

1 **2021 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution Supporting the NYS Office of Mental Health’s (OMH)**
5 **Collaboration with the Counties in Planning and Implementation of the**
6 **National 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline**

7 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved a proposal
8 to implement a new resource that will serve as a national [suicide prevention](#) and mental
9 health crisis hotline, entitled the “National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018;”
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, this Act designates 988 as “a simple, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing
12 code” for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline to help increase
13 the effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts, ease access to crisis services, and reduce
14 the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health conditions; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the FCC ruling requires activation of 988 by July 2022 and involves
16 sufficient local crisis center capacity to answer the projected significant increase in
17 contact volume, which in turn, requires comprehensive state and local collaboration;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Local Governmental Units (LGUs)/Directors of Community Services
20 (DCSs) have specific responsibilities and authority under the Local Services provisions
21 of Article 41 of the NYS Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) for planning, development,
22 implementation, and oversight of services to adults and children in their counties
23 affected by mental illness, addiction, and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD);
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, the LGUs/DCSs have reported increases to inpatient/outpatient needs,
26 calls to crisis services lines, homelessness, overdose deaths, addiction relapse, and
27 suicide attempts; and

28 **WHEREAS**, county governments already plan for and implement comprehensive crisis
29 response plans that may involve local crisis hotlines/call centers operated by either the
30 county or through various contracted providers and in collaboration of these services
31 with neighboring counties; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the LGUs/DCSs strongly support OMHs leadership and continued
33 collaboration and involvement of the County Mental Health Commissioners in the
34 planning and implementation in the rollout of the 988 response through the 988 State
35 Planning Coalition; and

36 **WHEREAS**, the NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors (CLMHD)
37 supports the planning and successful implementation of this new crisis response

1 throughout NYS and looks to OMH and other relevant state agencies for continued
2 partnership and funding.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
4 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and the Division of Budget to ensure
5 appropriate federal and state aid funding is directed to OMH and appropriately
6 allocated to the counties to facilitate the provision of the 988 crisis response going
7 forward; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
9 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
11 Governor Kathy Hochul, and the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed
12 necessary and proper.