

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES
& ADDICTION

VOTE*

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Wednesday, January 22, 2025
Start: 2:38 p.m.
Recess: 2:50 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room, 16th
Floor

B E F O R E: Hon. Linda Lee, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Erik D. Bottcher
Tiffany Cabán
Shahana K. Hanif
Farah N. Louis
Kristy Marmorato
Darlene Mealy

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES & ADDICTION

A P P E A R A N C E S

(NONE)

1 COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES & ADDICTION

2 SERGEANT LEVY: Testing, testing, this is a sound
3 test for The Committee on Mental Health,
4 Disabilities, and Addiction; recorded by Sergeant Ben
5 Levy, the date is January 22, 2025, on the 16th floor
6 of 250 Broadway.

7 (PAUSE)

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good afternoon, and welcome to
9 the New York City Council Vote of The Committee on
10 Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addiction.

11 At this time, can everybody please silence your
12 phone cell phone. At this time, and going forward, no
13 one is to approach the dais, I repeat, no one is to
14 approach the dais.

15 Chair, we are ready to begin.

16 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Thank you (GAVEL SOUND)
17 (GAVELING IN), Good afternoon, it's afternoon, right?
18 Yes, good afternoon, and welcome to this hearing for
19 the New York City Council's Committee on Mental
20 Health, Disabilities, and Addiction.

21 Today, the committee will vote on four proposed
22 introductions related to youth mental health, which
23 is the focus of the next step on the Mental Health
24 Roadmap.

25

2 The first bill is Proposed Introduction Number
3 986-A, sponsored by Council Member Rita Joseph, which
4 would implement a pilot program to involve mental
5 health professional candidates into student wellness
6 clubs in public middle and high schools.

7 Next is Proposed Introduction Number 989-A,
8 sponsored by myself, which would require the creation
9 of student wellness club toolkits.

10 Proposed Introduction Number 996-A, sponsored by
11 Council Member Althea Stevens, which would require
12 the creation of peer based mental health literacy
13 trainings for students.

14 And Proposed Introduction Number 1103-A,
15 sponsored by Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, which would
16 require community outreach regarding the availability
17 of mental health resources in response to violent and
18 traumatic incidents.

19 We believe these bills are a crucial first step
20 in tackling the youth mental health crisis. The
21 majority of the bills involve implementing peer led
22 support services into our public schools.

23 Schools offer a unique opportunity to address the
24 mental health and wellness of New York City youth.
25 According to the American Psychological Association,

2 the degree to which young people feel that adults and
3 peers at school care about them and are invested in
4 their success was found to be a key contributor to
5 their mental health. Therefore, one of our goals is
6 to send a message not only to our youth, but also to
7 administrators, teachers, staff, and community
8 members that we hear their concerns and will do
9 whatever is in the Council's power to address this
10 crisis by first and foremost listening to the youth
11 themselves and investing in their ability to succeed.

12 I would like to thank the speaker, the
13 administration, advocates, students, providers, and
14 individuals with lived experience who spoke at the
15 initial hearing and provided invaluable feedback on
16 the substance of these bills.

17 Finally, I would like to thank the committee
18 staff who worked on the bills as well as my own
19 staff.

20 Before I start the vote, I'd like to read a
21 statement on behalf of Council Member Joseph on her
22 bill, because she was unfortunately not able to be
23 here today, so I'm gonna go ahead and read it.

24 "Chairperson Lee and colleagues, I'm thrilled
25 that my bill, Intro 986-A, is up for a vote today.

2 Intro 986-A establishes a pilot program to
3 involve mental health professional candidates in
4 student wellness clubs at public middle and high
5 schools. The bill requires a mayor designated agency
6 or agencies to develop and implement the pilot
7 program in schools that choose to participate.
8 Specifically, the designated agency or agencies will,
9 A., make every effort to recruit mental health
10 professional candidates for voluntary participation,
11 B., build partnerships with universities to encourage
12 candidate involvement, and C., facilitate discussions
13 and workshops led by these candidates for students.

14 Topics will include coping skills, recognizing
15 signs of mental distress, and strategies for
16 maintaining mental well-being.

17 The designated agency or agencies will also
18 coordinate with the city school district's
19 chancellors to integrate this initiative within
20 student wellness clubs in middle and high schools.

21 This program addresses the urgent need for
22 accessible mental health support in our schools. By
23 engaging mental health professional candidates, we
24 can expand resources and help foster a culture of
25 wellness for our students.

2 I look forward to the agency or agency's feedback
3 and to refining this initiative further. My deepest
4 gratitude to everyone who has worked to bring this
5 bill to the council floor.

6 I urge my colleagues to vote yes on Intro 986-A.
7 Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the
8 life of our students. Thank you."

9 Thank you, Council Member. And, Clerk, we are now
10 ready to begin the vote.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, good afternoon,
12 William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote for
13 The Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and
14 Addiction. All items are coupled.

15 Chair Lee?

16 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all, congratulations
19 to all bill sponsors.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye... Oh, Aye, thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

23 Council Member Abreu?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Hanif.

6 Council Member Mealy?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Mealy.

9 Council Member Marmorato?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

12 With a vote of 7 in the affirmative, 0 in the
13 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been
14 adopted by the Committee.

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

17 (PAUSE)

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, for The
19 Committee on Mental Health.

20 Council Member Bottcher?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote of 8 in the
23 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
24 all items have been adopted by the Committee. Madam,
25 Chair, that is a full committee.

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2 (PAUSE)

3 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Okay, great, and that concludes
4 our vote. Thank you, everyone.

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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, 2025