

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITY, ALCOHOLISM, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND
DISABILITY SERVICES

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September 6, 2016
Start: 10:59 a.m.
Recess: 12:02 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: ANDREW COHEN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Elizabeth S. Crowley
Corey D. Johnson
Paul A. Vallone
Barry S. Grodenchik
Joseph C. Borelli

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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[sound check, pause][gavel]

CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Alright. Good

morning. My name is Andrew Cohen and I am the Chair
of the Council's Committee on Mental Health,
Development Disabilities, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse
and Disability Services. Thank you for attending
today's vote on Introduction 1236-A and Intro 1424-A,
sponsored by Council Member Borelli and myself. Both
bills are crucial to ensuring that we are doing
everything in our power to provide appropriate,
effective and timely services to our citizens with
Autism and other mental illnesses.

The first bill Intro 1236-A would require
the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to report
on the number of individuals receiving services
provided by or administered by DOHMH for Autism
Spectrum Disorder. This report would allow the
Council to track ASD services in different
neighborhoods and ensuring that services are
available citywide. They would also be available
online and accessible to the public. Thank you,
Council Member Borelli for sponsoring this bill.

The second bill Intro 1424-A, sponsored
by me, would require the Department of Education to

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2 report on the total number of students with
3 Individualized Education Plans or IEPs broken down by
4 each disability classification. As an example,
5 students with Autism. This information is to be
6 disaggregated by district, eligibility for free lunch
7 and reduced price lunch programs, race, ethnicity,
8 gender, English Language Learner status, recommended
9 language of instruction and grade level. The goal of
10 obtaining this information is that it will be helpful
11 when it comes to identifying trends across New York
12 city's various communities and if necessary, address
13 inequities in diagnosis services and resources—
14 resource distribution. I want to acknowledge that
15 we've been joined by Council Members Vallone,
16 Grodenchik, Borelli and what?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic] And you.

18 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Alright, and myself I
19 guess. Lastly, I want to thank the committee for
20 their—the committee staff for their work in
21 preparation of this hearing: Nicole Bene, our
22 Legislative Counsel who is leaving us for the
23 Sanitation Committee. Really? Sylves—we want to
24 welcome Silvestri Vanna (sic), our new Legislative
25 Counsel; Michael Benjamin our Policy Analyst; Janette

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2 Merrill our Finance Analyst; and Kate Diebold my
3 Legislative Counsel. I am not going to ask Council
4 Member Borelli to say a few words.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you
6 Chairman Cohen. Thank you for making 1236 part of
7 this package dealing with autism reporting. The goal
8 of this bill is to obviously track and report—report
9 both direct services and indirect services that our
10 constituents are receiving whether they're paid by
11 the city or directly serviced by the city. Our goal
12 long term is to advocate for more early intervention
13 services for children who need them, and this is
14 essentially step 1 in giving us quantifiable data to
15 supplement the almost anecdotal evidence that we've
16 heard from so many service providers that the rates
17 of Autism continue to rise. So, I want to thank you,
18 Chairman Cohen, as well as my colleagues Council
19 Member Vallone and Grodenchik who are here today and
20 Matteo is somewhere around as well as the 32 total
21 sponsors who join me on this bill. Thanks again.

22 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: I want to acknowledge
23 that we've been joined by Council Member Crowley, and
24 I will now ask the Clerk to call the roll.

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CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew Di
Stefano, Committee on Mental Health, Development-
Developmental Disability, Substance Abuse, Alcoholism
and Disability Services. Roll call vote on Intro
1236-A and Intro 1424-A. Chair Cohen.

CHAIRPERSON COHEN: I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Grodenchik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye on all.

CLERK: Borelli.

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all.

CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions the
items have been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON COHEN: I'm going to ask the
Clerk to keep the roll open I guess unless we know
that Council-I'm going to ask that let's keep it open
for 15. Thank you. Alright. [pause] [background
comments] This concludes the Mental Health Committee
Meeting of this morning.

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date September 8, 2017