



WNY Chemical Dependency Consortium

2023 Legislative Meeting

Welcome, Legislators & Staff!

- If you're from a legislative office, please leave your name, office, and email in the chat.
- Slide deck will be sent out after with some related info

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Budget Proposals Response
3. Budget Negotiation Requests
4. Questions & Comments



INTRODUCTIONS

About the WNY CDC

- Collection of WNY substance use prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction providers
 - Over 25 providers in 2023



WNY CDC Board Members

- Matt Smith, Chair (Preventionfocus)
- Jennifer Seib, Vice Chair (BestSelf)
- Bill Penman, Treasurer (ACASA)
- Beth Anzalone, Secretary (WNY United)
- Jodie Altman, Treatment Chair (Kids Escaping Drugs)
- Ed Cichon, Public Policy Chair (Caz Recovery)
- Robin Mann (The Prevention Council of Erie County)
- Tye Pope (BestSelf)
- Jackie West (Beacon Center)
- Shannon Ford (GCASA)
- Erica Sebastian (CASA Trinity)
- Erin Zych (WNY Independent Living)

Our Services

- Youth and school-based prevention
- Parent & family support
- Community education & awareness
- Crisis & emergency support
- Detox & Inpatient
- Outpatient
- Residential
- Peer support
- Educational & vocational services
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Naloxone / Narcan training
- Supported housing
- Recovery clubhouses
- Harm reduction
- Correctional facility support & connections

Background of SUD Services

- The opioid epidemic is still surging
 - Overdose deaths are significantly higher than they were in 2019
- Criminal justice & deinstitutionalization cost savings
 - Funds haven't reached OASAS or providers



BUDGET PROPOSALS RESPONSE

Focus on Mental Health

- Focus on mental health should be lauded
- Two major concerns:
 - Substance use is not a priority
 - Workforce



Image by pikisuperstar on Freepik

Proposals We Support

- Expanding Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) agencies and providing a joint license
- Establishing an Indigent Care Program for CCBHC-Ds
- Expanding Office of Mental Health (OMH) residential and supported housing units
- Creating a Qualified Mental Health Associate for OMH
- Expanding Crisis Stabilization Centers and Mobile Crisis Intervention Services
- Adjusting Preauthorization and Concurrent Reviews Rules
- Authorizes Right of Action for Behavioral Health Parity Commercial Violations
- Mandating Commercial Reimbursement for School-Based Mental Health Clinic Services
- Matching Telehealth Commercial Reimbursement Rates

Proposals That Need Adjustments

- Minor increases in OASAS funding for:
 - Outpatient Medicaid
 - Residential
 - Crisis
 - Jail-Based SUD
 - Prevention and other services
- These should be increased

2.5% Human Services COLA

- It's not enough
 - COLAs cover operating costs
 - Food, rent, construction, transportation, health insurance, and more have all increased
- Other sectors are receiving 5%



Workforce

- Proposals do not address the workforce crisis
 - \$1 billion investment with \$890m going to capital projects
- Turnover harms the people we support
- What happens when all these new projects open and there's no one to staff them?



BUDGET NEGOTIATION REQUESTS

Thank you, NYS Council for Community Behavioral
Healthcare!

Short-Term: Fund the COLA

- 8.5% COLA (tied to CPI)
 - Thank you for last year's 5.4% COLA!
 - Was the first significant COLA our sector in over a decade
 - Took months or longer to arrive
- Will help us to compete with the other sectors

Long-Term Ideas

- Encourage more people to get into behavioral health
 - Extend the workforce, especially with peers
- Provide scholarships
- Student loan forgiveness
 - Federal PSLF at 10 years

Workforce Stories

- Prevention challenges
 - Shannon Ford (GCASA):
 - Increasing services and demand
 - Not being able to find qualified staff
- Treatment challenges
 - Gulsum Silluzio (Horizon Health):
 - School-based services and expansions
 - Patient complexity for new hires



QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

I'll be following up next week!