



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

SUPPORT

TO

Increase Inpatient Treatment Options in the Office of Mental Health

The CSEA strongly supports the Executive budget proposal to invest \$15 million to increase inpatient capacity at Office of Mental Health (OMH) hospitals.

Since 2014, one-quarter of all state operated inpatient mental health treatment beds have been eliminated. Nearly 25% of all adult beds, including 218 in New York City, have been closed, while nearly 33% of inpatient services for youths have been eliminated. The results of these closures is clear – more people are going without the care that they need.

This \$15 million investment will help those with a severe illness receive the care that they need. When someone has a life-threatening medical emergency, we do not send them to an outpatient clinic. Rather, they are sent to an emergency room to be stabilized and receive needed treatment. Treatment for those with a severe mental illness is no different. Inpatient programs help those with the most severe illness receive the stabilizing care that they require. OMH hospitals also facilitated the development of a care plan that will enable them to return to their community with needed support in place.

The goal of patients only receiving care in their community and further eliminating inpatient services is not realistic. Factors such as the severity of a person's diagnosis and the familial and community support available to them play a large role in where a person can receive treatment. For those with the most severe illness, or those in crisis, an inpatient setting may be the most appropriate treatment option for them. This proposed investment will help ensure that there is sufficient service capacity throughout the state.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA urges the legislature to support this investment in the state budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Turner
Director