

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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7225

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 12, 2017

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Introduced by M. of A. DE LA ROSA, CRESPO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to establishing the latina adolescent suicide prevention advisory council

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that  
2 suicide has become the second leading cause of death for latina adoles-  
3 cents. Latina teens also attempt suicide at a higher rate than any  
4 other youth group.

5 A pervasive sadness and sense of hopelessness underlines their high  
6 rates of suicides and suicide attempts. Most of these young women are  
7 immigrants or U.S. born children of immigrants living in communities  
8 that lack the supporting mechanisms to integrate new Americans and their  
9 families into the complexities of our society.

10 New York State needs to do more to address this crisis as its suicide  
11 prevention funding is dismally insufficient to combat suicide across all  
12 sectors of our society. Addressing the latina adolescent suicide crisis  
13 will involve the allocation of proper state resources and the delivery  
14 of suicide prevention services by clinicians who are both culturally and  
15 linguistically competent in the delivery of health care services.

16 Females attempt suicide three times more often than males. As with  
17 suicide deaths, rates of attempted suicide vary considerably among demo-  
18 graphic groups. While males are four times more likely than females to  
19 die by suicide, females attempt suicide three times as often as males.

20 An estimated 25.6 percent of latina teens in New York State seriously  
21 consider suicide, up from 17 percent in 2011. In New York City, Latina  
22 teens attempt suicide at more than twice the rate of white youths (13.3  
23 percent versus 5.9 percent).

24 According to a 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey, 32.6  
25 percent of Latino teens experienced feelings of depression for two or

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 more weeks, 14.3 percent made a plan of how they would attempt suicide  
2 within the last 12 months and 10.2 percent attempted suicide one or more  
3 times within the past 12 months.

4 According to researchers, lack of access to culturally and linguis-  
5 tically appropriate health care services is a large contributing factor  
6 to latina teen suicides and impedes proper treatment.

7 Therefore it is necessary that this legislative body establishes the  
8 latina adolescent suicide prevention advisory council.

9 § 2. The mental hygiene law is amended by adding a new section 41.56  
10 to read as follows:

11 § 41.56 Latina adolescent suicide prevention advisory council.

12 (a) There shall be established within the office of mental health, a  
13 council on latina adolescent suicide prevention to consist of seventeen  
14 members: eight members shall be appointed by the governor with consulta-  
15 tion by the office of mental health; three members shall be appointed by  
16 the speaker of the assembly; one member shall be appointed by the minor-  
17 ity leader of the assembly; two members shall be appointed by the tempo-  
18 rary president of the senate; two members shall be appointed by the  
19 independent democratic conference leader of the senate; and one member  
20 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

21 (b) Duties of the council shall include, but not be limited to:

22 (1) Facilitating the coordination of services and resources among  
23 agencies involved in the delivery of services for suicide prevention for  
24 latina adolescents;

25 (2) Monitoring the implementation of action plans developed by mental  
26 health agencies via their five year action plans and yearly funding  
27 priorities to ensure that latina adolescents at risk of suicide are  
28 being adequately incorporated and served; and

29 (3) Determine services, resources and policies that may further  
30 address the needs of latina adolescents at risk of suicide and provide  
31 them as per the required annual reports to the legislature and the  
32 governor.

33 (c) The council shall prepare and submit an annual report, the first  
34 of which shall be submitted no later than October first, two thousand  
35 eighteen, to the governor and the legislature that recommends policies,  
36 legislation, and funding needed to implement the action plans developed  
37 in response to the need to address latina adolescent suicide prevention  
38 into the state's health care delivery system.

39 § 3. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
40 have become a law.