



**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CORRECTION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**SUBJECT:** Examining the effectiveness of medication-assisted treatment programs in state and local correctional facilities in the state.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to examine the effectiveness of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs in New York State and local correctional facilities, as well as any additional supports and services that may be utilized to serve unmet treatment needs.

**New York City**

Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

10:30 A.M.

Assembly Hearing Room

19<sup>th</sup> Floor, 250 Broadway

According to a national study conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in 2011, the percentage of incarcerated individuals with a substance use disorder is disproportionately higher than for individuals found in the general population; 53% in state prisons and 68% in jails, compared to 8.5% in the general public.

According to a 2015 report by the New York City Mayor's Task Force on Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice, it is believed that 85% of individuals incarcerated in the NYC jail system have a substance use disorder. In the State prison system, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) estimates that 80% of incarcerated individuals are in need of substance use disorder treatment. Despite these numbers, most correctional facilities in New York do not have extensive medication assisted treatment (MAT) programs.

MAT is now the standard of care for those struggling with a substance use disorder. It uses FDA-approved medications, along with counseling and therapy. Throughout the recovery process, many people struggle with strong cravings to use again, sometimes causing them to relapse. The medications and therapies used in MAT programs have the ability to reduce or remove these cravings while blocking the euphoric effects of opioids, normalizing body functions, and stabilizing brain chemistry.

MAT programs in correctional facilities may help to reduce recidivism, fatal drug overdoses and the transmission of infectious diseases. In addition, individuals who are released also need appropriate connections to services and treatment upon reentry to the community. Reports have shown that many of these individuals find themselves homeless, back in the criminal justice system, at risk of overdosing and without the proper treatment and continuity of care.

This hearing will examine the efficacy of MAT programs in New York State and local correctional facilities, as well as explore additional programs and tools which may be utilized to serve unmet needs in correctional facilities.

Persons wishing to testify should complete and return the enclosed reply form no later than Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. 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 of the hearing.

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees 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. In the absence of a request, witnesses will be scheduled in the order in which reply forms are postmarked.

Ten (10) copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

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.

**Linda B. Rosenthal**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**

**Richard N. Gottfried**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Committee on Health**

**David I. Weprin**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Committee on Correction**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to testify at the public hearing on **the effectiveness of medication assisted treatment (MAT) programs in New York state and local correctional facilities** are requested to complete this reply form no later than Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, and mail, email or fax it to:

Katie Jesaitis  
Committee Analyst  
Assembly Program and Counsel  
Room 442 - Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248  
Email: jesaitisk@nyassembly.gov  
Phone: (518) 455-4371  
Fax: (518) 455-4693

- I plan to attend the public hearing on the effectiveness of medication assisted treatment (MAT) programs in New York state and local correctional facilities to be conducted by the Assembly Committees on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Health and Corrections on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- I plan to testify at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 10 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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