



ACTION ALERT

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A non-profit tax-exempt organization representing New York City's community-based mental health sector.

It's time to thank the Legislature

The State Legislature was very good to us this year. They responded positively to much of what we asked them for. For this we should thank them. Please write letters to the following legislative leaders as well as to those from your district.

- **Thank** them for the Cost of Living Adjustment/Medicaid Trended Increase.
- **Thank** them for funds to help transition to a Medicaid managed care environment.
- **Thank** them for funding New York/New York II.
- **Thank** them for providing funds for children's mental health programs.
- **Thank** them for opening up the budget process.
- **Thank** them for caring about community mental health.

Legislators who should be specifically thanked are:

Hon. Sheldon Silver
Speaker
NY State Assembly
LOB # 932
Albany, NY 11248

Hon. Joseph L. Bruno
Majority Leader
New York State Senate
LOB #909
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. James F. Brennan
Mental Health Committee
Chair
NY State Assembly
LOB #826
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Thomas W. Libous
Mental Health Committee
Chair
New York State Senate
LOB #815
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Richard N. Gottfried
Health Committee Chair
NY State Assembly
LOB # 822
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Kemp Hannon
Health Committee Chair
New York State Senate
LOB #707
Albany, NY 12247

Attached please find a sample letter.

May 14, 1998

Hon. Sheldon Silver
Speaker
NY State Assembly
Legislative Office Building # 932
Albany, NY 11248

Dear Speaker Silver:

It is a rare pleasure to write to a legislator without asking for something. On behalf of The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies I write simply to thank you. The monies that you helped allocate for community-based healthcare and mental healthcare providers is greatly needed and appreciated.

Thank you for providing a much needed Cost of Living Adjustment/trended medicaid rate increase for human services workers. Many have not received one since the Reagan administration. This COLA will help stabilize the work force and curtail the negative effects of inflation on mental health service delivery.

Thank you for providing funding to enable community-based providers to transition to a managed care environment. The arrival of managed care has led to increased expenditures at a time when managed care has driven down revenues. Your help for providers to make the transition will keep essential services flowing with minimum disruptions.

Thank you for continuing the New York/New York II housing program. The program has been a tremendous success, but the need for housing still vastly exceeds the supply.

Thank you for funding children's mental health. If mental illness is identified at a young age treatment can be more effective for children and their families. Your funding of children's mental health will help the New Yorkers who are most vulnerable and save the State money all at once.

Thank you for your hard work, your dedication to mental health services and your leadership in the new State budget process.

Sincerely,

Phillip A. Saperia
Executive Director