



NOTICE OF ROUNDTABLE

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBJECT: Eating Disorders: Working Toward a Comprehensive Approach

PURPOSE: To discuss how we can ensure New York State has a comprehensive system to address eating disorders which includes early diagnosis, access to appropriate care, and the most effective and efficient use of limited time and resources

Senator Kemp Hannon, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health will be holding a Roundtable discussion at 10:00 am on Wednesday, February 13, 2013, in Room 124 of the Capitol, Albany, New York to discuss and examine issues relating to eating disorders.

More than 10 million women and one million men in the United States, many of whom are adolescents, struggle with an eating disorder, such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia. Another 15 million suffer from binge eating disorder, a newly adopted diagnosis. Surprisingly, eating disorders are more common than Alzheimer's disease, yet the stigma has hidden their prevalence. Not only are an enormous number of people living with eating disorders, those with anorexia nervosa face the highest mortality rate of all psychiatric illnesses. According to the National Eating Disorder Association, females between the ages of 15-24 die 12 times more from their eating disorder than all other causes of death in that age group.

Due to the nature of their illness, patients with eating disorders cycle between two systems of care, physical health and behavioral health. This experience creates challenges in relation to accessing insurance for the range of services needed, as well as challenges for focusing public policy because eating disorders straddle two different state agencies, DOH and OMH. Patients require integrated, coordinated, and continuous care but have difficulties obtaining this care when a lack of integration exists on insurance and public policy levels.

In 2004, New York State took a leading role, establishing and funding a collaborative and integrated network of Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs) around the state which provide evidence based care. More recently, the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), which advocates on behalf of

patients, provides the National Helpline, develops resources for the field and provides awareness nationwide, has made New York State its home. Despite these accomplishments, funding for the CCCEDs has been decimated over the last few years, patients continue to struggle to access care, and the full continuum of services for those suffering from eating disorders is still not available within New York State. NEDA's National Helpline reports that of all the inquiries received from around the country, New York is in the top two, with an estimated 20% of all calls for help and information.

This Roundtable will bring together patients, their families, and experts in the field to explore how we can ensure that eating disorders are identified early, appropriate services are available and accessible, and limited time and resources are used most efficiently and effectively to treat these disorders.

Participation is by invitation only. Any prepared statements or materials to be submitted by participants should be sent in advance. Written comments will also be accepted and may be sent to the attention of the Chair at 420 Capitol, Albany, NY. In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources. Individuals can also watch the event online on the New York State Senate website at the following web address: http://www.livestream.com/NYSenate_Health In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the legislature, 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 legislative facilities and activities.

New York State Senate Standing Committee on Health
Senator Kemp Hannon, Chair