



Division of the Budget

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

MARY BETH LABATE
Director of the Budget

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner, Office of Mental Health

April 1, 2015

Mr. Blake Washington
Secretary to the Ways and Means Committee
New York State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 304
Albany, New York 12248

Mr. Robert F. Mujica
Senior Secretary to the Senate
State Capitol, Room 335
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Mr. Washington and Mr. Mujica:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our understanding of the agreement we have reached for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-16 Enacted Budget, as follows:

- A. We confirm that the Western NY CPC shall continue to remain open for all of SFY 2015-16.
- B. The OMH will begin a public process to engage stakeholders, including legislative members, in the capital design for a possible separate children's facility at Buffalo PC, and such stakeholders shall have an opportunity to comment on the design prior to approval by OMH. The OMH shall consider information gathered at the forums during the creation of the design.
- C. Following the completion of capital design, OMH will provide for at least a 30-day period during which the OMH will present a plan for such capital work to legislative members and community stakeholders. OMH would further set up a process in order to facilitate community input, including but not limited to, public forums and information posted on OMH's website, which would include web-based feedback. At the conclusion of the 30-day period, OMH shall evaluate information collected and formally decide to accept, amend, or reject such proposed plan. Commencement of any capital work related to a possible separate children's facility at Buffalo PC would be dependent upon such decision and continuing engagement of stakeholders and the Legislature.
- D. OMH will continue to provide information on the additional funding and services that would be made available to children and families, as well as the additional numbers of children and families served. OMH shall seek input from and provide updates to legislative members on the recommended new services. OMH shall also provide ongoing updates on how issues regarding

the process are addressed, including but not limited to, transportation, family engagement, and the safety and security of children receiving services.

Sincerely,


Mary Beth Labate


Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD



**Division of
the Budget**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

MARY BETH LABATE
Director of the Budget

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner, Office of Mental Health

April 1, 2015

Mr. Blake Washington
Secretary to the Ways and Means Committee
New York State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 304
Albany, New York 12248

Mr. Robert F. Mujica
Senior Secretary to the Senate
State Capitol, Room 335
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Mr. Washington and Mr. Mujica:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our understanding of the agreement we have reached for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-16 Enacted Budget, as follows:

A. We confirm that the following OMH Psychiatric hospitals will remain open for all of SFY 2015-16:

- Elmira Psychiatric Center
- Greater Binghamton Health Center
- Richard H. Hutchings Psychiatric Center
- Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center
- St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center
- Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center

We confirm that the OMH will not take steps in SFY 2015-16 to prohibit clinically appropriate admissions or transfer existing census at these facilities, unless needed to deal with a significant health or safety issue, or an emergency, or to respond to potential litigation or to accommodate a significant loss in Federal funding.

B. The Commissioner of Mental Health shall ensure that the new community investments resulting from SFY 2015-16 new appropriations for this purpose shall take place prior to any reduction of inpatient beds associated with those new investments. Funding for beds shall only be reduced if there is a consistent ninety day period of time that the beds remain vacant. Funding will continue to be available for inpatient beds, even if such beds are vacant beyond 90 days, if the vacancy is due to something other than a lack of demand for such beds. Specifically, funding will remain for such beds if the vacancy is due to staffing or other issues having nothing to do with the need in that community for inpatient psychiatric admissions at OMH Psychiatric Centers.

- C. The Commissioner of Mental Health shall provide monthly status reports of the 2015-16 community investments and the impact on inpatient census to Chairs of the Senate and Assembly fiscal committees. Such reports shall include state operated psychiatric facility census, admissions and discharges; rate of Medicaid psychiatric inpatient readmissions to any hospital within thirty days of discharge; Medicaid emergency room psychiatric visits; descriptions of 2015-16 new community service investments; average length of stay; and, number of long-term stay patients. Such reports shall include an explanation of any material census reductions, when known to the facility.
- D. The Commissioner of Mental Health shall provide a report to the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly fiscal committees by February 1, 2016, on the progress and effectiveness of investments in community mental health services in reducing the need for inpatient services and hospital lengths of stay, and the improvement of service effectiveness for children, adolescents and adults. Such report shall include data for calendar year 2015, and be based upon an evaluation by the office of mental health of the overall impact of such community services on the following domains: recipient outcome measures, quality of treatment, access to care, recipient satisfaction, functioning level and social outcomes.

The report shall contain data on the following:


- a) acute hospital utilization and readmission rates;
- b) emergency room utilization rates;
- c) post-discharge follow-up care including engagement and psychotropic medication usage;
- d) average length of stay trends;
- e) numbers of persons aging into long stay settings;
- f) rates of successful transitions of persons in long stay settings into more integrated community-based settings;
- g) utilization of community-based supports, including but not limited to, supported employment, supported housing, and other evidence based practices; and
- h) any other impact measures to the extent available and as deemed relevant by the commissioner of mental health including criminal justice and juvenile justice contacts, school attendance and homelessness; and
- i) recipient and family perceptions of care and satisfaction levels.

Such report will reflect consultation with community and mental health advocates.

- E. The Office of Mental Health shall commit to regional community engagement and outreach efforts on planned service enhancements during SFY 2015-16. The OMH shall post information on regional service enhancements on its website, and shall update such information on a regular basis as new services are developed.

Sincerely,


Mary Beth Labate


Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD