

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES AND ADDICTION 1  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

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December 20, 2023  
Start: 10:43 a.m.  
Recess: 10:50 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Linda Lee, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu  
Diana Ayala  
Erik D. Bottcher  
Tiffany Cabán  
Shahana Hanif  
Nantasha M. Williams

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Crystal Hudson

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2 ADDICTION

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3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
4 check for the Committee on Mental Health,  
5 Disabilities and Addiction, recorded on December 20,  
6 2023, by Layla Lynch in the Committee Room.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and  
8 welcome to the Committee on Mental Health.

9 At this time, we ask that you please  
10 place phones on vibrate or silent mode. Thank you.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON LEE: [GAVEL] Good morning. My  
13 name is Council Member Linda Lee, Chair of the Mental  
14 Health, Disabilities and Addictions Committee.

15 Today, the Committee will vote on  
16 Proposed Introduction number 946-A sponsored by  
17 Council Member Crystal Hudson, which would require  
18 each City agency to designate an employee as its  
19 Mental Health Coordinator to assist and perform  
20 outreach on the mental health services and supports  
21 available to employees.

22 The Committee will also vote on  
23 Resolution 584, sponsored by myself, which calls on  
24 the New York State Legislature to pass and the  
25 Governor to sign legislation to enter the Interstate  
26 Medical Licensure Compact, the Nurse Licensure

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2 Compact, and the Psychology Interjurisdictional  
3 Compact. These compacts will enhance the portability  
4 of medical and mental health providers by allowing  
5 them to become licensed and to practice in multiple  
6 states.

7 I would like to begin by recognizing  
8 Members of the Committee who are present, Council  
9 Member Abreu, Council Member Williams, Council Member  
10 Bottcher, Council Member Cabán, and Deputy Speaker  
11 Ayala.

12 With that, at this time I'd like to  
13 invite Council Member Hudson to make a brief  
14 statement on her bill.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you so much  
16 and good morning, Chair. I'd like to thank you and  
17 Speaker Adams for scheduling a vote on Introduction  
18 946, currently one in five New Yorkers experience  
19 mental illness annually according to the Mayor's  
20 Office of Community Mental Health and hundreds of  
21 thousands of them, largely black, Latinx, and AAPI  
22 New Yorkers are not connected to mental healthcare.  
23 As New Yorkers came out of the initial stages of the  
24 pandemic, many have unaddressed trauma stemming from  
25 economic hardship, social isolation, and other

1 factors and while the stigma of mental healthcare is  
2 slowly eroding, many New Yorkers have no idea where  
3 to turn to receive help. Intro. 946, first introduced  
4 in December 2017 by my predecessor, would require  
5 each City agency to have someone designated as its  
6 mental health coordinator. This person would ensure  
7 all agency employees know about mental health and  
8 related services available to employees, like the  
9 Employee Assistance Program, the Office of Labor  
10 Relations' Be Well Program, and mental health  
11 coverage provided as part of City health insurance,  
12 and ensure the agency complies with laws and  
13 regulations concerning accessibility and support for  
14 employees with mental health needs.  
15

16 This bill does not require the City to  
17 secure additional funding for a new employee and  
18 solely requires agencies to designate a mental health  
19 coordinator.

20 I'd like to thank Miss Beverly Johnson  
21 for her tireless work on this bill, which was her  
22 brainchild. She's the real reason this bill is being  
23 passed today and is the reason nearly every Council  
24 Member signed on as a co-sponsor. Miss Johnson  
25 championed this bill for more than five years. As a

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2 City employee, she faced difficulties obtaining  
3 mental health support and understood that having a  
4 single point person at each agency who civil servants  
5 can turn to for information would have helped her and  
6 many others. She's a prime example of how  
7 constituents can inform policymaking by reaching out  
8 to their elected officials. The people closest to the  
9 pain are the ones closest to the solution, and we  
10 need more bills that come from our constituents as  
11 they're the ones that have the greatest success at  
12 truly addressing the problems facing New Yorkers.  
13 Thank you so much.

14 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Thank you so much,  
15 Council Member Hudson, and just want to say in  
16 advance, congrats.

17 Lastly, before we begin, I'd like to  
18 thank my Staff as well as our Committee Staff, Sara  
19 Sucher, who is our Legislative Counsel, Cristy Dwyer,  
20 Senior Policy Analyst, and Danielle Glants, Finance  
21 Analyst.

22 Clerk, we're ready to begin the vote.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
24 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.  
25 Roll call vote, Committee on Mental Health,

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ADDICTION

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Disabilities and Addiction, items are coupled. Chair  
Lee.

CHAIRPERSON LEE: Aye on all and congrats.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
you. Abreu.

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Botcher.

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.  
Mealy. Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
you. With a vote of six in the affirmative, zero in  
the negative, and no abstentions, both items have  
been adopted by the Committee.

The roll will be held open by the request  
of the Chair.

Continuation roll call, Committee on  
Mental Health. Council Member Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is  
now seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
and no abstentions.

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CHAIRPERSON LEE: With that, the vote is  
closed. Thank you. [GAVEL]

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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 December 22, 2023