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*System Reform &
Redesign
Public Policy Alert*

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MEMBERS' ALERT

This is an issue that we should be adding to our advocacy paper for the coming budget sessions, and the Policy Committee will be distilling all such issues in the near future. Meanwhile, the elections have provided some cause for cautious optimism as the Democrats have retained the Governorship and Assembly majority, while flipping the State Senate with a solid majority in that house. There are some funding and workforce-related issues that have been held up by the State Senate, and we will be drilling down to find where we can now hold the Democrats accountable for their stated support for behavioral healthcare services.

~ Bud

COMMUNITY BASED PRIMARY CARE, HOME CARE, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ADVOCATES CALL ON THE GOVERNOR FOR IMMEDIATE INVESTMENTS

ALBANY, NY – Today, in response to the news that New York's hospitals and nursing homes are getting approximately \$675 million for Medicaid rate increases to cover workforce salary and benefits, leaders from membership associations representing New York's community-based primary care, home care, and behavioral healthcare workforce are pressing not to be ignored. A group of 11 organizations called on the Cuomo Administration to deliver an immediate investment in primary care, home care, and behavioral healthcare workers who touch the lives of millions of New Yorkers every day.

The group repeated a recurring request that at least 25% of health care investments be directed toward less costly community care. Twenty-five percent of \$675 million (state share) would be about \$169 million.

Unaddressed rising job vacancies and turnover rates have resulted in a full scale access to care crisis for community-based primary care, home care, and mental health and substance use disorder services.

The group agreed, "Our workers deserve an immediate infusion of resources to slow the crippling erosion of the community care workforce. Retention bonuses could hold workers in place until longer term community workforce solutions can be implemented. Paid training and similar incentives may help with recruitment."

For years, community organizations have been highlighting the negative consequences that workforce shortages are having on public health crises including increasing suicide and opioid overdose rates, a growing number of children in homeless shelters, rising incarceration rates, and limited access to more intensive mental health treatment options in many communities. An immediate investment in the community based workforce is critical to ensure the success of the Administration's healthcare policy priorities and reinforces the centrality of these providers to the healthcare system.

New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare v Home Care Association of New York State

Community Health Care Association of New York State v Mental Health Association of New York State

Association for Community Living v NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health v New York Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services

Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State v The Coalition for Behavioral Health Agencies

NYS Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers v Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies