

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

—
S.P. 505 - L.D. 1216

An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Services

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §1001, sub-§4-C is enacted to read:

4-C. 9-8-8. "9-8-8" means the telephone number designated as the universal telephone number within the United States for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline.

Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §1001, sub-§4-D is enacted to read:

4-D. 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline. "9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline" means a national network of local crisis services that provide free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis, behavioral health crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. The 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline, or its successor, is the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system maintained by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use under the federal Public Health Service Act, 42 United States Code, Section 290bb-36c.

Sec. 3. 34-B MRSA c. 3, sub-c. 3, art. 2, headnote is amended to read:

ARTICLE 2

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Sec. 4. 34-B MRSA §3621, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 349, Pt. H, §21, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 34-B MRSA §3625 is enacted to read:

§3625. Crisis intervention support

The department shall establish crisis intervention support services in all 16 counties. These services must be community-based programs that provide counseling, consultation, evaluation, treatment, referral, education and training services, delivered by a crisis

intervention team, including mobile crisis intervention teams. The crisis intervention support services must include:

1. Emergency room services. Crisis intervention and psychiatric emergency services based in a hospital emergency room;

2. Outreach services. Outreach services and crisis intervention beyond the hospital setting; and

3. Telephone hotline services. A community-based telephone crisis intervention hotline, which must coordinate with the 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline, offering counseling, consultation, evaluation, treatment and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.