS specially trained on the unique attributes and behaviors of children with Autism Spectrum

Disorder and/or developmental disabilities which can be pivotal in the course of a CPS investigation.

This Legislature further finds and determines that CPS cases can require sophisticated investigative work for which all CPS Caseworkers should be properly trained, above and beyond the New York State required basic child welfare training.

This Legislature further finds and determines that the importance of building awareness around bias is heightened for CPS Caseworkers as Caseworkers are regularly called on to rely on their discretionary judgment as part of the execution of their professional duties.

Therefore, the purpose of this local law is to mandate that all CPS cases which involve children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disabilities be handled by specially trained CPS Caseworkers and to require all CPS Caseworkers to complete certain investigative training and implicit bias training above State-mandated basic training.

Section 2. Amendments.

Article X of the SUFFOLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE is hereby amended and a new section is added as follows:

Article X. Department of Social Services

* * * *

§ A10-5. Training

- A. Investigative Training**
All CPS Caseworkers hired after the effective date of this local law shall complete Investigative Training prior to assuming a caseload. All CPS Caseworkers shall complete Investigative Training bi-annually.
- B. Implicit Bias Training**
All CPS Caseworkers hired after the effective date of this local law shall complete Implicit Bias Training prior to assuming a caseload. All CPS Caseworkers shall complete Implicit Bias Training bi-annually.
- C. Casework Supervision Training**
All CPS Casework Supervisors hired or promoted after the effective date of this local law shall complete Casework Supervisor Training within twelve weeks of becoming a Casework Supervisor.
- D. CPS Special Needs Unit**
All Caseworkers assigned to the CPS Special Needs Unit shall be required to complete Children with Developmental Disabilities training prior to assuming a caseload within the CPS Special Needs Unit. All Caseworkers assigned to the CPS Special Needs Unit shall be required to complete the training each year.

* * * *

Section 3. Applicability.

This law shall apply to all CPS Caseworkers, CPS Caseworker Supervisors, and Caseworkers in the CPS Special Needs, on or after the effective date of this law.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 5. SEQRA Determination.

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26), and/or (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State.

[] Brackets denote deletion of language.
__ Underlining denotes addition of new language.

DATED: June 23, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: July 9, 2020

After a public hearing duly held on July 6, 2020
Filed with the Secretary of State on July 23, 2020