



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Maternal Mental Health

PURPOSE: To examine the maternal mental health needs in New York State

**November 9th, 2026
Assembly Hearing Room, 19th Floor
250 Broadway, New York, NY
11:00 a.m.**

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Maternal Mental Health (MMH) disorders include a range of perinatal and post-partum mood and anxiety disorders such as prenatal and perinatal depression, anxiety and panic disorders, and post-partum psychosis. According to the New York State Department of Health, between 15% and 20% of new mothers in New York experience maternal depression or anxiety, and 1% experience postpartum psychosis. According to the Policy Center of Maternal Mental Health a 2025 study reported that 62% of mothers felt they were judged or treated unfairly during the perinatal period for various mental health issues, including post-partum depression (PPD). The Center also noted that mothers of color have an increased risk for MMH disorders: up to 40% of Latina and Black moms suffer from PPD and are 57% and 41%, respectively, less likely to start treatment for maternal depression than a white mom, and women living in rural communities are 21% more likely to develop PPD compared to women living in urban communities.

In 2023 and 2025, the New York State Office of Mental Health released reports to identify gaps in postpartum mental health care and offer recommendations aimed at standardizing, expanding, and improving postpartum screening and care, as well as provide a pathway to improve the mental health of pregnant women statewide. Although New York State has taken steps to address the issue, more information is needed to continue to support maternal mental health care in New York. For these reasons, the Committees would like to examine the effectiveness of existing initiatives, identify gaps in the maternal mental health care services and supports delivery model, and consider additional ways to improve access to services and supports for those seeking maternal mental health care in New York State.

People invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that people may be notified in the event of an emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at 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.

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

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

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, accommodation will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Amy Paulin
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Health

Jo Anne Simon
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Mental Health

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on Maternal Mental Health are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Willie Sanchez
Principal Analyst
Assembly Committee on Mental Health
Room 442 – Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: sanchezw@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4371
Fax: (518) 455-4693

- ☐ I plan to attend the following public hearing on Maternal Mental Health to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Health and the Assembly Committee Mental Health on November 9, 2026.
- ☐ I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to five 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: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____