

Annual Report 2022

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# New York State Senate Standing Committee on **Mental Health** **Senator Samra G. Brouk**

Chair



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Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore  
NYS Senate Majority Leader



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**THE SENATE  
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**SAMRA G. BROUK**  
Senator, 55TH District

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December 16, 2022

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 2022 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 gratitude 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 their appreciation for what the Democratic Senate Majority has done to further the discussion on quality care for those who are members of this vulnerable population. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the mental health crisis, and 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 organizations who have witnessed their budgets stagnate, and I have advocated for increased wages via a multi-year cost of living adjustment and sustained investments into a workforce that is facing many challenges. We must continue our advocacy on workforce recruitment and retention to ensure we can provide the services needed by communities across the State.

During the 2022 season, the Mental Health Committee met twice in session and reported twenty-one bills.

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 2022 report, summarizing the accomplishments of the Senate Standing Committee on Mental Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Brouk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and the last name "Brouk" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Samra G. Brouk, Chair  
55th Senate District

**2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH**

**Senator Samra G. Brouk, Chairperson**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>Majority Conference</b>	<b>Minority Conference</b>
Senator Jamaal T. Bailey Senator John E. Brooks Senator Simcha Felder Senator Gustavo Rivera Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda	Senator Anthony H. Palumbo Senator James Tedisco

**COMMITTEE STAFF**

Jonathan Lang, Majority Conference Health and Mental Health Senior Advisor  
Lailee Ann Binstock, Chief of Staff  
Ernesto J. Porcari, Legislative Director & Counsel  
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 2022 Legislative Session, **77** bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, **21** were reported from the Committee. **9** were passed by the Senate, and **8** passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of **2** committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2022:

- **S7753 (Brouk):** Requires the Office of Mental Health and the Department of Health to conduct a study on the disparate impacts regarding postpartum depression screening tests
  - Chapter 384 of the Laws of 2022 requires the Office of Mental Health and the Department of Health to jointly conduct a study on the disparate impacts associated with postpartum depression screening tests.
  
- **S7144 (Sanders):** Provides crisis intervention team training, mental health first aid, implicit bias training and naloxone training to firefighters and emergency medical services personnel
  - Chapter 185 of the Laws of 2022 adds firefighters and emergency medical services personnel to ensure those professions complete the most up-to-date crisis intervention team training, mental health first aid, implicit bias training and naloxone training.
  
- **S5938 (Parker):** Establishes a peer support services program for transgender and non-binary individuals
  - This bill only passed the Senate. The legislation would establish a peer support program for individuals who identify as transgender and non-binary, and would develop and establish regional and county-based services for these 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.



## TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2022, 8 of the 77 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Mental Health passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor signed 5 and vetoed 3.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
<b>S334A</b>	Myrie	Requires the commissioner of mental health to issue a report on short term crisis respite programs and intensive crisis respite programs	Veto 68 of 2022
<b>S4253</b>	Skoufis	Requires the commissioner of the office of mental health to provide monthly status reports of the community investments and the impact on inpatient census	Chapter 646 of 2022
<b>S7144</b>	Sanders	Provides crisis intervention team training, mental health first aid, implicit bias training and naloxone training to firefighters and emergency medical services personnel	Chapter 185 of 2022
<b>S7752</b>	Brouk	Relates to the establishment of a maternal mental health workgroup	Veto 80 of 2022
<b>S7753</b>	Brouk	Requires the office of mental health and the department of health to conduct a study on the disparate impacts regarding postpartum depression screening	Chapter 384 of 2022

		tests	
<b>S9041</b>	Brouk	Establishes a temporary commission to study aging in place in mental health housing	Veto 65 of 2022
<b>S9057</b>	Brouk	Directs the commissioner of mental health to publish information on the office of mental health website about the mental illness anti-stigma distinctive license plates	Chapter 524 of 2022
<b>S9408</b>	Parker	Replaces an instance of the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services with the office of addiction services and supports when referring to developing the veterans stigma campaign	Chapter 363 of 2022

**SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY**

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
<b>S334A</b>	Myrie	Requires the commissioner of mental health to issue a report on short term crisis respite programs and intensive crisis respite programs	Veto 68 of 2022
<b>S2877</b>	Ramos	Establishes a Latina suicide prevention task force; and provides for the repeal of such provisions upon the expiration thereof	Passed Senate Only
<b>S3083</b>	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
<b>S3408</b>	Brouk	Establishes a Black youth suicide prevention task force	Passed Senate Only
<b>S3409</b>	Brouk	Relates to the release of patient records by the office of mental health	Passed Senate Only
<b>S3476</b>	Parker	Establishes a workgroup to conduct analysis on the ambulatory patient group rates and commercial insurance rates for behavioral health services	Passed Senate Only

<b>S4253</b>	Skoufis	Requires the commissioner of the office of mental health to provide monthly status reports of the community investments and the impact on inpatient census	Chapter 646 of 2022
<b>S5035</b>	Parker	Requires the establishment of community housing waiting lists within the office of mental health service system	Passed Senate Only
<b>S5100</b>	Brouk	Relates to rental and mortgage payments of supportive housing for the mentally ill	Reported to Finance
<b>S5648</b>	Parker	Requires the office of mental health to establish a training program for the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder	Passed Senate Only
<b>S5825</b>	Comrie	Directs the commissioner of mental health to issue a review and report regarding certain facilities	Reported to Calendar
<b>S5938</b>	Parker	Establishes a peer support services program for transgender and non-binary individuals	Passed Senate Only
<b>S7144</b>	Sanders	Provides crisis intervention team training, mental health first aid, implicit bias training	Chapter 185 of 2022

		and naloxone training to firefighters and emergency medical services personnel	
<b>S7672</b>	Brouk	Relates to adding fetal alcohol spectrum disorders to the definition of developmental disability	Passed Senate Only
<b>S7752</b>	Brouk	Relates to the establishment of a maternal mental health workgroup	Veto 80 of 2022
<b>S7753</b>	Brouk	Requires the office of mental health and the department of health to conduct a study on the disparate impacts regarding postpartum depression screening tests	Chapter 384 of 2022
<b>S7907</b>	Mannion	Permits certain previous criminal history information provided to satisfy criminal background checks for certain employees	Reported to Calendar
<b>S9041</b>	Brouk	Establishes a temporary commission to study aging in place in mental health housing	Veto 65 of 2022
<b>S9057</b>	Brouk	Directs the commissioner of mental health to publish information on the office of mental health website about the mental illness anti-stigma distinctive license	Chapter 524 of 2022

		plates	
<b>S9408</b>	Parker	Replaces an instance of the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services with the office of addiction services and supports when referring to developing the veterans stigma campaign	Chapter 363 of 2022





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Committee on Mental Health**