



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH
NOTICE OF ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARING**

SUBJECT: Impact of COVID-19 on individuals with either a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability

PURPOSE: Examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals with either a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability, with a focus on their ability to access services, and the potential need for additional resources or policies and procedures that will help to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

Tuesday, September 8, 2020
10am

Web Link: <https://www.nyasembly.gov/av/live/>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

A new survey cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that almost 41% of respondents are struggling with mental health issues. More specifically, 31% of the study participants reported experiencing symptoms for anxiety or depression, 26% experienced traumas or stressor-related disorder symptoms, 13% indicated they started or increased substance use, and 11% stated they have considered suicide in the last 30 days. In addition, emerging research has suggested that people with an intellectual or developmental disability are far more vulnerable to COVID-19 than the general population. A Syracuse University study found that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in group homes across the state were more likely than other New Yorkers to die if they caught the virus. The study also noted that people with developmental disabilities are more prone than others to have chronic illnesses — including hypertension, heart disease, respiratory disease or diabetes, which have been identified as factors increasing risk of death among those infected with COVID-19.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and New York State have provided guidance and eased various regulatory requirements to help provide access to services for individuals with either a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability.

The Committee will seek to obtain input from various stakeholders to ascertain the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on current and emerging cases of individuals with either a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability, with a focus on their ability to access services, and the potential need for additional resources, or policies and procedures that will help to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form no later than Friday, September 5th. 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. 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.

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.

**Member of Assembly Aileen M. Gunther
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 at the hearing on the Impact of COVID-19 on either individuals with a mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible 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, Principal Analyst
Assembly Committee on Mental Health
Email: sanchezw@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4371

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: _____