

Association for Community Living
Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, Inc.
Coalition of Medication Assisted Treatment Providers
Coalition of Provider Associations
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 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

June 11, 2019

Dear State Legislator:

The organizations listed above stand together in support of **A.7977-A (Gottfried) / S.6376 (Rivera)**, a bill that would ensure a portion of the funds from the state's Healthcare Transformation Fund (HCTF) account be set aside for community-based providers. We respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this critically important bill and help us to get it passed by both houses before the session ends.

The state's Healthcare Transformation Fund account was enacted as part of the SFY 2018-19 state budget. State Finance Law 92-hh requires that the funds in the Healthcare Transformation Fund account are to be used "to support care delivery, including for capital investment, debt retirement or restructuring, housing and other social determinants of health, or transitional operating support to health care providers."

Earlier this year \$675 million of the funds in the HCTF account were made available for purposes of funding a Medicaid rate increase for most hospitals and nursing homes across New York. We recognize the needs of our colleagues who work in hospitals and

nursing homes and we do not begrudge them these increases. However, without a stable community-based system of care New York State will not be able to achieve its policy objectives to include decreased readmission rates, diversion from emergency rooms and other acute care services to less costly alternatives, and to ensure access to care is available to all New Yorkers when they need it.

Going forward, we urge the State to set aside a portion of the funds allocated from this account, and any future shortfall or contingency account, on a yearly basis to support investments in the community-based care delivery system and the needs of community-based providers who face crisis-level fiscal shortfalls.

We believe that all areas of the healthcare system require investments in order to provide efficient and effective care and to achieve the triple aim. Going forward we urge the State to **allocate at least 25% of the funds in the Health Care Transformation Fund account or other shortfall funds for the community-based sector, on an annual basis as proposed in A.7977-A/ S.6376.**

On behalf of the organizations listed above, the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare thanks you for your consideration of our request for you to co-sponsor and help advance this bill this year.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience at (518) 461-8200.

Respectfully,

Lauri Cole, Executive Director
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare