



OPPOSE

MEMORANDUM IN

OPPOSITION

TO

Downsizing of Inpatient Beds, Privatization of Community Beds and the Closure of Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center

The CSEA strongly opposes the elimination of 200 inpatient mental health treatment beds, 100 state operated community residence (SOCR) beds, and the closure of inpatient services at Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center.

The elimination of 200 inpatient treatment beds is a continuation of the State's years-long effort to eliminate state-operated mental health services. Since 2014, OMH has eliminated 30% of children's beds and 20% of adult inpatient beds across the state. Despite prior claims that the agency was already operating with as few beds as possible, they continue to come back year after year with additional reductions, and now are proposing to cut beds during a pandemic and during a time of mental health crisis for many New Yorkers.

In addition to these bed closures, the budget would also privatize 100 SOCR beds. These beds are state operated and are for individuals who need certain supports to live on their own in the community. The Commissioner has testified numerous times that these are the beds the state should be investing in. Yet, the budget would privatize this work.

Lastly, the budget would close inpatient services at Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center. This facility provides critical treatment to the children and youth of not just Rockland County but the entire Hudson Valley. If this facility is closed, there would be no inpatient mental health services for children from the Bronx to Utica – an area of over 5,000 square miles, larger than the State of Connecticut. This facility was at 100% of census in November 2020 and has had average monthly occupancy rate of 80% over the past three years. This hospital is a critical component of the mental health infrastructure of the Hudson Valley and needs to remain open.

On behalf of 300,000 public and private, active and retired members, CSEA asks that these cuts to mental health services be restored in the final budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Turner
Director

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Legislative Representative