



# **ACTION ALERT**

120 West 57 Street New York, NY 10019 Phone 212 586-4555 Fax 212 541-6183

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

March 29, 1999

## **We need a trended rate increase**

The legislature will begin two-house budget negotiations in the next two weeks. As they go to the conference committee process, it is crucial that the members of the Assembly (who included a 2% rate increase for community-based providers in their one-house budget resolution) know that we are relying on their support.

### **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:**

Have all of your clients/members/consumers call/fax/write/email/visit the key politicians listed below (most of them are the members of the Mental Health conference committee from the Assembly) as well as your own representatives (especially your State Assemblymember). It is crucial that we keep the pressure on.

If you need help identifying your representatives, please contact Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555x17 or [jfrubin@cvmha.org](mailto:jfrubin@cvmha.org).

A sample letter is attached.

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. 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. William F. Boyland  
Member  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building #654  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-4466  
Fax: (518) 455-3894

Hon. William L. Parment  
Member  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building #828  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-4511  
Fax: (518) 455-4328

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. Ivan C. Lafayette  
Member  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building #824  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-4545  
Fax: (518) 455-4547  
[lafayei@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:lafayei@assembly.state.ny.us)

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. Elizabeth A. Connelly  
Member  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building #645  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-4677  
Fax: (518) 455-5946  
[connele@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:connele@assembly.state.ny.us)

Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr.  
Chair, Ways and Means  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building # 923  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-5491  
Fax: (518) 455-5776  
[farrelh@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:farrelh@assembly.state.ny.us)

**And your own legislators**

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,