The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

December xx, 2022

Dear Governor Hochul,

Thank you for your continued service to New York State, and your ongoing concern for New Yorkers with mental health, substance use disorders and other co-morbid conditions.

We write today in support of vast expansion of a new model of care for New Yorkers with behavioral health conditions that has produced great outcomes to date including expanded access to care, closer formal collaborations between community providers, and the availability of culturally competent services that are centered on the needs of the individuals being served – all while saving New York significant resources.

Since 2017, New York State has participated in a federal demonstration program called the **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Program.** At the present time 13 demonstration agencies are paid at cost for services provided to New Yorkers under their CCBHC umbrella, to serve individuals with complex mental health and substance use disorder conditions. In return, the demo agencies must meet rigorous standards that ensure high quality care, and increased access to a broad range of services including primary care services and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

In years 1 & 2 of New York’s participation in the federal demonstration program, the following results were achieved:

* Behavioral health inpatient services showed a 27% decrease in average cost per month over the prior year period
* Behavioral health ER services showed a 26% decrease in average cost per month over the prior year period
* Health inpatient services showed a 20% decrease in average cost per month over the prior period
* Health ER services showed a 30% decrease in average cost per month over the prior year period.

**CMS recently indicated that existing demo states that already participate in the federal demonstration program will soon have the opportunity to expand the availability of these services. The undersigned organizations urge you to make the CCBHC demonstration model of care the new standard of care in New York State by making this opportunity available to any eligible behavioral health outpatient provider organization and including this in your SFY 2024 Executive Budget.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

**(signatories listed here)**