



NOTICE OF JOINT SENATE AND ASSEMBLY ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARING

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

SUBJECT: Mental Health Crisis Services

PURPOSE: To receive testimony on New York's mental health crisis service delivery system, as well as recommendations for policies for improving the response to mental health crises in the community

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021
10:30am

Web Link: <https://www.nysenate.gov/events>
<https://www.nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

According to the National Council for Behavioral Health, drug overdoses and suicides have overtaken traffic accidents as the two leading causes of death among young Americans ages 25-44. Additionally, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention stated that suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in New York. In 2020, for every 100,000 New Yorkers, approximately 8 people lose their life to suicide; it is the second leading cause of death for people between the ages of 10 and 34 years old; and for individuals between the ages of 35 and 54, suicide is the fourth leading cause of death.

Over the past several years, New York State has made an effort to expand mental health crisis services, which includes short term crisis residences, crisis respite services, mobile crisis teams, and crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers. In this year's enacted budget, the legislature authorized the establishment of crisis stabilization centers, to divert individuals experiencing or at risk of a mental health crisis away from hospitalization.

Additionally, there has been national interest to shift away from police led responses for people experiencing a mental health crisis in their community and instead dispatch trained mental health professionals, that would attempt to de-escalate, stabilize, or transport an individual to the appropriate level of behavioral health care.

Also, in 2020, the federal government enacted the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Improvement Act, which established a national suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline. This new "988" hotline is expected to be implemented nationwide by July 2022 and will aim to create a community crisis response system for suicide prevention and mental health crisis services equivalent to what "911" is for medical, fire and public safety emergencies.

This hearing will provide the committees an opportunity to receive testimony on New York's current mental health crisis service delivery system, examine the effectiveness of other mental health crisis service models, and consider policies and other initiatives which aim to improve the response to mental health crises and the need for resources to help enhance the delivery mental health crisis services in New York State.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form by Monday, May 17th, 2021. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified of means by which to testify and/or in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**Aileen Gunther
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Mental Health**

**Samra Brouk
Member of Senate
Chair
Committee on Mental Health**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Testimony will only be taken upon approval by the Committee Chairs. Individuals who have been invited to present testimony are requested to complete this reply form no later than May 17th, 2021 and email a copy of planned testimony. Individuals invited to participate will be notified within 48 hours of the hearing. All replies and testimony submissions must be emailed to:

Willie Sanchez
Legislative Associate
Assembly Committee on Mental Health
Email: sanchezw@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4371

Jonathan Lang
Senior Policy Advisor
Senate Committee on Mental Health
Email: jang@nysenate.gov
Phone: (518) 455-2722

I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____