

# HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

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## Memorandum

To: Valued HMA clients  
From: Kristina Ramos-Callan, Associate Principal  
Re: New York State of the State 2025  
Date: January 16, 2025

On January 14, 2025, Governor Kathy Hochul presented the State of the State address. It, and the accompanying briefing book her administration released, lay out her priorities for the coming year. Much detail remains to be seen, and the upcoming budget proposal will clarify her intentions and priorities substantially. HMA will continue to monitor New York's policy, regulatory, and budget environment on behalf of our clients with interests in the state.

Below is an excerpt of major proposals for Mental Health, Physical Health, and Social Services. Please refer to [2025 State of the State briefing book](#) for full descriptions of the proposals/initiatives.

### **Chapter 12: Investing in Mental Health**

*FYI – Opioid-related programs and Veterans' BH programs are under Chapter 14: Investing in Social Services and Equity*

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
Modernize Mental Hygiene Law to Expand Access to Care	Regulatory	This update will ensure that clinicians and authorized professionals can intervene when a person is at substantial risk of physical harm to themselves or others due to their inability to meet basic needs like food, shelter, or medical care. These changes will align New York with other states. The amendment will also expand authority to Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, helping to address the bottlenecks that occur in hospital systems. The revised standards will require evaluators to consider a comprehensive set of factors when making decisions about involuntary commitment and will require hospitals to notify community providers upon patient admission or discharge, ensuring continuity of care.
Modernize Mental Hygiene Law to Expand Access to Care [AOT access]	Regulatory	Strengthen Kendra's law re Assisted Outpatient Treatment [AOT] to reduce barriers to access.

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
Streamline County Oversight and Enhance Funding [AOT]	Fiscal/ Regulatory	Increased funding to counties to strengthen AOT implementation to support increased staffing and ties funding to new standards or reporting, monitoring and quality assurance
Streamline County Oversight and Enhance Funding	Fiscal	Enhance statewide training and oversight for counties and providers.
Streamline County Oversight and Enhance Funding	Regulatory	Directs DOH to standardize Enhanced Voluntary Service Packages - allows access to intensive service packages and monitoring support without a court order; offer transition option for people whose AOT expired
Expand INSET peer supports	Fiscal	Expands program to ensure greater access to services
Hospital-Based Peer Bridger	Program/Fiscal	Directs OMH to establish Hospital Based Peer Bridger programs at OMH selected hospitals
Enhance Safe Option Support Teams	Program/Fiscal	Add Street medicine and Street Psychiatry providers to SOS teams
Expand Clubhouses and Youth Safe Spaces	Program/Fiscal	Expands network of Clubhouses in NYS
	Program/Fiscal	Creates new youth "safe spaces" for access to BH resources, peer relationship building, other supports.
Teen Mental Health First Aid training	Program/Fiscal	Rolls-out Teen Mental Health First Aid training in High Schools.
Support Youth Mental Health in After School Programs	Program/Fiscal	Connects licensed health care facilities to State Funded after school programs to ensure youth have access to services after school hours.
	Program/Fiscal	Youth Mental Health First Aid training for all after school providers
	Program/Fiscal	Match SUNY MSW graduate students with State funded local afterschool programs to complete required fieldwork
Improve Diagnoses for Children with Complex Clinical Needs	Program/Fiscal	Develop clinical assessment hubs staffed by multi-disciplinary
Health Insurance Accountability re network adequacy	Regulatory/ Compliance	Allocates new resources for compliance oversight, including new surveillance, consumer and provider education, and complaint investigation and mediation

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
Support Community-determined wellness in Historically Marginalized Neighborhoods	Program/Fiscal	Grant program to support community-driven, culturally responsive wellness programming in areas of the state with longstanding marginalization, violence and poverty. CBOs will gather smaller grassroots entities with established neighborhood presence and history of advocacy to develop population specific mental wellness activities aimed at building resilience, healing generational trauma, and providing opportunities to thrive. [This program stems from lessons learned from mental wellness programming in East Buffalo after the racially motivated shooting at Tops Supermarket in 2022, where ten people were killed.]

### **Chapter 13: Investing in Health**

#### Ensuring Access to Abortion

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Fund	Fiscal/Grant	Distribute further funding for the program with focus on strengthening access to comprehensive reproductive care.
Strengthening Reproductive Healthcare Infrastructure	Program/Fiscal	Builds on Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Fund and security grant funding to expand capital investment support for providers; enables renovations, equipment upgrades, planning and construction to help facilities modernize and secure their operations.
Fairly reimburse providers for abortion services	Program/Fiscal	Provides a new flexible funding stream to allow providers to better adapt to this possible impact of the incoming federal administration and ensure that these providers are fairly reimbursed for providing abortions.
Safeguard abortion as emergency medical care	Regulatory	Codify abortion as protected emergency medical care in New York State and require hospitals to provide this stabilizing emergency medical care, reinforcing access to abortion services when medically necessary.
Protect identity of Medication Abortion Providers	Proposed Legislation	Introduce legislation to allow prescription labels to avoid displaying the provider's name, protecting the identities of these providers. This change will ensure that providers can continue offering essential care to patients in states with restrictive anti-choice laws without fear of exposure. Records will still be maintained to trace providers in cases of misuse or abuse, balancing privacy and accountability.

Improving the health of all New Yorkers

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Extend Safety Net Transformation Program	Program/Fiscal	Allocates additional funds to the SNTP which provides financial support and regulatory flexibility to encourage strategic partnerships and strengthen hospital systems.
Expand access to infertility treatments	Proposed Legislation	introduce legislation to extend coverage for fertility preservation services to Medicaid members undergoing medical treatments that may lead to infertility and take steps to expand eligibility for the Infertility Reimbursement Program.
Increase access to lifesaving obesity drugs	Regulatory/ program guidance	Direct the Department of Health (DOH) to evaluate access to GLP-1 drugs for Medicaid members at high risk of major cardiovascular events
	Regulatory/ program guidance	New York will seek to work with other states to pressure drug companies to bring down prices of GLP- 1s to address the inequitable access
Ensure Access to Emergency Medical Services	Proposed Legislation	Defines EMS as an essential service and requires counties to ensure all residents have adequate access to services. Requires counties to develop county EMS mapping that will allow NYS to identify gaps in coverage, coordinated statewide by the State EMS Task Force.
Expand Access to Dental Care	Proposed Legislation	Allow dental hygienists to practice in more settings and direct health plans to reinvest funding in innovative initiatives to improve availability of dental care.
Strengthen reporting requirements for healthcare investors	Proposed Legislation	Strengthen the State's ability to collect data and perform in-depth market analysis of corporate and investor-backed healthcare transactions
Build new Health Planning and Data Transparency Capacity	1115 Demonstration	Announces allocation of \$125 m (1115 funding) to new health equity regional organization to lay the groundwork for new statewide infrastructure that can be used to support the design and development of new policies, interventions, and targeted investments to improve outcomes and reduce disparities
Remove unnecessary restrictions on healthcare workers	Proposed Legislation	Expand the scope of practice for Certified Nursing Assistants to administer routine medications in nursing homes, allow physician assistants to practice more independently, and allow pharmacists to order smoking cessation medications and counsel patients.
	Proposed Legislation	Introduce legislation to allow the Medicaid program to cover innovative Hospital at Home program.

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
	Proposed Legislation	Move the process for issuing physician licenses in New York under DOH and shift oversight of physician and physician assistant scope of practice to DOH.
Expand Access to Air Conditioning Units for People with Chronic Conditions	Program/Regulatory	Expand the eligibility criteria for air conditioning units to Essential Plan members who are pregnant and those with additional health conditions exacerbated by severe heat, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension (focus is on reducing impact of extreme heat on vulnerable populations)
Advance Health Equity for Justice Involved Youth	Program/Regulatory	Will expand Medicaid coverage to provide pre- and post-release services for juveniles in carceral settings under 21 years of age and up to 26 for those formerly in foster care. Eligible young people will receive targeted case management services, including physical and behavioral health screenings and diagnostic services to help bridge the gaps between providers in the carceral setting and community providers.
Address Social Needs to Improve Health Equity and Outcomes	Program/Regulatory	Announces creation of social care networks
Reduce Health Disparities Through Value-Based Payments	Program/Regulatory	Will direct managed care plans to analyze their populations through a health equity lens to determine the largest disparities in quality and outcomes
Advance Integrated Care for Better Health Outcomes	Program/Regulatory	Will direct DOH to work with Medicaid managed care plans to increase the availability and adoption of integrated care options and limit non-integrated offerings.
Update and Improve Network Adequacy Requirements	Program/Regulatory	Will direct DOH to undertake a comprehensive review of New York's network adequacy standards, including considering regional variations, and increase enforcement of plan compliance through monitoring and penalties.
Revamp and Improve Customer Experience on New York's Health Plan Marketplace	Program/Regulatory	Will direct DOH to conduct a comprehensive review of the application experience, including using consumer research and feedback to inform updates designed to streamline and improve how New Yorkers apply for health insurance. (aimed at reducing time to complete, mobile accessibility, and language access).

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Increase the Affordability of Prescription Drugs	Regulatory	New York State will explore participation in the FDA's Section 804 Importation Program, whereby states can seek approval to import lower-cost Canadian drugs.
	Proposed Legislation	Will introduce nation-leading legislation requiring greater transparency from pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in order to hold PBMs and drug manufacturers accountable for any hidden and unnecessary costs they add to prescription drug prices.

### ***Chapter 14: Investing in Social Services and Equity***

#### Fighting the Opioid Crisis

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Expand Access to Treatment Medications in Underserved Areas	Program	Will expand Mobile Medication Units to help close gaps in care and bring treatment options to underserved areas.
Continue and Expand Support for Street Outreach Activities	Program	Will include additional funding to expand OASAS supportive services in areas where OMH's Safe Options Support teams are operational.
Amend Legislation to Allow Paramedics to Administer Buprenorphine	Proposed Legislation	Allow paramedics to administer buprenorphine (addresses limitations to first responders' ability to provide treatment on contact).
Allow Practitioners to Dispense Three-Day Supply of Opioid Use Disorder Medication	Proposed Legislation	Will introduce legislation to more fully align with federal regulations by allowing all hospitals, including those with a full-time pharmacy, to dispense a three-day supply of medications that a patient can take home with them while awaiting referral to treatment.
Align State Drug Schedules with Federal Standards to Improve Monitoring	Proposed Legislation	Update the State's controlled substances schedules to add fentanyl analogs, federally scheduled prescription medications, and other substances that have been added to the federal list.

Investing in Social Services

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Launch a Demonstration Program to Mitigate the "Benefits Cliff"	Program	Launch the Monroe Ladder Demonstration Program. The program will bring together resources from employers and the County and will help address any real or perceived loss of means-tested public benefits through the provision of work incentive payments. Funding will also be provided for evaluation to understand any behavioral changes attributable to mitigation of the benefits cliff, and the associated impacts on participating workers, their families, as well as employers.
Increase Threshold to Waive Recovery of Overpayments	Proposed Legislation	Increase the threshold at which districts may choose not to pursue recovery of overpayments from households no longer on public assistance from \$125 to \$2,500. Overpayments due to fraud will still be subject to recovery.

Supporting New Yorkers with Disabilities

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Strengthen the Workers with Disabilities Employment Tax Credit	Program	More than double the maximum tax credit from \$2,100 to \$5,000 and simplify the process to increase the number of businesses successfully welcoming employees with disabilities.
Support Mobility for People with Physical Disabilities	Program	Will increase wheelchair access for Medicaid members by increasing rates for clinical specialty evaluation for new wheelchairs, expanding coverage for repairs of previously owned power chairs, and expanding coverage of routine and preventative maintenance for wheelchairs, which will help prevent costly breakdowns, minimize downtime for users, and extend the lifespan of the equipment.
Create Regional Disability Clinics	Program/Fiscal	Provide funding to create Regional Disability Clinics across the state to expand access to competent and accessible healthcare for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Funding will support one-time costs that increase accessibility and improve quality of care.
Modernize the Institute for Basic Research	Program/Fiscal	Invest \$75 million to modernize IBR, including the establishment of a Genomics Core Facility to allow for customized identification of genetic defects underlying people's disabilities. In addition, the IBR renovation will include the transformation of former Willowbrook State School property into a Center for Learning.

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Facilitate Innovative Therapies for Spinal Cord Injuries	Proposed Legislation	Introduce legislation to expand the scope of the Spinal Cord Injury Research Board. This change will add quality of life issues to the Board's scope, thus allowing the Board to fund additional research to improve the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of thousands of New Yorkers with spinal cord injuries.
Create the New York State Interpreter Fellowship Program [ASL]	Program	Launch a six-month New York State Pilot Interpreter Fellowship Program. The fellowship will support recently graduated ASL interpreters with support from experienced, certified ASL interpreters.

### Protecting our Veterans

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Enhance Veteran Suicide Prevention Initiatives	Program/ Fiscal	Secure new funding to expand suicide prevention initiatives. This will include enhanced risk assessment training, outreach tools, gun safety programs, and improved access to tele-mental health services for veterans statewide.
Expand Support to Gold Star Families	Proposed Legislation	Propose legislation to expand Gold Star Parent Annuity to include all immediate family members of service members who die while on active duty.

### Fighting for Vulnerable Children and Families

<b><i>Proposal</i></b>	<b><i>Type</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Combat Youth Homelessness	Program/Fiscal	Expand services to youth who are unstably housed or homeless and ensure that youth who need stable shelter and transitional housing can find it.
	Proposed Legislation	Will advance legislation to allow runaway and homeless youth to consent to their own behavioral healthcare.
Promote Kinship Care	Program/Fiscal	Will establish a statewide, standardized kinship home-review that simplifies the process, focuses on relationship-building and provides a guide for difficult conversations, and helps kinship caregivers meet challenges they face as they meet the needs of their families.