

December 2, 2019

Ms. Megan Baldwin, Assistant Secretary for Health  
Executive Chamber  
NYS Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Assistant Secretary Baldwin:

On behalf of the 21 regional and statewide membership associations working together to secure a set aside from future disbursement of funds from the state's Healthcare Transformation Account, I want to thank you and your colleagues for meeting with our group on November 5. You were gracious with your time and candid with your remarks and for this we are appreciative.

Due to the overwhelming need for investment in the community-based provider sector and the compelling evidence that shows New York State is not adequately investing in the sector it now relies on so heavily to keep New Yorkers out of more costly acute care settings, we must again respectfully request that you *amend the language of the statute establishing the Healthcare Transformation Account to include a minimum 25% set aside for our sector from any future disbursements from this or any other account/s holding funds realized from settlements or business transactions in the healthcare sector, or from any other sources where the intent of the funds is to support the health care infrastructure or health care improvement.* If there are no disbursements at all from the account, then we of course do not anticipate, and the proposed amendment would not trigger, the minimum set aside for the community providers. If on the other hand New York realizes new / additional funds from future settlements creating an opportunity for future disbursements, we will be included in the disbursements as we have requested.

As noted during our meeting, the group of advocates working together on this issue represent all points along New York's community-based healthcare service delivery system. We have heard your ongoing request that we collaborate to identify and prioritize our pressing concerns and speak with one voice. We note that the language of the statute that established the Account does not favor, prioritize or limit disbursement of these funds to one group of healthcare providers over another. In reality, the services highlighted in the enacted language (housing, social determinants of health, etc.) are largely provided by our represented community-based organizations which are facing financial insolvency with each year that passes without a meaningful investment in our sector.

Attached, please find our proposed language amending section 92-hh of the State Finance law that we are requesting inclusion of in the SFY 2020-21 Executive Budget.

Thank you.  
Lauri Cole, Executive Director  
NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

On behalf of the following organizations:  
Association for Community Living  
Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, Inc.  
Coalition of Medication Assisted Treatment Providers

Community Healthcare Association of New York State  
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies  
Developmental Disability Alliance of WNY  
Home Care Association of New York State  
Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State  
InterAgency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies  
Mental Health Association in New York State  
NYS Academy of Family Physicians  
NY Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers  
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services  
NYS Association of Healthcare Providers, Inc.  
NYS Care Management Coalition  
NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health  
NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors  
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
The Coalition for Behavioral Health  
The Therapeutic Community Association of New York  
The NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation