

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

January 3, 2023

Dear Governor Hochul:

Thank you for your continued service to New York State, and your ongoing concerns 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 the 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.

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 has indicated that existing demo states that already participate in the federal demonstration will soon have the opportunity to vastly expand the availability of these services by certifying more locations as CCBHC demonstration clinics. We urge you to make the CCBHC demonstration model the new standard of care in New York by making this opportunity available to any eligible behavioral health outpatient provider organization.

Thank you for your outstanding leadership and your continued concern for New Yorkers with mental health and substance use disorders addictions.

Respectfully,

Lauri Cole, Executive Director, NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

Sebrina Barrett, Executive Director, Association for Community Living

Jennifer March, Executive Director, Citizens Committee for Children

Amy Dorin, CEO & President, The Coalition for Behavioral Health

Allegra Schorr, President, Coalition of Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates of New York State

Kayleigh Zaloga, CEO & President, The NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health

Tracy Schneider, President, The Federation of Mental Health Services

cc: Jihoon Kim, Deputy Secretary for Human Services and Mental Hygiene,  
Executive Chamber  
Peggy O'Shea, Chief Budget Examiner, NYS Division of the Budget  
Amir Bassiri, Director, NYS Medicaid Program, NYS Department of Health  
Trisha Schell-Guy, Director, Division of Program Management & Development  
Dr. Ann Marie T. Sullivan, Commissioner, NYS OMH  
Dr. Chinazo Cunningham, Commissioner, OASAS