



## ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**SUBJECT:** Availability of services for individuals with a substance use disorder in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

**PURPOSE:** To examine the availability of services for people with a substance use disorder (SUD), the effectiveness of treatment and the potential need to diversify access and service modalities in light of the increase in need and barriers identified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Hearing Room C**

**Legislative Office Building**

**Albany, NY 12248**

### **ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY**

Over the years, New York State has taken numerous steps to mitigate the effects of the ongoing opioid epidemic through various legislative and policy initiatives. The enacted State Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget supported this mission by allocating additional funds for the treatment and prevention of substance use disorder, including additional funding for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and modifying the requirements to provide additional access points for service.

Despite the State's continued efforts, the COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on individuals prone to having or who have a substance use disorder. According to provisional counts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have noted a 29.6% increase in the nation's drug overdose death rates from March 2020 to March 2021. Due to the rise in overdoses, it is now more important than ever for the Committee to be aware of the issues and potential barriers individuals may face when trying to access services.

The Committee seeks information regarding the availability of beds, including specialized beds, or other alternative solutions to receiving services due to the health restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee also seeks to hear from key stakeholders if any barriers currently exist for those seeking and being accepted into a substance use disorder treatment program.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form by **Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee 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.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

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.

**Phillip Steck**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair, Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**

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PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on the availability of services for individuals with a substance use disorder in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond are requested to complete this reply form by **Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, and mail, email or fax it to:

Lauren Ryan  
Legislative Associate  
Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
Room 442 - Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248  
Email: ryanl@nyassembly.gov  
Phone: (518) 455-4371  
Fax: (518) 455-4693

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on the availability of services for individuals with a substance use disorder in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.
- 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 provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

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- 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_