



## Annual Report 2025

New York State Senate Standing Committee on  
**Mental Health**

# Senator Samra G. Brouk

Chair

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





**CHAIR**

MENTAL HEALTH

**COMMITTEES**

AGRICULTURE

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ELECTIONS

HEALTH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SAMRA G. BROUK**  
Senator, 55th District

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
812 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2215  
FAX: (518) 426-6745

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
274 N. GOODMAN ST., SUITE B127  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607  
(585) 223-1800  
FAX: (585) 241-3939

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**  
BROUK@NYSenate.GOV

December 2025

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 2025 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

As Chair of the Senate Mental Health Committee, I evaluated the challenges facing the mental health continuum in New York State. To assess the root causes of some of these issues and listen to community needs, I met with diverse organizations, advocates, and individuals in my tenure. Through these conversations, I deduced that workforce concerns should remain a top priority for our committee's budget advocacy. This prioritization helped the Senate negotiate another historic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for our human services workers. Likewise, the Committee continued to pass Daniel's Law (S.3670), reporting it to the Finance Committee once again. The Senate then secured the first multimillion-dollar investment to create and fund non-police, peer-led crisis response teams to support individuals in a mental health or substance use crisis. This continues the Senate's commitment to support those in crisis and ensure localities have the support they need in developing their own mental health crisis response systems.

Our committee also reaffirmed its commitment to the legacy of Daniel Prude, as we reported Daniel's Law for the first time, a step in the right direction to reform crisis response in New York State.

During the 2025 Session, this Committee met two times in Session and reported 17 bills. The Committee also held two joint hearings this past year.

I thank my colleagues who served 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.

Sincerely,

Senator Samra G. Brouk



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

## NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

**Senator Samra G. Brouk,  
Chairperson**

### **Majority Members**

Senator Siela A. Bynoe

Senator Nathalia Fernandez

Senator Gustavo Rivera

Senator Lea Webb

### **Minority Members**

Senator Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick

Senator Anthony H. Palumbo

### **Committee Staff**

Andrew Title, Majority Counsel &  
Program Assistant Deputy Director

Jamie Salm, Majority Counsel &  
Program Senior Policy Advisor

Ernesto J. Porcari, Legislative Director,  
Counsel & Committee Clerk



## **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW**

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

During the 2025 Legislative Session, 75 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 17 were reported from the Committee, eight were passed by the Senate, and one passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of two 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 two joint hearings and/or roundtable meetings. Topics of these hearings and/or roundtables included the Joint Legislative Public Hearing on 2025 Executive Budget Proposal: Topic Mental Hygiene, and Joint Public Hearing: An Examination of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Rates in New York State.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the Committee in 2025:

- S3670 (Brouk): Creates statewide emergency and crisis response council to work in conjunction with the commissioners of mental health and addiction services to jointly approve emergency and crisis services plans submitted by local governments, and provide supports regarding the operation and financing of high-quality emergency and crisis services provided to persons experiencing a mental health, alcohol use, or substance use crisis.
  - Reported and Committed to Finance
- S5407A (Harckham): Establishes the “first responder peer support program act,” which supplies peer-to-peer mental health programs to first responders.
  - Passed Senate Only
- S7377B (Brouk): Relates to the establishment of mental health clubhouses pursuant to a statewide implementation plan developed by the office of mental health.
  - Reported and Committed to Finance
- S8043 (Bynoe): Directs the commissioner of mental health to conduct a study of child- and youth-targeted mobile crisis outreach teams in New York State, and deliver a report including the findings and recommendations of such study to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Assembly.
  - Passed both houses, veto memo 64

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS, ROUNDTABLES & NOMINATIONS**

### **Joint Legislative Public Hearing on 2025 Executive Budget Proposal: Topic Mental Hygiene**

The annual Joint Legislative Public Hearing on 2025 Executive Budget Proposal on Mental Hygiene included testimony regarding the Executive Budget Proposal under the areas covered by the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Addiction Services and Supports, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, and a myriad of other stakeholders.

### **Joint Public Hearing: An Examination of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Rates in New York State**

Hosted by Senator Webb as Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Women's Issues, this hearing included the Chairs of the Senate Standing Committee on Health, Senate Standing Committee on Social Services, and the Senate Standing Committee on Mental Health. The purpose of the hearing was to document concerns and ideas from various stakeholders and impacted individuals about the barriers to prenatal and postpartum care. Testimony was taken from governmental administrators, advocacy groups, health practitioners and professionals, and individuals who have been impacted by maternal mortality and morbidity issues in New York.



## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S01005	Brouk	Establishes a youth mental telehealth services program to facilitate access to mental health services, including substance use disorder services, for youth to respond to identified mental health needs.	Reported to Senate Finance
S01366	Serrano	Directs the commissioner of the office of mental health to promulgate rules and regulations prohibiting any suicide prevention or mental health services hotline operated or sponsored by the state from being automated.	Passed the Senate
S01727	Brouk	Authorizes the commissioner of mental health to establish up to three, three-year pilot programs in community behavioral health organizations for the purposes of creating social worker pilot programs to support the ongoing retention and recruitment of licensed clinical social workers.	Reported to Senate Finance
S01728	Brouk	Provides that court records in a proceeding under articles 77, 78 and 81 of the mental hygiene law shall not be perused, examined, disclosed, taken or copied by any other person than a party, the attorney or counsel of a party, the guardian, the court evaluator or the court examiner except by order of the court.	Passed the Senate
S03610A	Helming	Establishes the rural suicide prevention council to identify barriers to mental health and substance use treatment and prevention services and other policies, practices, resources, services, and potential legislation that aim to reduce death by suicide and suicide attempts and acknowledge the demographic and cultural differences in rural communities; makes related provisions.	Passed the Senate
S03670	Brouk	Creates statewide emergency and crisis response council to work in conjunction with the commissioners of mental health and addiction services to jointly approve emergency and crisis services plans submitted by local governments, and provide supports regarding the operation and financing of high-quality emergency and crisis services provided to persons experiencing a mental health, alcohol use, or substance use crisis.	Reported to Senate Finance

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S03996	Parker	Amends the definition of “developmental disability” to include an inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of the disability.	Reported to Senate Disabilities
S04102	Parker	Requires the establishment of community housing waiting lists within the office of mental health service system; directs each provider of housing services in the office of mental health system to provide, on a monthly basis, the office of mental health with a list of each person referred to, admitted to, applying for, withdrawing an application for and denied admission to housing provided by such provider; requires the community-based agency performing assessments of persons with a documented mental illness to provide the office with the names of such who have been assessed and who meet the eligibility criteria for the array of funded and/or licensed housing programs; requires such office to publish such waiting lists on a monthly basis.	Passed the Senate
S04291	Parker	Relates to the discharge of residents of a community residence; provides that nothing shall be deemed construed as creating a relationship of landlord and tenant between an operator of a community residence and a resident; defines community residence.	Senate Rules
S04713A	Fahy	Designates records and information relating to a patient who has been deceased for a period of fifty years or longer as historic records no longer subject to privacy protections; provides that such provisions shall not be construed as requiring a facility to retain records for any particular length of time.	Passed the Senate
S04990	Harckham	Establishes parity in reimbursement rates for the first twenty-four hours of supportive stabilization services provided that are substantially equivalent to crisis stabilization center services.	Reported to Senate Finance
S05407A	Harckham	Establishes the “first responder peer support program act” which supplies peer-to-peer mental health programs to first responders.	Passed the Senate

<b>Bill No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Significant Action</b>
S06730	Jackson	Relates to establishing integrated community mental health clinics to provide services to address mental health issues, anger management issues, substance abuse issues and isolation issues.	Senate Rules
S07377B	Brouk	Relates to the establishment of mental health clubhouses pursuant to a statewide implementation plan developed by the office of mental health.	Reported to Senate Finance
S07819	Cleare	Enacts "Karilyn's law"; provides that the court set the date for proceedings relating to family visitation under a guardianship petition for not more than ten days from the signing of the order to show cause; provides that visitation shall be a rebuttable presumption.	Reported to Senate Judiciary
S08043	Bynoe	Directs the commissioner of mental health to conduct a study of child- and youth-targeted mobile crisis outreach teams in New York state, and deliver a report including the findings and recommendations of such study to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly.	"Vetoed Memo.64"





Annual Report 2025

---

New York State Senate Standing Committee on  
**Mental Health**

