



Director of Policy & Advocacy

NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare

The NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare is New York's premier state-wide membership association representing 175 community-based mental health and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction organizations serving children, youth, families, and adults across the state. The Council leads successful campaigns designed to preserve and expand access to care for all New Yorkers. The Council has an extensive history of major 'wins' resulting in policy reforms that increase access to care and enhance provider viability.

The New York State Council's new ***Center for Insurance and Payment Reform*** will increase our capacity to lead advocacy campaigns that promote on-demand access to substance use disorder and mental health services in local communities. The Director will lead the Center, reporting to the Executive Director.

This is not a position that can be performed via telecommuting (exclusively) from September – June of each year. Strong preference for qualified applicants who live in or near the Capital Region.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implement our ambitious 2026 NYS Council state policy agenda designed to secure reforms that ensure adequate funding for providers, address workforce challenges, expedite regulatory reforms, and expand services for children and youth.
- Organize and implement advocacy campaigns to advance these policy goals, including leading coalitions composed of diverse stakeholders that share our mission.
- Facilitate meetings with NYS Council members to increase local advocacy with lawmakers and other key decision makers.
- Prepare testimony, policy memoranda, memos of support, and reports as requested.
- Prepare written materials to support advocacy campaigns.
- Present to media outlets, professional conferences, and other venues on behalf of our members.
- Prepare lobbying reports and reports for funders.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 5+ years of experience advocating for the needs of healthcare providers; including organizing and implementing successful advocacy campaigns. Preference given to those with experience advocating for mental health programs, substance use disorder programs, and services available through New York's public mental hygiene system.
- Ability to analyze and report on state budget proposals, legislation and other fiscal and policy documents/reports.
- Deep understanding of NYS Medicaid Program, including Medicaid managed care and commercial insurance.



- Experience researching and writing policy memos and delivering testimony and ease with public speaking.
- Ability to travel throughout NYS to visit member organizations and local officials, and to give presentations and assist with local advocacy events, as needed.
- This is a position that requires applicant to travel within NYS and to spend significant time in Albany. As such, strong preference for qualified applicants who live in or near the Capital Region.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Salary up to \$125,000; dependent on experience.

Full time (35 hours/week) Monday-Friday however the Director can expect some work on weekends and after normal business hours during state budget negotiations and other busy times. Proximity to the NYS Capitol (in Albany) is essential. **This is not a position that can be performed via telecommuting (exclusively) from September – June.**

Director can anticipate 3 weeks paid vacation, paid individual health insurance, holidays, 3 personal days, and sick time, all as accrued. NYS Council will contribute 3% to a SEP IRA/annually after probationary period.

It is the policy of the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare not to discriminate against any applicant for employment, or any employee because of age, color, sex, disability, national origin, race, religion, or veteran status.

Learn more about the NYS Council here: www.nyscouncil.org

TO APPLY

Send your resume and a list of 3 references:

Lauri Cole, Executive Director
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