

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,
DISABILITIES, AND ADDICTIONS

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December 8, 2021
Start: 9:31 a.m.
Recess: 9:36 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Rooms 1)

B E F O R E: Farah Louis
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Diana Ayala
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Joseph Borelli
Eric Dinowitz
Kevin Riley

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

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: PC recording started.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Recording to
4 the cloud has begun. And good morning to everyone
5 and welcome to today's remote New York City Council
6 vote for the Committee on Mental Health,
7 Disabilities, and Addictions. At this time, would
8 all panelists please turn on their videos for
9 verification purposes. And to minimize disruptions,
10 place all electronic devices to vibrate or silent
11 mode. Thank you for your cooperation. Chair Louis,
12 we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you so much.

14 Good morning, everyone, and welcome to today's
15 hearing. I am Council member Farah Louis, Chair of
16 the Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and
17 Addiction. Today, we are considering two pieces of
18 legislation aimed at addressing some very important
19 issues. Intro number 2141-A, sponsored by Council
20 member Carlina Rivera, in relation to the removing
21 outdated clinical language and to the repeal
22 paragraph two of submission of section 555 of such
23 charter in relation to the report on the
24 establishment of the Department of Health and Mental
25 Hygiene.

3 And we are also going to hear
4 Introduction number 2442-A, sponsored by Council
5 member Diana Ayala in relation to establishing a
6 Office of Community and Mental Health. Intro number
7 2141-A would recognize that, in 2010, Congress passed
8 Rose's Law which changed references to mental
9 retardation or MR and specified federal laws to
10 intellectual disabilities in recognition of the fact
11 that the term MR is archaic, insensitive,
12 stigmatizing and clinically outdated. With respect
13 to the city's consolidated laws, the terms appear in
14 10 sections across the Charter and the administrative
15 code. The proposed bill would remove references to
16 MR and substitute the term intellectual disability or
17 intellectual and developmental disability as
18 applicable in such sections.

19 Intro number 2442-A would require the
20 Mayor to establish a Office of Community Mental
21 Health, also known as OCMH within the executive
22 office of the Mayor or a separate or within any other
23 agency or office and headed by a mayoral appointee.
24 OCMH would be charged with the following duties and
25 operations: request and receive the assistance of any
other agency or office, develop and support the

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3 implementation of strategies to close gaps in mental
4 health care, develop interagency policies and
5 practices to promote mental health, decrease any
6 barriers to mental health care that may prevent
7 access among groups identified as being underserved,
8 and perform any other relevant duties as the Mayor
9 may assign. Additionally, OCMH would be responsible
10 to ensure interagency coordination with DOHMH or any
11 other office or agency. This bill would require the
12 establishment of mental health counsel to advise OCMH
13 on issues relating to mental health and mental health
14 care and facilitate coordination and cooperation
15 among city agencies. Finally, OCMH would be required
16 to annually report to the Mayor and the Speaker of
17 the Council and to post on OCMH's website a report
18 identifying critical gaps in mental health care that
19 are preventing New Yorkers with mental health needs
20 accessing and staying connected to care. I would
21 like to thank the sponsors of these bills, Council
22 members Carlina Rivera and Diana Ayala, for your
23 leadership. I would also like to thank the community
24 members and advocates who champion these important
25 pieces of legislation. Finally, I would like to
thank my colleagues, as well as my staff, legislative

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3 director Christia Winter, as well as Council
4 Committee staff, senior counsel Sara Liss,
5 legislative policy analyst Christie Dryer, and
6 financial analyst Lauren Hunt, for working on these
7 bills. Now, I will turn it to bill sponsors if they
8 would like to make statements on their bills. Seeing
9 none, I will now turn it over to the clerk for roll
10 call. Thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good
12 morning. William Martin, committee clerk. Roll call
13 vote Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and
14 Addictions. Both items are coupled. Chair Louis?

15 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ampry-
17 Samuel?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote
19 aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ayala?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Sorry. I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Riley?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Dinowitz?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Borelli?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. By a vote of
4 six in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
5 abstentions, both items have been adopted by the
6 committee. And, Madam Chair, that is a full
7 committee.

8 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: All right. Thank
9 you, everyone. Have a good day.

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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 January 25, 2022