



For Immediate Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Behavioral Health Advocates Ask for Increases in Rates and Contracts

Statewide Advocates Asking for 7.8% Increase in Investments in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services and Supports

(Albany, N.Y.) – Eleven statewide advocacy groups will host a press event in Albany to ask Governor Hochul **to include a 7.8% in rates and contracts for mental health and substance use disorder services in her SFY 2025-2026 executive budget proposal.**

The press event will be held in Albany on **Tuesday, November 12th at 10:30am** at the NYS Capitol Building, Senate Staircase, 3rd Floor, (down the hall from LCA).

The group sent a [letter to the Governor here](#) and [outlined concerns and data here](#).

The demand for mental health and substance use disorder services has never been higher, yet adults, children and families are facing wait lists, limited access to care and services and long stays in emergency rooms. New York must make meaningful investments to close treatment gaps, eliminate disparities, and improve access to services by investing in both the behavioral health workforce and addressing inflated operating expenses that service providers are struggling to pay.

Governor Hochul must include a 7.8% increase for mental health and substance use disorder rates and contracts in her proposed SFY 25-26 executive budget. **This investment will reduce staff vacancies, which are currently at an annual statewide average of 20- 30%, and turnover rates which are currently at a 35% annual turnover rate, depending on provider type (based on results of a statewide survey of behavioral health agencies, August 2024).**

WHO: Glenn Liebman, CEO, Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS)
William Gettman Jr, CEO, Northern Rivers
Sebrina Barrett, Executive Director, Association for Community Living
Steve Klein, CEO, Mohawk Opportunities

Patricia Kissi, Director of Behavioral Health Programs, VNS Health
Kayleigh Zaloga, President & CEO, NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health
Jeannine Mendez, Family Member and Director of Strategic Initiatives, Astor Services
Stephen Piasecki, State Policy Director, Supportive Housing Network of NY
Amy LaFountain, Executive Director, Joseph's House and Shelter
Paige Pierce, CEO, Families Together in NYS
Kim Kaiser, Director of DEI, FTNYS
Matthew Shapiro, NAMI, Senior Director of Government and Community Affairs
Marybeth Honsinger, VP of NAMI Capital Region
Luke Sikinyi, Director of Public Policy, The Alliance for Rights and Recovery
Additional Advocates and members from above agencies

WHAT: Press event to call for 7.8% investment in rates and contracts for mental health and substance use disorder services

WHERE: NYS Capitol, Senate Staircase, 3rd Floor, (down the hall from LCA)

WHEN: **Tuesday, November 12th at 10:30 a.m.**

The eleven agencies represented at the rally are: Association for Community Living, Coalition of Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates of New York State (COMPA), Families Together in New York State, InUnity Alliance, Mental Health Association in New York State, National Alliance on Mental Illness New York State (NAMI), New York State Care Management Coalition, New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health, NYS Council for Community Behavioral Health Care, Alliance for Rights and Recovery, and Supportive Housing Network of New York