

***THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK CITY***

MENTAL HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2010

The Mental Health Association of New York City supports the incremental development of a comprehensive, community-based mental health service system in New York State. Progress in 2010 will be difficult because of the state's budget problems. **Fighting against cuts is our major priority for 2010.** However, we will also pursue improvements through targeted increased funding, reinvestment strategies, regulatory change, planning, and initiatives that can be implemented at little or no cost.

1. Reject Funding Cuts for Community Mental Health Services

- Preserve funding for programs funded by Medicaid and those not-funded by Medicaid
- Ensure that the restructuring of clinic reimbursement does not result in reduced service capacity
- Preserve existing, and move ahead with previously funded, housing programs with priority for adult home residents pursuant to the recent Federal Court ruling
- Preserve funding for child mental health services and provide funding to begin implementation of the interagency child mental health plan
- Preserve funding for geriatric mental health demonstration programs
- Preserve of funding for centers of excellence in cultural competence
- Preserve funding for suicide prevention programs
- Preserve funding for planned initiatives related to co-occurring disorders
- Preserve the carve-out of psychiatric medications from the Medicaid preferred drug program

2. Promote integration of mental health and primary, chronic, and long-term health care

3. Address the mental health needs of veterans

4. Provide necessary supports for consumers to gain and maintain employment

5. Address workforce shortages

- a. **Address the crisis regarding social work licensing**
- b. **Remove regulatory obstacles to licensing qualified immigrants to provide mental health services**