



# ACTION ALERT

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

March 11, 1999

## Time to Make Some Noise

The Coalition and the New York State Council held a joint Lobby Day together on Tuesday. At that time we learned a number of important things:

- There is some support for a trended increase to help community-based providers keep pace with inflation.
- The COLA we received last year (flawed though it may have been) was a **DIRECT RESULT** of the intensive campaign that we mounted. Every one with whom we spoke indicated to us that the flood of calls, faxes, letters and visitors was the key to getting the allocation from the legislature last year.
- The only hope to get a trended rate increase this year is if we can mount a grass-roots campaign similar to last year's. Furthermore, if we ever hope to see a regularized trended increase we must ensure that the legislature knows we are not going away.

### What we want:

An **UNRESTRICTED** trended rate adjustment to at least keep pace with inflation for **THE ENTIRE MENTAL HEALTH SECTOR** on personnel services **AND OTHER THAN PERSONNEL SERVICES** costs.

### Action Requested:

Call/fax/write/email/visit the key politicians listed below as well as your own representatives (especially your State Senator).

Hon. George E. Pataki  
Governor  
State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
(212) 681-4580  
Fax: (212) 681-4643  
[gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us](mailto:gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us)

Hon. Joseph L. Bruno  
Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
909 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-3191  
Fax: (518) 455-2448  
[bruno@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:bruno@senate.state.ny.us)

Hon. Thomas W. Libous  
Chair, Mental Health Committee  
New York State Senate  
512 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2677  
Fax: (518) 455-2065

Hon. Harvey Weisenberg  
Chair, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Cmte.  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building Room 627  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-3028  
Fax: (518) 455-5769

Hon. Patricia McGee  
Chair, Cmte. on Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
New York State Senate  
814 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-3563  
Fax: (518) 426-6905  
[mcgee@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:mcgee@senate.state.ny.us)

Hon. William J. Larkin, Jr.  
Member  
New York State Senate  
947 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2770  
Fax: (518) 426-6923  
[larkin@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:larkin@senate.state.ny.us)

Hon. Sheldon Silver  
Speaker  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building # 932  
Albany, NY 11248  
(518) 455-3791  
Fax: (518) 455-5459  
[speaker@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:speaker@assembly.state.ny.us)

Hon. Frank Padavan  
Member  
New York State Senate  
505 State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-3381  
Fax: (518) 455-2008  
[padavan@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:padavan@senate.state.ny.us)

Hon. James F. Brennan  
Chair of Mental Health Committee  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building #826  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-5377  
Fax: (518) 455-5592  
[brennaj@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:brennaj@assembly.state.ny.us)

Hon. George Maziarz  
Member  
New York State Senate  
805 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2024  
Fax: (518) 426-6987  
[maziarz@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:maziarz@senate.state.ny.us)

Call your own Senator early and often! If you need help identifying them, contact Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555x17 or [jfrubin@cvmha.org](mailto:jfrubin@cvmha.org).

**Sample letter attached.**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

I am writing to you today to express my concern that the community-based behavioral healthcare system, alone among the health disciplines, does not have a trended rate increase to keep pace with inflation and keep up with competitive State and private sector salaries. Last year, thanks in part to your efforts, a 2.5% cost of living adjustment was passed for some of the employees of some voluntary agencies. This welcome relief was very long overdue and I am grateful for it.

Unfortunately, the COLA allocated last year was insufficient to make up for nearly a decade without an inflation pacing adjustment. Furthermore, many staff members were excluded from an allocation that went only to the lowest paid workers, and many agencies were omitted entirely from the allocation.

For these reasons I am hoping that you can help the community-based behavioral healthcare sector get an unrestricted trended increase that is accessible to the entire field. The inability to keep pace with inflation in salaries is incredibly important, but the costs of rent, supplies, insurance and other items also increases with inflation.

Please do whatever you can to ensure that this injustice is not allowed to continue. Community-based behavioral health providers need a trended increase now.

Sincerely,