



2021 ANNUAL
REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH



**SENATOR
SAMRA G. BROUK**
CHAIR

CHAIR
MENTAL HEALTH

COMMITTEES

AGING
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
EDUCATION
ELECTIONS
HEALTH

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



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Senator, 55TH District

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December 17, 2021

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Mental Health for the 2021 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction. I would like to convey my sincere appreciation for the privilege of being appointed Chairperson of the Mental Health Committee.

As you know, the issue area of mental health can be both challenging and rewarding. During the year, I conducted meetings with many advocates expressing appreciation for what the Senate Majority has done to further the discussion of quality care for those who are members of this vulnerable population. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges to those facing mental health struggles, as well as highlighted the increased need for mental health services in what has been a very isolating time period for many. I have been a champion for the non-profit agencies who have seen their budgets stagnate, and I have fought for increased wages and investment into a workforce that is facing many struggles. It has become even more apparent during the pandemic that those working in the mental health field need to be properly compensated and equipped. We must continue our work on workforce recruitment and retention to ensure we can provide the services needed by communities across the State.

During the 2021 session, the Mental Health Committee met three times in session and reported eighteen bills. The Committee also held one hearing on Mental Health Crisis Services this past year.

I thank my colleagues who serve on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done in the committee this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the committee's operations. Enclosed, please

find the 2021 report, summarizing the accomplishments and events of the Senate Standing Committee on Mental Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Brouk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S" and "B".

Senator Samra G. Brouk, Chairperson
55th District

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

Senator Samra G. Brouk, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Senator Jamaal T. Bailey Senator James N. Tedisco, *Ranking Member*
Senator John E. Brooks Senator Anthony H. Palumbo
Senator Simcha Felder
Senator Gustavo Rivera

COMMITTEE STAFF

Alexia Holden, Committee Director & Clerk, Legislative Director
Jonathan Lang, Majority Conference Health and Mental Health Senior Advisor
Theophilus Alexander, Legislative Analyst

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Mental Health has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning the mental health needs of New Yorkers.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, **68** bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, **18** were reported from the Committee. **12** were passed by the Senate, and **4** passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of **3** committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee held **1** hearings and/or roundtable meetings. Topics of these hearings and/or roundtables included Mental Health Crisis Services.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS & HEARINGS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2021:

- **S2209 (Sepúlveda):** Relates to annual reporting on substance use disorder in incarcerated individuals.
 - Chapter 494 of the Laws of 2021 requires the Office of Addiction Services and Supports to update its guidelines for correctional substance use disorder treatment, in line with best practices, and requires annual reporting of data on the substances that incarcerated individuals are most commonly addicted to and what treatment they receive.
- **S6194B (Brouk):** Relates to establishing a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.
 - Chapter 793 of 2021 establishes a three-digit, 9-8-8, suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system by July 16, 2022.
- **S5938 (Parker):** Establishes a peer support services program for transgender and non-binary individuals.
 - This bill passed the Senate only. The legislation would establish a peer support program for transgender and non-binary individuals, and develop and establish regional and county-based support services for such individuals. These services include but are not limited to peer counseling for mental illness including alcohol and substance abuse counseling, family support services, domestic violence, mental health and physical health.

VIRTUAL JOINT PUBLIC HEARING ON MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES

May 18th, 2021 10:30AM

Purpose: This hearing provided 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.

Senators in Attendance: Senator Brouk, Senator Harckham, Senator May, Senator Bailey, Senator Rivera

List of Speakers:

Panel 1:

- Dr. Ann Marie Sullivan, Commissioner, New York State Office of Mental Health

Panel 2:

- Harvey Rosenthal, CEO, NYAPRS
- Glenn Liebman, CEO, Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. (MHANYS)
- Matt Shapiro, Associate Director of Public Affairs, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Nadia Chait, Director of Policy and Advocacy, The Coalition for Behavioral Health

Panel 3:

- Dan Ficter, Peer
- Jessica Pirro, CEO, Crisis Services
- Kathy Pandekakes, CEO, Human Development Services of Westchester
- Ruth Lowenkron, Director, Disability Justice Program
- Marc Fliedner, Director of PAIMI Program, Disability Rights New York

Panel 4:

- Keith W. Leahey, CEO, The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier, Inc.
- Katherine Alonge-Coons, Board Chair, NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors
- Charlotte Ostman, CEO, The Mental Health Association of Westchester
- Dr. Charles D. Corliss, Executive Director, The Federation of Mental Health Services

Panel 5:

- Joe Prude, Brother of Daniel Prude
- Elena Landriscina, Staff Attorney, The Legal Aid Society
- Melanie Funchess, CEO/Principal, Ubuntu Village Works, Inc.
- Iman Abid-Thompson, Chapter Director, ACLU-Genesee Valley Chapter
- Pamela Mattel, COO, Institute for Community Living, Inc.
- Ashley Gantt, Civil Rights Organizer

Panel 6:

- Dr. Jeffrey Steigman, Chief Administrative & Innovation Officer, Family Services League, Inc.
- Christina Sparrock, Mental Health Advocate, Correct Crisis Intervention Today – NYC
- Kristen Vincent, CEO, Recovery Options Made Easy
- Kimberly Williams, President & CEO, Vibrant Emotional Health

Panel 7:

- Patrick Seche, M.S., Senior Director of Addiction Services, University of Rochester
- Corina Crossdale, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services, Monroe County
- Dr. Mary Marrocco, Medical Director, Rochester Regional Health

Panel 8:

- Yvette Bairan, CEO, Astor Services for Children & Families
- Rosa M. Gil, President and CEO, Comunilife, Inc.
- Ronald Richter, CEO and Executive Director, JCCA
- Alice Bufkin, Director of Policy for Child and Adolescent Health, Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
- William Gettman, CEO, Northern Rivers Family of Services
- Alicia Skovera, Director of Camping & Year Round Programs, Fresh Air Fund
- Jeannine Mendez, Astor Services for Children & Families

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2021, **4** of the **68** bills referred to the Standing Committee on Mental Health passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 4 and vetoed 0 and has 1 bill left to act upon.

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S2209	Sepúlveda	Relates to annual reporting on substance use disorder in incarcerated individuals	Chapter 494 of 2021
S5434A	Harckham	Relates to providing information about extreme risk protection orders upon release or discharge of patients	Chapter 586 of 2021
S5945A	Reichlin-Melnick	Relates to incident notifications and reports	Chapter 407 of 2021
S6194B	Brouk	Relates to establishing a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system	Chapter 793 of 2021

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S334-A	Myrie	Requires the commissioner of mental health to issue a report on short term crisis respite programs and intensive crisis respite programs	Passed Senate Only
S2209	Sepúlveda	Relates to annual reporting on substance use disorder in incarcerated individuals	Chapter 494 of 2021
S2877	Ramos	Establishes a Latina suicide prevention task force; and provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof	Passed Senate Only
S3083	Salazar	Establishes an LGBT youth and young adult suicide prevention task force; and provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof	Passed Senate Only
S3408	Brouk	Establishes a Black youth suicide prevention task force	Passed Senate Only
S3409	Brouk	Relates to the release of patient records by the office of mental health	Passed Senate Only
S3476	Parker	Establishes a workgroup to conduct analysis on the ambulatory patient group rates and commercial insurance rates for behavioral health services	Passed Senate Only
S3740	Comrie	Relates to gaming disorders	Reported from Committee
S4534	Brouk	Relates to the geriatric demonstration program	Reported from Committee
S5035	Parker	Requires the establishment of community housing waiting lists within the office of mental health service system	Passed Senate Only
S5100	Brouk	Relates to rental and mortgage payments of supportive housing for the mentally ill	Reported from Committee
S5434-A	Harcckham	Relates to providing information about extreme risk protection orders upon release or discharge of patients	Chapter 586 of 2021
S5453-A	Helming	Creates the rural suicide prevention council	Passed Senate Only
S5648	Parker	Requires the office of mental health to establish a training program for the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder	Reported from Committee

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S5825	Comrie	Directs the commissioner of mental health to issue a review and report regarding certain facilities	Reported from Committee
S5938	Parker	Establishes a peer support services program for transgender and non-binary individuals	Passed Senate Only
S5945A	Reichlin-Melnick	Relates to incident notifications and reports	Chapter 407 of 2021
S6194-B	Brouk	Relates to establishing a 9-8-8 suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system	Chapter 793 of 2021



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