



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Mental Health Workforce

PURPOSE: To examine the capacity and long-term sustainability of the mental health workforce and service system in New York State.

Tuesday, November 9th, 2021, 10am
Legislative Office Building
Hearing Room C
Albany, NY, 12248

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for mental health services was high, and this trend has continued to increase due to stay at home orders, isolation and other side effects from the pandemic. However, across the country and in New York, there is significant concern that there are not enough mental health professionals to meet the need of the ever growing demand for services. The National Council of Behavioral Health (NCBH) reported that 77% of counties in the United States are experiencing a severe shortage of mental health providers and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) estimate that by 2025, there will be a shortage of over 250,000 mental health professionals. In New York State, service providers have reported significant staffing shortages which have led some programs to be eliminated or scaled back.

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) was allocated supplemental Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant funding of nearly \$47 million under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and \$80 million under the American Rescue Plan Act. Of this funding, the Executive recently announced that OMH has allocated \$21 million in workforce recruitment and retention funds.

This hearing would provide the committee an opportunity to assess the need for mental health professionals statewide, gather additional information on workforce strategies related to CMHS Block Grant funding, as well as, examine and consider legislation and other initiatives that would aim to build workforce capacity for long-term sustainability of the mental health service system.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form by the end of day on November 5th, 2021. 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.

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on Mental Health Workforce are requested to complete this reply form by November 5th, 2021 and mail, email or fax it to:

Willie Sanchez
Legislative Associate
Assembly Committee on Mental Health
Room 442 - Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: sanchezw@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4371
Fax: (518) 455-4693

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on Mental Health Workforce to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Mental Health on November 9th, 10am.
- 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:

- 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: _____