



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

Goals and Objectives 2024-2027 NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Kirklyn Escondo, Senior Planning Analyst
(kescondo@health.nyc.gov)

Goal 1

Goal 1: Title Provide children and youth with mental health care and developmental disabilities services that is timely, culturally responsive, accessible, and affordable

Goal 1: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1: Description Provide children and youth with mental health care and developmental disabilities services that is timely, culturally responsive, accessible, and affordable

Goal 1: OASAS? Yes Goal 1: OMH? Yes Goal 1: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 1: Need Addressed 1 Adverse Childhood Experiences

Goal 1: Need Addressed 2

Goal 1: Need Addressed 3

Goal 1, Objective 1: Title Leverage and increase accessibility of telehealth as part of a continuum of care.

Goal 1, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 1, Description

Goal 1, Objective 2: Title Support youth facing a mental health crisis

Goal 1, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 2, Description

Goal 1, Objective 3: Title Increase appropriate care for children and youth impacted by inequities leading to disparate mental health outcomes.

Goal 1, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 3, Description

Goal 1, Objective 4: Title Build out school capacity to provide and connect children and youth to care.

Goal 1, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 4, Description

Goal 1, Objective 5: Title Guide mental health system improvements informed by the experiences of youth and families.

Goal 1, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 5, Description

Goal 1, Objective 6: Title Ensure NYC Well is a more youth-friendly service and increase awareness of and use of NYC Well by youth, their families and child/youth-serving providers.

Goal 1, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 1, Objective 6, Description

Goal 2

Goal 2: Title Improve access to prevention interventions for children and youth exposed to risk factors

Goal 2: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 2: Description Improve access to prevention interventions for children and youth exposed to risk factors

Goal 2: OASAS? Yes Goal 2: OMH? Yes Goal 2: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 2: Need Addressed 1 Adverse Childhood Experiences

Goal 2: Need Addressed 2

Goal 2: Need Addressed 3

Goal 2, Objective 1: Title Provide early identification, intervention, and prevention services within systems that serve and support children and youth.

Goal 2, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 2, Objective 1, Description

Goal 2, Objective 2: Title Expand supports focused on maternal mental health.

Goal 2, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 2, Objective 2, Description

Goal 2, Objective 3: Title Create a child and youth mental health “safety net”.
Goal 2, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 2, Objective 3, Description

Goal 2, Objective 4: Title Expand mental health knowledge, skills, and strategies among Youth-serving Community Based Organization (CBO) staff that will enhance their capacity to identify and address mental health needs among community youth and their families.
Goal 2, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 2, Objective 4, Description

Goal 2, Objective 5: Title Develop a strong partnership with a mental health clinic partner (MHP) that will facilitate referrals for youth when appropriate. Joint trainings and strategies such as warm handoffs, regular consultation and coaching with CBO staff will support service coordination. Further CBO staff will apply acquired skills such as mental health awareness, screening and “light touch” counseling to expand possible intervention options.
Goal 2, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 2, Objective 5, Description

Goal 2, Objective 6: Title Support development of protective factors for youth at risk of problem substance use by funding community coalitions.
Goal 2, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 2, Objective 6, Description

Goal 2, Objective 7: Title Intensify support and provide early intervention for youth and families affected by problem substance use.
Goal 2, Objective 7, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 2, Objective 7, Description

Goal 3

Goal 3: Title Improve quality of life by increasing investments in stable housing
Goal 3: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 3: Description Improve quality of life by increasing investments in stable housing
Goal 3: OASAS? Yes Goal 3: OMH? Yes Goal 3: OPWDD? Yes
Goal 3: Need Addressed 1 Housing
Goal 3: Need Addressed 2
Goal 3: Need Addressed 3

Goal 3, Objective 1: Title Make safe and stable housing more available, affordable and accessible to help improve the quality of life of New Yorkers with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).
Goal 3, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 3, Objective 1, Description

Goal 3, Objective 2: Title Integrate intensive mental health supports for people with SMI to be able to maintain stable housing after leaving a shelter through the NYC Department of Homeless Services Enhanced Aftercare program.
Goal 3, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 3, Objective 2, Description

Goal 3, Objective 3: Title Coordinate with NYS to increase the number of transitional housing units for people with SMI, autism, and dually-diagnosed I/DD who require this support to live safely in the community, especially people coming out of hospitals, jails, or prisons.
Goal 3, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 3, Objective 3, Description

Goal 3, Objective 4: Title Open 8,000 units of permanent supportive housing for people with SMI (note: the City set a goal of developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years and reached 7,000 to date), and preserve existing supportive housing units for people with SMI while accounting for increasing costs.
Goal 3, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 3, Objective 4, Description

Goal 3, Objective 5: Title Streamline processes through policy changes and reform them across agencies to reduce the time and paperwork to apply for and access permanent supportive housing, as part of implementing Housing Our Neighbors: A Blueprint for Housing and Homelessness.
Goal 3, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 3, Objective 5, Description

Goal 3, Objective 6: Title Increase access to stable housing for people with development disabilities by increasing residential options for people who have aged out of state placements; Increase access to new and existing community-based housing units for people with developmental disabilities, including those who need 24-hour nursing services and those living at home with aging caregivers.

Goal 3, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 3, Objective 6, Description

Goal 3, Objective 7: Title Expand housing options for people who use drugs.

Goal 3, Objective 7, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 3, Objective 7, Description

Goal 4

Goal 4: Title Expand City infrastructure for rehabilitative supports, social services, education, and employment for people with SMI, intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and/or impacted by the criminal justice system

Goal 4: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4: Description Expand City infrastructure for rehabilitative supports, social services, education, and employment for people with SMI, intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and/or impacted by the criminal justice system

Goal 4: OASAS? Yes Goal 4: OMH? Yes Goal 4: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 4: Need Addressed 1 Non-Clinical supports

Goal 4: Need Addressed 2

Goal 4: Need Addressed 3

Goal 4, Objective 1: Title Ensure that people with SMI are part of the wider community and supported with education, employment and relationship-building opportunities.

Goal 4, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 1, Description

Goal 4, Objective 2: Title Ensure that families impacted by mental illness are adequately supported.

Goal 4, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 2, Description

Goal 4, Objective 3: Title Increase and vary employment and internship opportunities to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities who are employed so that employment is person-centered and customized. Efforts may include promotional events such as career fairs and collaborative efforts with OPWDD DDROs, local Chambers of Commerce and other local partners, including not-for-profit entities.

Goal 4, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 3, Description

Goal 4, Objective 4: Title Through local contracting with vocational support service providers in all 5 boroughs, increase the number of individuals with I/DD (who are not eligible for OPWDD employment support services) who are successfully placed in internships or employed.

Goal 4, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 4, Description

Goal 4, Objective 5: Title Support and invest in people returning to the community from jails and prisons.

Goal 4, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 5, Description

Goal 4, Objective 6: Title Provide vocational support for people who are chronically excluded from the workforce.

Goal 4, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 6, Description

Goal 4, Objective 7: Title Increase referral and capacity at the Support and Connection Centers [to connect community members who are at-risk for legal system involvement to physical health, behavioral health, and social support services.

Goal 4, Objective 7, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 7, Description

Goal 4, Objective 8: Title Increase participant enrollment to NYC's Health Justice Network participant by identifying additional criminal justice serving partner sites to join the HJN network.

Goal 4, Objective 8, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 8, Description

Goal 4, Objective 9: Title (added 2026) In partnership with the NYPD, provide pre- and post-crisis intervention citywide to individuals impacted by or at risk of a mental health crisis and/or criminal legal involvement.

Goal 4, Objective 9, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 9, Description Current update: In 2024, CRT had 559 referrals assigned. CRT contacted 430 clients. (Of note, at the time CRT was operating 2 tours, 7 days.)

Goal 4, Objective 10: Title (added for 2027 plan) 4.8 -- Create convening spaces to expand opportunities for New Yorkers to contribute to and share experiences with New York City's mental hygiene service system.

Goal 4, Objective 9, Target Completion Date Mar 01, 2027

Goal 4, Objective 9, Description BCAARE responded to CSB Core Members' call for additional direct connections between the NYC Health Department and the communities it serves, including recipients of care and the general public, by developing a model for a discretionary CSB subcommittee focused on community engagement, the Community Mental Wellness and Resilience (CMWR) Subcommittee. The CMWR Subcommittee will guide and support a Health Department-led distributed listening effort, identified as sustainable and actionable. This model is designed to reach New Yorkers where they are, center voices not already connected to the system, and produce insights that can meaningfully inform CSB guidance and Health Department decision-making. Early-stage work included developing the conceptual framework, drafting a model brief, and beginning internal coordination. This groundwork set the stage for current efforts to recruit subcommittee members, collaboratively refine the approach, build internal structures, and plan for full implementation in 2027.

Goal 5

Goal 5: Title Serve New Yorkers in mental health crisis through a health-led response

Goal 5: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 5: Description Serve New Yorkers in mental health crisis through a health-led response

Goal 5: OASAS? No Goal 5: OMH? Yes Goal 5: OPWDD? No

Goal 5: Need Addressed 1 Crisis Services

Goal 5: Need Addressed 2

Goal 5: Need Addressed 3

Goal 5, Objective 1: Title Improve the experience of New Yorkers who are facing a mental health crisis through strengthened connections to a range of community-based supports and acute care services.

Goal 5, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 5, Objective 1, Description

Goal 5, Objective 2: Title Improve access to and use of crisis stabilization options, including hospitalization and alternatives, for people with SMI in need of intensive and supportive care.

Goal 5, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 5, Objective 2, Description

Goal 5, Objective 3: Title Collaborate with Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) stakeholders to promote awareness, acceptance, and action for mental health concerns, causes, and supports within NYC AANHPI communities.

Goal 5, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 5, Objective 3, Description

Goal 5, Objective 4: Title Enhance, expand and strengthen programs and initiatives that center behavioral health community preparedness, engagement, and crisis response.

Goal 5, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 5, Objective 4, Description

Goal 6

Goal 6: Title Advance a range of accessible and high-quality supports and services across the continuum of prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction, to reduce the risk of death and drug-related harms and enhance quality of life for individuals with substance use disorders, with a focus on neighborhoods with the highest overdose death rates

Goal 6: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 6: Description Advance a range of accessible and high-quality supports and services across the continuum of prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction, to reduce the risk of death and drug-related harms and enhance quality of life for individuals with substance use disorders, with a focus on neighborhoods with the highest overdose death rates

Goal 6: OASAS? Yes Goal 6: OMH? No Goal 6: OPWDD? No

Goal 6: Need Addressed 1 Other

Goal 6: Need Addressed 2

Goal 6: Need Addressed 3

Goal 6, Objective 1: Title Expand citywide naloxone distribution.

Goal 6, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 6, Objective 1, Description

Goal 6, Objective 2: Title Expand and enhance nonfatal overdose response efforts.

Goal 6, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 6, Objective 2, Description

Goal 6, Objective 3: Title Optimize and expand overdose prevention services.

Goal 6, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 6, Objective 3, Description

Goal 6, Objective 4: Title Understand and respond to the risks of an unregulated drug supply.

Goal 6, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 6, Objective 4, Description

Goal 6, Objective 5: Title Enhance the scope and reach of existing harm reduction, treatment and recovery services.

Goal 6, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 6, Objective 5, Description

Goal 6, Objective 6: Title Optimize the availability, accessibility and acceptability of evidence-based treatment.

Goal 6, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 6, Objective 6, Description

Goal 7

Goal 7: Title Support children, families and communities affected by the overdose crisis

Goal 7: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 7: Description Support children, families and communities affected by the overdose crisis

Goal 7: OASAS? Yes Goal 7: OMH? No Goal 7: OPWDD? No

Goal 7: Need Addressed 1 Other

Goal 7: Need Addressed 2

Goal 7: Need Addressed 3

Goal 7, Objective 1: Title Provide support to families who have lost a loved one to overdose.

Goal 7, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 7, Objective 1, Description

Goal 7, Objective 2: Title Enhance place-based capacity to support and respond to community needs.

Goal 7, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 7, Objective 2, Description

Goal 8

Goal 8: Title Advance systems improvements and equitable access to behavioral health care for NYC residents with public or private insurance

Goal 8: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8: Description Advance systems improvements and equitable access to behavioral health care for NYC residents with public or private insurance

Goal 8: OASAS? Yes Goal 8: OMH? Yes Goal 8: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 8: Need Addressed 1 Cross System Services

Goal 8: Need Addressed 2

Goal 8: Need Addressed 3

Goal 8, Objective 1: Title Educate a minimum of 400 NYC service providers and insurance beneficiaries per year on behavioral health parity laws, beneficiary rights, and mechanisms for appeals and complaints.

Goal 8, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8, Objective 1, Description

Goal 8, Objective 2: Title Continue to implement social media campaigns to raise awareness among NYC residents and service providers regarding behavioral health parity and rights to accessing care.

Goal 8, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8, Objective 2, Description

Goal 8, Objective 3: Title Assess feasibility within existing city agency services to 1) identify behavioral health parity violations, 2) direct individuals to resources, and 3) elevate issues to state regulatory authorities.

Goal 8, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8, Objective 3, Description

Goal 8, Objective 4: Title Convene commercial insurance plans, MH and SUD providers, provider and insurer membership associations, and accreditation organizations to fill in information gaps on the MH/SUD care landscape and promote the expansion of behavioral health networks and services covered by commercial insurance plans.

Goal 8, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8, Objective 4, Description

Goal 8, Objective 5: Title Educate a minimum of 300 NYC providers and beneficiaries per year on Medicaid managed behavioral healthcare by offering trainings and disseminating information via periodic newsletters.

Goal 8, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8, Objective 5, Description

Goal 8, Objective 6: Title Support NYC's behavioral health providers interested in preparing for Value Based Payment (VBP) arrangements by offering trainings on VBP 101, data collection, and networking.

Goal 8, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8, Objective 6, Description

Goal 8, Objective 7: Title Increase readiness among NYC behavioral health providers for participation in value based payment arrangements by offering VBP readiness assessments and facilitating connections to payors, hospital systems and primary care partners.

Goal 8, Objective 7, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8, Objective 7, Description

Goal 8, Objective 8: Title (Added 2026) Support New York City's Social Care Networks (SCN) and the Statewide Health Equity Regional Organization (HERO) in their rollout of the 1115 waiver Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) services to NYC residents experiencing SMI, SED, SUD, I/DD issues and those who have a history of incarceration.

Goal 8, Objective 8, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 8, Objective 8, Description Current updates: Since New York State applied for the 1115 waiver amendment for the provision of HRSN services, the Division of Mental Hygiene has been partnering with our agency's Chief Medical Officer's Team and another Division in preparing for roles that the NYC Health Department could play in supporting NYC's three SCNs and downstate work managed by the HERO. Since the waiver amendment was approved by CMS in 2024, we have been meeting regularly with each NYC SCN and preparing internally to support data analytics, VBP and evaluation work that the United Hospital fund would undertake as the Statewide HERO. We will report out more specific details on this work in next year's update.

Goal 9

Goal 9: Title Advance anti-racist health and social policies, laws, and practices that support the well-being of New Yorkers disproportionately impacted and criminalized due to structural racism

Goal 9: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 9: Description Advance anti-racist health and social policies, laws, and practices that support the well-being of New Yorkers disproportionately impacted and criminalized due to structural racism

Goal 9: OASAS? Yes Goal 9: OMH? Yes Goal 9: OPWDD? Yes

Goal 9: Need Addressed 1 Other

Goal 9: Need Addressed 2

Goal 9: Need Addressed 3

Goal 9, Objective 1: Title Build collaboration and policy support for criminal legal system reforms with internal and external partners.

Goal 9, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 9, Objective 1, Description

Goal 9, Objective 2: Title Remove the stigma associated with talking about criminal legal system through messaging and outreach.

Goal 9, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 9, Objective 2, Description

Goal 9, Objective 3: Title Increase awareness of the health disparities among individuals who have been impacted by the criminal legal system.

Goal 9, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 9, Objective 3, Description

Goal 9, Objective 4: Title Increase awareness of the impact of social determinants of health on populations disproportionately impacted and criminalized due to systemic racism.

Goal 9, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 9, Objective 4, Description

Goal 9, Objective 5: Title Elevate surveillance data to inform and advance evidence-based policy development and recommendations.

Goal 9, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027

Goal 9, Objective 5, Description

Goal 9, Objective 6: Title Enhance reentry services for people impacted by SMI and the criminal legal system.
Goal 9, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 9, Objective 6, Description

Goal 9, Objective 7: Title Address racial inequities in health care services and treatment for New Yorkers of color with SMI.
Goal 9, Objective 7, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 9, Objective 7, Description

Goal 10

Goal 10: Title Support provider organizations in recruitment and retention of the behavioral health workforce
Goal 10: Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10: Description Support provider organizations in recruitment and retention of the behavioral health workforce
Goal 10: OASAS? Yes Goal 10: OMH? Yes Goal 10: OPWDD? Yes
Goal 10: Need Addressed 1 Workforce
Goal 10: Need Addressed 2
Goal 10: Need Addressed 3

Goal 10, Objective 1: Title In collaboration with state partners, explore/develop a mechanism for collecting reliable data on staff attrition in the behavioral health service system.
Goal 10, Objective 1, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 1, Description

Goal 10, Objective 2: Title Research existing loan forgiveness programs and innovative models for recruitment and retention, including barriers, challenges, and limitations and disseminate among contracted providers.
Goal 10, Objective 2, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 2, Description

Goal 10, Objective 3: Title Host feedback sessions with different types of providers (i.e., social workers, peer support workers, community health workers, etc.) to assess their experiences in the behavioral health workforce and develop provider-informed strategies for recruitment and retention.
Goal 10, Objective 3, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 3, Description

Goal 10, Objective 4: Title Work with community partners to assess emerging needs of the expanding peer workforce and identify strategies to support successful workforce integration.
Goal 10, Objective 4, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 4, Description

Goal 10, Objective 5: Title Partner with State and community partners to assess the need for long-term technology training and develop a strategy to boost and maintain technology skills among the peer workforces.
Goal 10, Objective 5, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 5, Description

Goal 10, Objective 6: Title Partner with OMH, OASAS, and NYC community partners to assess the current availability of integrated care training for peer support works and develop a strategy to address unmet need.
Goal 10, Objective 6, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 6, Description

Goal 10, Objective 7: Title Partner up with criminal justice re-entry programs to increase job development and placement for individuals with criminal justice involvement.
Goal 10, Objective 7, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 7, Description

Goal 10, Objective 8: Title In partnership with OMH and OASAS, mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences by collaborating with trauma survivors and trauma champions to advance collective understanding of trauma, improve practice, and support resilience by increasing the availability of training and technical assistance.
Goal 10, Objective 8, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 8, Description

Goal 10, Objective 9: Title Identify organizations that work with peer educators in congregate, correctional settings and identify partnership opportunities between organizations and providers to create an employment pipeline from the congregate setting to field placement and employment (e.g. Osborne Association, Bard College Prison Initiative, organizations who work with peer educators and find employment pathways for this pool of potential workers).
Goal 10, Objective 9, Target Completion Date Dec 31, 2027
Goal 10, Objective 9, Description



Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Anika Kalra, Sr Planning Analyst
akalra@health.nyc.gov

Goal 1	
Title	Provide children and youth with mental health care and developmental disabilities services that is timely, culturally responsive, accessible, and affordable
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 1. We would like to update the language of Objective 1.6.
OBJECTIVES	
Leverage and increase accessibility of telehealth as part of a continuum of care.	Ongoing
Support youth facing a mental health crisis	Ongoing
Increase appropriate care for children and youth impacted by inequities leading to disparate mental health outcomes.	Ongoing
Build out school capacity to provide and connect children and youth to care.	Ongoing
Guide mental health system improvements informed by the experiences of youth and families.	Ongoing
Ensure NYC Well is a more youth-friendly service and increase awareness of and use of NYC Well by youth, their families and child/youth-serving providers.	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE UPDATES	
Objective 1.1: Leverage and increase accessibility of telehealth as part of a continuum of care In November 2023, NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) launched NYC Teenspace, a free, digital mental health service for NYC teens aged 13-17. Over 6,000 youth have enrolled since the start of the program and have access to licensed therapists to message, speak on the phone with, or videochat, and self-guided lessons and exercises to support mental well-being.	
Objective 1.2: Support youth facing a mental health crisis The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at NYC DOHMH is partnering with New York City Health + Hospitals (NYC H+H) to implement a new hospital-based suicide prevention program. In May 2024, the program is launching in hospitals in Queens. The Caring Transitions Program supports youth who present to the hospital following a suicide attempt or serious suicide related behavior. Services include follow-up care and transition support; connections to clinical and community support; caregiver support; and bridging clinical services. Additionally, in collaboration with NYC Public Schools and Health and Hospitals, DOHMH is implementing the Mental Health Continuum Initiative which aims to increase access to mental health services and decrease use of 911 in 50 high needs schools. Through this initiative, DOHMH aims to increase awareness and use of Children Mobile Crisis Teams (CMCTs) among schools. To support this effort, Guidance for Schools on Accessing 988 and Children's Mobile Crisis Teams was developed and administered to all school principals.	
Objective 1.3: Increase appropriate care for children and youth impacted by inequities leading to disparate mental health outcomes NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) is currently planning the following two suicide prevention demonstration projects to address the needs of BIPOC youth (implementation expected by Summer 2024): • Dialectical Behavioral Therapy for Adolescents (DBT-A) - DBT-A has the most empirical support for suicide and self-harm behaviors among youth. While there is preliminary evidence that DBT-A is effective in reducing emotion dysregulation and increasing adaptive coping in a sample of BIPOC youth, more research is required to understand how to address racism and other sociocultural stressors that impact this population. Partners include Montefiore Medical Center and Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology. • Family Check-Up for Asian American Families (FCU-AA) - FCU is effective in reducing mental health symptoms in children, including suicide risk. While FCU has been tested on diverse populations, there has never been research into the efficacy of the model for Asian youth and their families. FCU-AA will provide individual psychotherapy for Asian-American adolescents and trainings for caregivers around managing difficult emotions associated with suicide risk. Partners include Teachers College, Columbia, and Hamilton-Madison House. Additionally, CYF-DD coordinated with the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to increase the knowledge of staff working in DYCD's youth programs on the range of mental health services available to young people and to improve homeless youth's access to these services.	
Objective 1.4: Build out school capacity to provide and connect children and youth to care The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at NYC DOHMH is supporting the expansion of school-based mental health clinics by coordinating and planning with NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and DOHMH's Office of School Health (OSH). This includes consulting with interested providers, reviewing licensing applications, and tracking application data. As of April 2024 in NYC, 10 new clinics were approved to open this school year (2023-2024), and 19 new clinics are in the approval process. Additionally, CYF-DD, in collaboration with NYC Public Schools and NYC Health and Hospitals (NYC H+H), is implementing the Mental Health Continuum Initiative to increase access to mental health services and decrease use of 911 in 50 high needs schools. Through this initiative, DOHMH aims to increase awareness and use of Children Mobile Crisis Teams (CMCTs) among schools. To support this effort, we developed a tip sheet providing guidance for schools on accessing 988 and Children's Mobile Crisis Teams and administered it to all school principals. We also consulted NYC H+H in the licensing application process and reviewed applications to establish school-based mental health satellite clinics in 16 of the 50 high needs schools.	
Objective 1.5: Guide mental health system improvements informed by the experiences of youth and families The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at NYC DOHMH is implementing Centering Children and Families in NYC's System of Care with the support of a SAMHSA System of Care Expansion Grant. CYF-DD is developing a Community-Based Participatory Action Research approach to support our efforts to partner with youth, families and other stakeholders to identify and implement needed improvements to the children's mental health care system in NYC. By June 2024, we will complete all community forums with youth, families, and providers, and we will take a participatory approach to identifying priorities for system improvements based on the collective feedback received.	
Objective 1.6 (changed): Ensure online mental health service directories and other navigational resources are more youth-friendly and increase use of such resources by youth, their families, and child/youth-serving providers NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) and NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), in collaboration with the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH), secured resources to design a new mental health resource website to support New	

Yorkers, including young people and their family members, in identifying and accessing mental health supports/services based on mental health needs. We anticipate the website to be launched in the summer 2024 (see Objective 11.2 for further details).

Goal 2

Title	Improve access to prevention interventions for children and youth exposed to risk factors
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 2.

OBJECTIVES

Provide early identification, intervention, and prevention services within systems that serve and support children and youth.	Ongoing
Expand supports focused on maternal mental health.	Ongoing
Create a child and youth mental health "safety net".	Ongoing
Expand mental health knowledge, skills, and strategies among Youth-serving Community Based Organization (CBO) staff that will enhance their capacity to identify and address mental health needs among community youth and their families.	Ongoing
Develop a strong partnership with a mental health clinic partner (MHP) that will facilitate referrals for youth when appropriate. Joint trainings and strategies such as warm handoffs, regular consultation and coaching with CBO staff will support service coordination. Further CBO staff will apply acquired skills such as mental health awareness, screening and "light touch" counseling to expand possible intervention options.	Ongoing
Support development of protective factors for youth at risk of problem substance use by funding community coalitions.	Ongoing
Intensify support and provide early intervention for youth and families affected by problem substance use.	Ongoing

OBJECTIVE UPDATES

Objective 2.1: Provide early identification, intervention, and prevention services within systems that serve and support children and youth | In the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at NYC DOHMH, the NYC Early Childhood Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) provides specialized training and technical assistance for the many types of professionals who work with young children, expanding New York's capacity to promote positive mental health in early years. TTAC equips professionals in licensed mental health clinics, early care and education settings, and practitioners in all children serving systems with the knowledge and tools they need to support the healthy social emotional development of New York's youngest children.

Objective 2.2: Expand supports focused on maternal mental health | DOHMH launched a new Perinatal Mental Health Initiative, which expands access to perinatal mental health care within the Early Childhood Mental Health Network. The program provides trainings on equity-focused, culturally appropriate perinatal mental health topics to home visitors, doulas, social workers, and community health workers in DOHMH programs serving pregnant people and families, including the New Family Home Visiting Initiative, Nurse-Family Partnership, Citywide Doula Initiative, and Family Wellness Suites. This initiative is a partnership between the Divisions of Mental Hygiene, Family and Child Health, and Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness (CHECW). Additionally, DOHMH's contracted program, the Strong Families & Communities Center, offers trainings to CBO staff on parenting models to use in their work with parents, including Circle of Security which is for parents of children from birth to age eight.

Objective 2.3: Create a child and youth mental health "safety net" | We continue to work on this objective via various initiatives that are in progress.

Objective 2.4: Expand mental health knowledge, skills, and strategies among Youth-serving Community Based Organization (CBO) staff that will enhance their capacity to identify and address mental health needs among community youth and their families | Since the launch of the Building Resilience in Youth (BRY) program in 2022, 12 youth-serving CBOs (over 130 staff) contracted with DOHMH engaged in various learning exercises to bolster their mental health competencies. CBOs were chosen in neighborhoods defined by the NYC DOHMH Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE). These exercises encompassed mental health awareness trainings, stress management interventions, screenings, data sharing/referral platform trainings, and practice and learning collaboratives. The initiatives have been met with positive reception from staff members of the participating CBOs and are ongoing in the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response and Engagement (BCAARE) at NYC DOHMH.

Objective 2.5: Develop a strong partnership with a mental health clinic partner (MHP) that will facilitate referrals for youth when appropriate. Joint trainings and strategies such as warm handoffs, regular consultation and coaching with CBO staff will support service coordination. Further CBO staff will apply acquired skills such as mental health awareness, screening and "light touch" counseling to expand possible intervention options | Under the Building Resilience in Youth (BRY) program at NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE), eight local mental health clinic partners (MHPs) established partnerships with 12 youth-serving CBOs. MHPs were actively engaged in an array of learning exercises, including mental health awareness trainings, stress management interventions, screening, data sharing/referral platform practice and learning collaboratives. Facilitated by DOHMH and CUNY, our technical assistance partner, MHPs participated in regular consultation sessions focused on supporting mental health integration tasks, including screening, psychoeducation, referral, and counseling, into BRY CBO services. Concurrently, MHPs provide frequent coaching sessions for BRY CBO staff members, aimed at enhancing their competencies in foundational mental health integration tasks.

Objective 2.6: Support development of protective factors for youth at risk of problem substance use by funding community coalitions | The Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at NYC DOHMH funds five community coalitions citywide to change norms, practices and/or physical environments to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors impacting LGBTQ+ youth substance use. In 2023, these coalitions served more than 300 LGBTQ youth through direct services and reached more than 2,500 community members through various community activities.

Objective 2.7: Intensify support and provide early intervention for youth and families affected by problem substance use | The Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at NYC DOHMH is partnering with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to inform planning, including substance use care resources oriented towards youth.

Goal 3		
Title	Improve quality of life by increasing investments in stable housing	
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 3. We would like to remove Objectives 3.2, 3.3, and 3.7 (see details in Objective updates section).	
OBJECTIVES		
Make safe and stable housing more available, affordable and accessible to help improve the quality of life of New Yorkers with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).	Ongoing	
Integrate intensive mental health supports for people with SMI to be able to maintain stable housing after leaving a shelter through the NYC Department of Homeless Services Enhanced Aftercare program.	N/A	
Coordinate with NYS to increase the number of transitional housing units for people with SMI, autism, and dually-diagnosed I/DD who require this support to live safely in the community, especially people coming out of hospitals, jails, or prisons.	N/A	
Open 8,000 units of permanent supportive housing for people with SMI (note: the City set a goal of developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years and reached 7,000 to date), and preserve existing supportive housing units for people with SMI while accounting for increasing costs.	Ongoing	
Streamline processes through policy changes and reform them across agencies to reduce the time and paperwork to apply for and access permanent supportive housing, as part of implementing Housing Our Neighbors: A Blueprint for Housing and Homelessness.	Complete	
Increase access to stable housing for people with development disabilities by increasing residential options for people who have aged out of state placements; Increase access to new and existing community-based housing units for people with developmental disabilities, including those who need 24-hour nursing services and those living at home with aging caregivers.	Ongoing	
Expand housing options for people who use drugs.	N/A	
OBJECTIVE UPDATES		
Objective 3.1: Make safe and stable housing more available, affordable and accessible to help improve the quality of life of New Yorkers with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) is working closely with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to review and recommend related Certificate of Need applications to create housing for the I/DD population.		
Objective 3.2 (remove): Integrate intensive mental health supports for people with SMI to be able to maintain stable housing after leaving a shelter through the NYC Department of Homeless Services Enhanced Aftercare program We would like to remove this Objective, as it does not currently reflect any programs in Division of Mental Hygiene at DOHMH.		
Objective 3.3 (remove): Coordinate with NYS to increase the number of transitional housing units for people with SMI, autism, and dually-diagnosed I/DD who require this support to live safely in the community, especially people coming out of hospitals, jails, or prisons We would like to remove this Objective, as it does not currently reflect any programs in the Division of Mental Hygiene at DOHMH.		
Objective 3.4: Open 8,000 units of permanent supportive housing for people with SMI or SUD (note: the City set a goal of developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years and reached 7,000 to date), and preserve existing supportive housing units for people with SMI while accounting for increasing costs NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) opened 617 units of permanent supportive housing for people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in FY24, totaling 11,939 units open and available as of April 2024. We meet regularly with the Department of Social Services (DSS), Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and Human Resources Administration (HRA) to discuss the ongoing NY15/15 initiative (the City's goal of developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years).		
Objective 3.5: Streamline processes through policy changes and reform them across agencies to reduce the time and paperwork to apply for and access permanent supportive housing, as part of implementing Housing Our Neighbors: A Blueprint for Housing and Homelessness The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) at NYC DOHMH helped reduce bureaucratic barriers to housing by developing clear guidance for NYC supportive housing providers for referral, intake and admission processes for permanent supportive housing. In July 2023, we publicly released Consolidated Housing Placement Guidance: https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/home/2023-consolidated-supportive-housing-guidance.pdf , as well as a Memorandum on Low Barrier Admissions: https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/home/2023-memo-low-barrier-admissions-policies.pdf .		
Objective 3.6: Increase access to stable housing for people with development disabilities by increasing residential options for people who have aged out of state placements; Increase access to new and existing community-based housing units for people with developmental disabilities, including those who need 24-hour nursing services and those living at home with aging caregivers The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at NYC DOHMH is working closely with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to review and recommend related Certificate of Need applications to create housing for this need.		
Objective 3.7 (remove): Expand housing options for people who use drugs We would like to remove this Objective. NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) prioritizes people who use drugs and who are experiencing housing instability. However, while our work helps to support linkages to housing and increasing overdose education and training in supportive housing, BADUPCT is not currently funded to provide housing options.		

Goal 4		
Title	Expand City infrastructure for rehabilitative supports, social services, education, and employment for people with SMI, intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and/or impacted by the criminal justice system	
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 4. We would like to update the language of Objective 4.5 and 4. 6. and remove Objective 4.2 and 4.7 (see details in Objective updates section).	
OBJECTIVES		
Ensure that people with SMI are part of the wider community and supported with education, employment and relationship-building opportunities.		Ongoing

Ensure that families impacted by mental illness are adequately supported.	N/A
Increase and vary employment and internship opportunities to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities who are employed so that employment is person-centered and customized. Efforts may include promotional events such as career fairs and collaborative efforts with OPWDD DDROs, local Chambers of Commerce and other local partners, including not-for-profit entities.	Ongoing
Through local contracting with vocational support service providers in all 5 boroughs, increase the number of individuals with I/DD (who are not eligible for OPWDD employment support services) who are successfully placed in internships or employed.	Ongoing
Support and invest in people returning to the community from jails and prisons.	Ongoing
Provide vocational support for people who are chronically excluded from the workforce.	Ongoing
Increase referral and capacity at the Support and Connection Centers [to connect community members who are at-risk for legal system involvement to physical health, behavioral health, and social support services.	N/A
Increase participant enrollment to NYC's Health Justice Network participant by identifying additional criminal justice serving partner sites to join the HJN network.	Ongoing

OBJECTIVE UPDATES

Objective 4.1: Ensure that people with SMI are part of the wider community and supported with education, employment and relationship-building opportunities | In the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) at NYC DOHMH, contracts for the Clubhouse Request for Proposals were awarded in the Spring. The goal of the contracts is to increase capacity of clubhouses, ensuring that more people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) have access to a wider community and opportunities for educational and employment support. The anticipated start date for this program is Summer 2024.

Objective 4.2 (remove): Ensure that families impacted by mental illness are adequately supported | We would like to remove this Objective, as it does not currently reflect any programs in Division of Mental Hygiene.

Objective 4.3: Increase and vary employment and internship opportunities to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities who are employed so that employment is person-centered and customized. Efforts may include promotional events such as career fairs and collaborative efforts with OPWDD DDROs, local Chambers of Commerce and other local partners, including not-for-profit entities | NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at DOHMH is continuing its work with the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and other community partners to engage the Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities (MOPD) to address this objective in the future.

Objective 4.4: Through local contracting with vocational support service providers in all 5 boroughs, increase the number of individuals with I/DD (who are not eligible for OPWDD employment support services) who are successfully placed in internships or employed | The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at NYC DOHMH manages a small portfolio of contracts that provide vocational support to individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities in the five boroughs. We work in close collaboration with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and are exploring partnerships with other key stakeholders, including the Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities (MOPD).

Objective 4.5 (changed): Support and invest in people returning to the community from jails and prisons by facilitating connections to healthcare and social services, and improving social determinants of health | The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at NYC DOHMH has secured new funding for the NYC Health Justice Network program. We are exploring collaboration with courts and other City partners for this ongoing work.

Objective 4.6 (changed): Provide vocational support for people experiencing substance use disorders who are chronically excluded from the workforce | In NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT), the Peer Corps program trains early-career Peers with lived experience with substance use and places them to work in shelters and other substance use service settings. Peers provide harm reduction and overdose education, naloxone, and service connections. The 2022-23 cohort served more than 2,700 individuals and made more than 1,000 linkages to care, including recovery and treatment services, harm reduction services, support groups, and mental health services.

Objective 4.7 (remove): Increase referral and capacity at the Support and Connection Centers to connect community members who are at-risk for legal system involvement to physical health, behavioral health, and social support services | We would like to remove this Objective as the scope of work falls under NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Mental Health's (BMH) crisis work, which is detailed in Objectives 5.1 and 5.2.

Objective 4.8: Increase participant enrollment to NYC's Health Justice Network participant by identifying additional criminal justice serving partner sites to join the HJN network | The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at NYC DOHMH is looking for additional funding for the NYC Health Justice Network program. We are exploring collaboration with courts and other City partners for this ongoing work.

Goal 5

Title	Serve New Yorkers in mental health crisis through a health-led response
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 5.

OBJECTIVES

Improve the experience of New Yorkers who are facing a mental health crisis through strengthened connections to a range of community-based supports and acute care services.	Ongoing
Improve access to and use of crisis stabilization options, including hospitalization and alternatives, for people with SMI in need of intensive and supportive care.	Ongoing
Collaborate with Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) stakeholders to promote awareness, acceptance, and action for mental health concerns, causes, and supports within NYC AANHPI communities.	Ongoing
Enhance, expand and strengthen programs and initiatives that center behavioral health community preparedness, engagement, and crisis response.	Ongoing

OBJECTIVE UPDATES

Objective 5.1: Improve the experience of New Yorkers who are facing a mental health crisis through strengthened connections to a range of community-based supports and acute care services | The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) at NYC DOHMH has ongoing projects related to this work. However, some Mobile Crisis Teams have varying levels of success with linkages connecting individuals to care post-intervention, often due to a lack of capacity for outpatient treatment.

Objective 5.2: Improve access to and use of crisis stabilization options, including hospital alternatives for people with SMI in need of intensive and supportive care | The contract for the Harlem Support and Connection Center was transferred to NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) in the Spring of 2024. The Support and Connection Center offers person-centered engagement, stabilization, and connection to services as an alternative to avoidable emergency room visits or criminal justice interventions. Funding for the Bronx Support and Connection Center has been discontinued.

Objective 5.3: Collaborate with Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) stakeholders to promote awareness, acceptance, and action for mental health concerns, causes, and supports within NYC AANHPI communities | In 2023, the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) at NYC DOHMH collaborated with AANHPI-serving organizations and community leaders and champions to launch the Promoting Mental Health in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities (PMH-AANHPI) Learning Initiative. This program: 1) awarded 10 AANHPI-serving organizations \$10,000 each to build capacity for promoting mental health in their respective communities, and 2) developed and implemented a mental health resilience training that provides information on how to identify signs of mental health decline, combat the stigma of mental illness, and access free or low-cost mental health services that are culturally relevant. As of March 2024, we conducted PMH-AANHPI Learning Workshop with more than 2,500 community members, a majority of whom identify as Asian. We are continuing to collaborate with AANHPI-serving organizations in NYC and community champions and provide mental health resilience trainings to AANHPI communities.

Objective 5.4: Enhance, expand and strengthen programs and initiatives that center behavioral health community preparedness, engagement, and crisis response | NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) continues to respond to the mental health needs of New Yorkers via our work with: •The Subway Homeless Outreach program: continuous outreach and engagement and connection to services, and coordination of learning collaborative trainings for staff. •Providing emotional support to asylees, including connections and linkages to ongoing care and Mental Health services. •Providing mental health supportive trainings to staff working with asylees to improve coping and wellness and reduce risk of burnout. •Providing mental health training to DOHMH colleagues, partners agencies and contact providers to improve coping and wellness and reduce risk of burnout.

Goal 6

Title	Advance a range of accessible and high-quality supports and services across the continuum of prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction, to reduce the risk of death and drug-related harms and enhance quality of life for individuals with substance use disorders, with a focus on neighborhoods with the highest overdose death rates
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 6.

OBJECTIVES

Expand citywide naloxone distribution.	Ongoing
Expand and enhance nonfatal overdose response efforts.	Ongoing
Optimize and expand overdose prevention services.	Ongoing
Understand and respond to the risks of an unregulated drug supply.	Ongoing
Enhance the scope and reach of existing harm reduction, treatment and recovery services.	Ongoing
Optimize the availability, accessibility and acceptability of evidence-based treatment.	Ongoing

OBJECTIVE UPDATES

Objective 6.1: Expand citywide naloxone distribution | In 2024, the Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at NYC DOHMH distributed more than 289,000 naloxone kits to hundreds of Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs citywide, where they were provided for free to community members. In addition, since June 2023, we launched NYC's first four Public Health Vending Machines in Brooklyn and Queens to support 24/7 low-barrier, no-cost, and anonymous access to naloxone and a range of additional health and wellness supplies.

Objective 6.2: Expand and enhance nonfatal overdose response efforts | In October 2023, Relay, the City's peer-led, hospital based non-fatal overdose response service in NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT), expanded to its 15th hospital at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in Brooklyn. In 2023, Relay was activated 2,954 times. 91.8% of patients in eligible activations (N=2,012) accepted Relay services in the ED and 51.9% of those patients also accepted additional 90-day follow-up services.

Objective 6.3: Optimize and expand overdose prevention services | In 2023, both OnPoint NYC and the Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at NYC DOHMH released reports on first-year operations of the country's first two publicly recognized Overdose Prevention Centers (OPCs). OPCs are a proven public health intervention that aim to improve many facets of individual and community health, increase public safety, and reduce consequences of drug use, including overdose deaths, public drug use, and syringe litter. The reports can be found here: <https://onpointnyc.org/baseline-annual-report-2023/> (OnPoint) and <https://catalyst.nejm.org/doi/abs/10.1056/CAT.23.0341> (NYC DOHMH). Since inception in November 2021, OnPoint NYC's OPCs have served more than 5,000 unique participants, safely supervised more than 135,000 utilizations of OPC services, and successfully intervened in more than 1,500 overdoses.

Objective 6.4: Understand and respond to the risks of an unregulated drug supply | The Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at NYC DOHMH runs a drug-checking initiative at five syringe service programs in NYC with trained technicians. The drug-checking initiative allows program participants to analyze pre-obtained drug samples to determine what they contain. Participants receive results along with individualized counseling to help make more informed choices about their substance use. The City's drug-checking initiative began in November 2021. As of January 31, 2024, 1,719 drug samples from 406 unique participants have been analyzed.

Objective 6.5: Enhance the scope and reach of existing harm reduction, treatment and recovery Services | NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT) works along the substance use continuum of care to promote accessible, evidence-based best practices in care in a variety of systems, including 63 contracted substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. This includes sharing programmatic and public health interventions to improve the health and wellness of people and communities impacted by drugs and alcohol.

Objective 6.6: Optimize the availability, accessibility and acceptability of evidence-based treatment | NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT) operates multiple learning collaboratives on a range of substance use topics for a spectrum of service providers, including youth and adolescent treatment programs, primary care providers, emergency departments, and syringe service programs. This includes creating and disseminating resources to improve the continuum of care for patients receiving and initiating buprenorphine treatment.

Goal 7		
Title	Support children, families and communities affected by the overdose crisis	
Update	We would like to remove Goal 7 as the work described in the Objectives falls outside the scope of our Division and/or within other Goals and Objectives already detailed. We would like to replace Goal 7 with a new Goal and Objectives to reflect activities that began after LSP 2024 submission, as follows: New Goal 7 - Improve access to specialty SMI care and primary care that is race conscious and trauma informed New Objective 7.1 - Add 475 mobile treatment spots New Objective 7.2 - Create a public-facing website to help New Yorkers better search and access child, adult, and family mental health services in the city. New Objective 7.3 - In partnership with OMH and OASAS, mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences by collaborating with trauma survivors and trauma champions to advance collective understanding of trauma, improve practice, and support resilience by increasing the availability of training and technical assistance.	
OBJECTIVES		
Provide support to families who have lost a loved one to overdose.		N/A
Enhance place-based capacity to support and respond to community needs.		N/A
OBJECTIVE UPDATES		
Objective 7.1 (remove): Provide support to families who have lost a loved one to overdose We would like to remove this Objective, as it falls outside the scope of work of NYC DOHMH's Bureau for Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT) and the Division of Mental Hygiene. This remains an important priority for DOHMH and sits in NYC DOHMH's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.		
Objective 7.2 (remove): Enhance place-based capacity to support and respond to community needs We would like to remove this Objective, as centering place-based work is reflected in many of our programs and initiatives at the Bureau for Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control and Treatment (BADUPCT) at NYC DOHMH and is described in other Objectives in detail.		
New Objective 7.1: Add 475 mobile treatment spots The Bureau of Mental Health at NYC DOHMH opened five new Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) teams and five new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams, adding 475 slots total.		
New Objective 7.2: Create a public-facing website to help New Yorkers better search and access child, adult, and family mental health services in the city NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) and the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD), with input from the Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP), are working together to create the website, which is currently being developed and will launch by the end of this year (see more details in Objective 1.6).		
New Objective 7.3: In partnership with OMH and OASAS, mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences by collaborating with trauma survivors and trauma champions to advance collective understanding of trauma, improve practice, and support resilience by increasing the availability of training and technical assistance NYC DOHMH's Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) within the Division of Mental Hygiene is partnering with NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to launch a virtual network to strengthen resources, collaboration, and communication among individuals and agencies implementing equity-focused, trauma-responsive practices through the Trauma-Informed Network and Resource Center (TINRC). In 2024, the TINRC received additional funding for the following, and implementation will begin in the upcoming months: • Promote collaboration and connection through quarterly statewide networking meetings; workgroups: training of trainers, community engagement, conference planning; a monthly newsletter; enhanced TINRC website; and annual in-person conference. • Expand the Trauma Responsive and Resilient Informed Training of Trainers to provide Trauma 101 training to communities and organizations. • Assess organizational readiness to implement Trauma Informed Care/Equity principles by expanding use of the Trauma Responsive Understanding Self-Assessment Tool (TRUST)/ Trauma Responsive Understanding Self-Assessment Tool for Schools (TRUST-S) assessment tool and increase technical assistance to organizations. • Promote trauma and resilience-informed approaches to prevention and wellness through the expansion of the Breath, Body, Mind program and development of the Frontline Worker wellness toolkit. • Begin working with NYC agencies that interface with the public to explore opportunities to provide Trauma-Informed Care trainings		

Goal 8		
Title	Advance systems improvements and equitable access to behavioral health care for NYC residents with public or private insurance	
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 8.	
OBJECTIVES		
Educate a minimum of 400 NYC service providers and insurance beneficiaries per year on behavioral health parity laws, beneficiary rights, and mechanisms for appeals and complaints.	Ongoing	
Continue to implement social media campaigns to raise awareness among NYC residents and service providers regarding behavioral health parity and rights to accessing care.	Ongoing	
Assess feasibility within existing city agency services to 1) identify behavioral health parity violations, 2) direct individuals to resources, and 3) elevate issues to state regulatory authorities.	Ongoing	
Convene commercial insurance plans, MH and SUD providers, provider and insurer membership associations, and accreditation organizations to fill in information gaps on the MH/SUD care landscape and promote the expansion of behavioral health networks and services covered by commercial insurance plans.	N/A	
Educate a minimum of 300 NYC providers and beneficiaries per year on Medicaid managed behavioral healthcare by offering trainings and disseminating information via periodic newsletters.	Ongoing	
Support NYC's behavioral health providers interested in preparing for Value Based Payment (VBP) arrangements by offering trainings on VBP 101, data collection, and networking.	Ongoing	

Increase readiness among NYC behavioral health providers for participation in value based payment arrangements by offering VBP readiness assessments and facilitating connections to payors, hospital systems and primary care partners.	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE UPDATES	
Objective 8.1: Educate a minimum of 400 NYC service providers and insurance beneficiaries per year on behavioral health parity laws, beneficiary rights, and mechanisms for appeals and complaints From January 2023 to April 2024, the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) at NYC DOHMH educated a total of 889 New Yorkers, including 608 providers and 311 beneficiaries, and staff at several city agencies on behavioral health parity. We plan to offer 22 trainings for community-based service providers and 14 trainings for beneficiaries by the end of 2024. Additionally, we are in conversations with several additional city agencies to train staff in upcoming months.	
Objective 8.2: Continue to implement social media campaigns to raise awareness among NYC residents and service providers regarding behavioral health parity and rights to accessing care NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) developed a social media campaign on behavioral health parity in 2023. Since April 2023, we have promoted the social media ads via the agency's Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts during significant periods, such as public health week, mental health awareness month, recovery week and several others, and will continue to promote the ads in coming months.	
Objective 8.3: Assess feasibility within existing city agency services to 1) identify behavioral health parity violations, 2) direct individuals to resources, and 3) elevate issues to state regulatory authorities Since September 2023, NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) has met with several city agencies including the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Department for the Aging (DFTA), New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), the Office of School Health (OSH) within DOHMH, and the Mayor's Office for Community Mental Health (OCMH). We offer behavioral health parity trainings to city staff and contracted providers so they can identify parity issues, direct clients who experience parity issues to resources, and contact the Division of Mental Hygiene if there is a need to elevate an issue to state regulatory authorities. We are working with additional city agencies throughout the year.	
Objective 8.4 (not started yet): Convene commercial insurance plans, MH and SUD providers, provider and insurer membership associations, and accreditation organizations to fill in information gaps on the MH/SUD care landscape and promote the expansion of behavioral health networks and services covered by commercial insurance plans We have not started the work described in this objective yet.	
Objective 8.5: Educate a minimum of 300 NYC providers and beneficiaries per year on Medicaid managed behavioral healthcare by offering trainings and disseminating information via periodic newsletters From January to December 2023, NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) offered two-to-three trainings per month on Medicaid managed behavioral healthcare to 349 individuals. The audience included community-based service providers and consumers, such as primary care providers and care managers. Of the total number educated, 277 attendees were service providers and 72 were consumers. The trainings were put on hold from January to June 2024 due to a temporary lack of staff capacity and will resume in July 2024.	
Objective 8.6: Support NYC's behavioral health providers interested in preparing for Value Based Payment (VBP) arrangements by offering trainings on VBP 101, data collection, and networking The Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) at NYC DOHMH conducted interviews with all former Behavioral Health Care Collaboratives (BHCCs) in NYC in late 2023 to understand the Status-Bureau of value-based payment (VBP) participation among behavioral health providers. Our results indicated that there is significant interest among behavioral health Independent Practice Associations (IPAs) to participate in VBP arrangements. We are currently awaiting the State's implementation of the Health Equity Regional Organization (HERO) to explore mechanisms to support VBP participation among the city's behavioral health providers.	
Objective 8.7: Increase readiness among NYC behavioral health providers for participation in value based payment arrangements by offering VBP readiness assessments and facilitating connections to payors, hospital systems and primary care partners NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) conducted interviews with all former Behavioral Health Care Collaboratives (BHCCs) in NYC in late 2023 to understand the Status-Bureau of value-based payment (VBP) participation among behavioral health providers. Our results indicated that there is significant interest among behavioral health Independent Practice Associations (IPAs) to participate in VBP arrangements. We are currently awaiting the State's implementation of the Health Equity Regional Organization (HERO) to explore mechanisms to support VBP participation among the city's behavioral health providers.	

Goal 9	
Title	Advance anti-racist health and social policies, laws, and practices that support the well-being of New Yorkers disproportionately impacted and criminalized due to structural racism
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 9. We would like to update the language in objective 9.2.
OBJECTIVES	
Build collaboration and policy support for criminal legal system reforms with internal and external partners.	Ongoing
Remove the stigma associated with talking about criminal legal system through messaging and outreach.	Ongoing
Increase awareness of the health disparities among individuals who have been impacted by the criminal legal system.	Ongoing
Increase awareness of the impact of social determinants of health on populations disproportionately impacted and criminalized due to systemic racism.	Ongoing
Elevate surveillance data to inform and advance evidence-based policy development and recommendations.	Ongoing
Enhance reentry services for people impacted by SMI and the criminal legal system.	Ongoing
Address racial inequities in health care services and treatment for New Yorkers of color with SMI.	Ongoing
OBJECTIVE UPDATES	
Objective 9.1: Build collaboration and policy support for criminal legal system reforms with internal and external partners The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at NYC DOHMH works within a Divisional policy group in the Division of Mental Hygiene for legislative and regulatory comments. We are also conducting external outreach with community partners and leaders regarding criminal legal system reform.	
Objective 9.2 (changed): Reduce the stigma associated with talking about criminal legal system through educating the public during outreach and community tabling events Health Engagement and Assessment Teams (HEAT) in NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) are actively	

participating in tabling events regarding mental health awareness, gun violence prevention, and reentry support. HEAT is conducting joint operations throughout NYC and is working with other city agencies, including NYC Police Department and Department of Homeless Services.
Objective 9.3: Increase awareness of the health disparities among individuals who have been impacted by the criminal legal system The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at NYC DOHMH is conducting external outreach with community partners and leaders regarding criminal legal system reform. Health Engagement and Assessment Teams (HEAT) are actively participating in tabling events regarding mental health awareness, gun violence prevention, and reentry support. HEAT is conducting joint operations throughout NYC and is working with other city agencies, including NYC Police Department and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS).
Objective 9.4: Increase awareness of the impact of social determinants of health on populations disproportionately impacted and criminalized due to systemic racism Our epidemiology team in NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) contributed analyses regarding individuals impacted by the criminal legal system to the DOHMH Mental Health Report, which will be published and distributed in May 2024. We also met with Vital Records and established a workflow for vital documents for justice impacted participants. Furthermore, we work to secure non-driver's license identification cards for participants. HPJIP is maintaining close relationships and partnerships with community-based organizations that promote racial equity.
Objective 9.5: Elevate surveillance data to inform and advance evidence-based policy development and recommendations Our epidemiology team in NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) is advocating for inclusion and analysis of questions on criminal legal system involvement on multiple citywide population-based surveys, and currently drafting manuscripts using these data. Our Epidemiology team and Policy team are collaborating on a project using cannabis arrest and summonses data to monitor implementation of cannabis legalization. Our Epidemiology team is also pursuing critical data use agreements with multiple criminal legal system agencies.
Objective 9.6: Enhance reentry services for people impacted by SMI and the criminal legal system The Health Justice Network (HJN) meets quarterly with Point of Reentry and Transition (PORT) and identifies ways to work on the City's Mental Health Plan. The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at NYC DOHMH shares best practices and materials. PORT is supporting our sustainability Request for Proposals submission with Letters of Support and Memorandums of Agreement around substance use.
Objective 9.7: Address racial inequities in health care services and treatment for New Yorkers of color with SMI The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) at NYC DOHMH released racial justice and health equity guidance to all our contracted providers. We will be conducting an evaluation of the impact of this guidance in coming months.

Goal 10	
Title	Support provider organizations in recruitment and retention of the behavioral health workforce
Update	Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 10. We would like to remove Objectives 10.5, 10.6, and 10.9 (see details in Objective updates section). We would also like to move Objective 10.8 to the new Goal 7.
OBJECTIVES	
In collaboration with state partners, explore/develop a mechanism for collecting reliable data on staff attrition in the behavioral health service system.	Complete
Research existing loan forgiveness programs and innovative models for recruitment and retention, including barriers, challenges, and limitations and disseminate among contracted providers.	Complete
Host feedback sessions with different types of providers (i.e., social workers, peer support workers, community health workers, etc.) to assess their experiences in the behavioral health workforce and develop provider-informed strategies for recruitment and retention.	Ongoing
Work with community partners to assess emerging needs of the expanding peer workforce and identify strategies to support successful workforce integration.	Ongoing
Partner with State and community partners to assess the need for long-term technology training and develop a strategy to boost and maintain technology skills among the peer workforces.	N/A
Partner with OMH, OASAS, and NYC community partners to assess the current availability of integrated care training for peer support works and develop a strategy to address unmet need.	N/A
Partner up with criminal justice re-entry programs to increase job development and placement for individuals with criminal justice involvement.	Ongoing
In partnership with OMH and OASAS, mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences by collaborating with trauma survivors and trauma champions to advance collective understanding of trauma, improve practice, and support resilience by increasing the availability of training and technical assistance.	N/A
Identify organizations that work with peer educators in congregate, correctional settings and identify partnership opportunities between organizations and providers to create an employment pipeline from the congregate setting to field placement and employment (e.g. Osborne Association, Bard College Prison Initiative, organizations who work with peer educators and find employment pathways for this pool of potential workers).	N/A
OBJECTIVE UPDATES	
Objective 10.1 (completed): In collaboration with state partners, explore/develop a mechanism for collecting reliable data on staff attrition in the behavioral health service system NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response and Engagement (BCAARE) manages a Community Services Board (CSB) that recommended Objective 10.1 to the agency. BCAARE invited representatives of a data team from NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) to present behavioral health workforce data collected via a survey to the CSB and Division of Mental Hygiene staff. CSB members made several recommendations to the OMH team directly and urged OMH to continue exploring ways to collect better data on staff attrition, including on race/ethnicity demographics.	
Objective 10.2 (completed): Research existing loan forgiveness programs and innovative models for recruitment and retention, including barriers, challenges, and limitations and disseminate among contracted providers In the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) at NYC DOHMH, we compiled a list of loan forgiveness programs applicable to staff of behavioral health provider organizations and shared it with all Division of Mental Hygiene contracted providers.	
Objective 10.3: Host feedback sessions with different types of providers (i.e., social workers, peer support workers, community health workers, etc.) to assess their experiences in the behavioral health workforce and develop provider-informed strategies for recruitment and retention NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) is collaborating with various Bureaus on this Objective. The Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) in the Division of Mental Hygiene runs initiatives on peer work and holds monthly meetings where HPJIP Community Health Workers (CHW) and representatives from the Justice Peer Initiative participate. We are also collaborating with the Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness (CHECW), who have CHW programs that are related to this Objective.	

Objective 10.4: Work with community partners to assess emerging needs of the expanding peer workforce and identify strategies to support successful workforce integration NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) assembled an interagency work group with 15+ City and State agencies to coordinate efforts to address the behavioral health workforce crisis. The work group is focused on strategies to strengthen the non-clinical behavioral health workforce in NYC, specifically, Peer Support Workers (PSWs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs). The workgroup engaged PSWs and CHWs through a listening and feedback tour, and the following recommendations were compiled: •Develop best practices and promote training to strengthen PSW and CHW supervision focused on managing supervisory relationships, professional development, and wellness. •Explore strategies to increase the living wage by developing a committee to recommend a standard pay scale and classifications for PSWs and CHWs. •Develop behavioral health career pathways to meet the demand for mid-level behavioral health paraprofessional positions by offering a clear career ladder for PSWs, CHWs and others. •Advocate for more career and training opportunities to support PSW and CHW skill building. In upcoming months, meetings with potential partners will be scheduled to plan for implementing these actions.
Objective 10.5 (remove): Partner with State and community partners to assess the need for long-term technology training and develop a strategy to boost and maintain technology skills among the peer workforces We would like to remove this Objective, as the Division of Mental Hygiene is currently assessing feasibility and may not have the resource capacity to complete it. If DOHMH has future capacity to implement, it will be consolidated under other objectives listed in the LSP.
Objective 10.6 (remove): Partner with OMH, OASAS, and NYC community partners to assess the current availability of integrated care training for peer support workers and develop a strategy to address unmet need We would like to remove this Objective, as the Division of Mental Hygiene is currently assessing feasibility and may not have the resource capacity to complete it. If DOHMH has future capacity to implement, it will be consolidated under other objectives listed in the LSP.
Objective 10.7: Partner up with criminal justice re-entry programs to increase job development and placement for individuals with criminal justice involvement The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at NYC DOHMH is conducting external outreach with community partners and leaders regarding criminal legal system reform. HPJIP and DOHMH's Bureau for Alcohol, Drug Use, Prevention, Control, and Treatment (BADUPCT) are supporting DOHMH's Bureau of Administration in hiring a Professional Development Manager, who will oversee support for all trainees (interns, apprentices in the Division) and a new public health fellowship for people with lived experience of the criminal legal system to receive public health training. We are also proposing policy in the Divisional legislative agenda to improve access to behavioral health careers for people with lived experience of the criminal legal system.
Objective 10.8 (move to new Goal 7): In partnership with OMH and OASAS, mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences by collaborating with trauma survivors and trauma champions to advance collective understanding of trauma, improve practice, and support resilience by increasing the availability of training and technical assistance Move to new Goal.
Objective 10.9 (remove): Identify organizations that work with peer educators in congregate, correctional settings and identify partnership opportunities between organizations and providers to create an employment pipeline from the congregate setting to field placement and employment (e.g. Osborne Association, Bard College Prison Initiative, organizations who work with peer educators and find employment pathways for this pool of potential workers) We would like to remove this Objective as it overlaps with Objective 10.7



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

2026 Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Angeli Magdaraog, Special Projects Coordinator
(mmagdaraog@health.nyc.gov)

Goal 1

Goal 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1, 2026 Status Update Description: All objectives under Goal 1 are in progress. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: In November 2023, the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) launched NYC Teenspace, a free, digital mental health service for NYC teens aged 13-17. Between the start of the program and the end of 2024, over 20,000 youth enrolled. Participants have access to licensed therapists to message, speak on the phone with, or videochat, and self-guided lessons and exercises to support mental well-being.

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department is partnering with New York City Health + Hospitals (NYC H+H) to implement a new hospital-based suicide prevention program. The Caring Transitions Program (CTP) supports youth who present to a Queens or Bronx H+H hospital (5 total) following a suicide attempt or serious suicide related behavior. Services include follow-up care and transition support; connections to clinical and community support; caregiver support; and bridging clinical services. CTP launched in June 2024 in Queens and launched in the Bronx at Lincoln Hospital on April 1, 2025.

Goal 1 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) is currently planning the following two suicide prevention demonstration projects to address the needs of BIPOC youth.

- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy for Adolescents (DBT-A) - DBT-A has the most empirical support for suicide and self-harm behaviors among youth. While there is preliminary evidence that DBT-A is effective in reducing emotion dysregulation and increasing adaptive coping in a sample of BIPOC youth, more research is required to understand how to address racism and other sociocultural stressors that impact this population. Partners include Montefiore Medical Center and Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology. Adaptive services are expected to start early 2026.
- Family Check-Up for Asian American Families (FCU-AA) - FCU is effective in reducing mental health symptoms in children, including suicide risk. While FCU has been tested on diverse populations, there has never been research into the efficacy of the model for Asian youth and their families. FCU-AA will provide individual psychotherapy for Asian-American adolescents and trainings for caregivers around managing difficult emotions associated with suicide risk. Partners include Teachers College, Columbia, and Hamilton-Madison House. Services are expected to start May 2025.

Goal 1 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department is supporting the expansion of school-based mental health clinics by coordinating and planning with NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and The NYC Health Department's Office of School Health (OSH). This includes consulting with interested providers, reviewing licensing applications, and tracking application data. As of March 2025 in NYC, a total of 38 new clinics were approved to open this school year (2024-2025), and 8 new clinics are in the approval process. Additionally, CYF-DD, in collaboration with NYC Public Schools and NYC Health and Hospitals (NYC H+H), is implementing the Mental Health Continuum Initiative to increase access to mental health services and decrease use of 911 in 50 high needs schools. Through this initiative, The NYC Health Department continues to increase awareness and use of Children Mobile Crisis Teams (CMCTs) among schools. To support this effort, we developed a tip sheet providing guidance for schools on accessing 988 and Children's Mobile Crisis Teams and administered it to all school principals. We also consulted NYC H+H in the licensing application process, resulting in 16 new licensed school-based mental health satellite clinics in 16 of the 50 high needs schools.

Goal 1 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at The NYC Health Department is implementing Centering Children and Families in NYC's System of Care with the support of a SAMHSA System of Care Expansion Grant. CYF-DD developed and is currently implementing a

Community-Based Participatory Action Research approach to support our efforts to partner with youth, families and other stakeholders to identify and implement needed improvements to the children's mental health care system in NYC. To date we have conducted multiple community forums and received feedback from youth, family members and providers. Community feedback has been shared with all stakeholders through a series of data parties as a way to implement a participatory approach to interpreting community feedback and identifying priorities. In Spring 2025 several Community Action Groups will be established to co-design solutions to address priority areas. Additionally, in October 2024, the Health Department launched its first ever Youth Committee on Mental Health in order to have youth voice guide the programs, policies and strategies of the bureau. A diverse group of young people ages 16-24 and represent all 5 boroughs were selected and meet monthly with bureau staff.

Goal 1 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) and NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), in collaboration with the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH), secured resources to design a new mental health resource website to support New Yorkers, including young people and their family members, in identifying and accessing mental health supports/services based on mental health needs. Website continues to be developed and we anticipate website launched by the end of 2025 (see Objective 7.2 for further details).

Goal 2

Goal 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2, 2026 Status Update Description: All objectives under Goal 2 are in progress. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: In the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department, the NYC Early Childhood Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) provides specialized training and technical assistance for the many types of professionals who work with young children, expanding New York's capacity to promote positive mental health in early years. TTAC equips professionals in licensed mental health clinics, early care and education settings, and practitioners in other children-serving systems with the knowledge and tools they need to support the healthy social-emotional development of New York's youngest children. Between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, TTAC trained 2,013 individuals in perinatal and early childhood mental health topics across 73 trainings.

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department launched a new Perinatal Mental Health Initiative, which expands access to perinatal mental health care within the Early Childhood Mental Health Network clinics. The clinics have been serving children from birth to five and families since 2016 and have now increased their capacity to serve pregnant and postpartum individuals and their partners across the five boroughs. As part of this initiative, the ECMH TTAC provides trainings on equity-focused, culturally appropriate perinatal mental health topics to home visitors, doulas, social workers, and community health workers in the Health Department programs serving pregnant people and families, including the New Family Home Visiting Initiative, Nurse-Family Partnership, Citywide Doula Initiative, and Family Wellness Suites. This initiative is a partnership between the Divisions of Mental Hygiene, Family and Child Health, and Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness (CHECW).

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department partners in various ways with other child serving systems to support cross-collaboration and improve youth mental health and well-being. One example of continued partnership is the NYC Health Department's Children's Single Point of Access (CSPOA) participation in NYC's Administration for Children Services' (ACS) Complex Needs Committee during which foster care agencies identifies youth in need of services that have been difficult to refer and/or place. Multiple cross system agency representatives attend this meeting and youth are often times referred to CSPOA to be assessed for higher level of care residential care.

Goal 2 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: BCAARE/OCET's BRY CBOs and MHPs continue to develop, employ, and connect youth to services premised on the program's task-sharing framework. Since the program's launch, 205 CBO staff have participated in the BRY program. The program has engaged over 5,371 youth, of whom 2,125 were screened by participating CBO staff; among those screened, 341 accepted referrals for mental health services. To support implementation, more than 80 technical assistance and training meetings have been held for CBO staff to strengthen implementation and quality improvement efforts. Additionally, 7 learning collaborative meetings have been convened, with an average staff satisfaction rating of 4.0 on a 5-point Likert scale.

Goal 2 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: BCAARE/OCET's BRY program continues and has met with early success, measured in staff satisfaction and successful enrollment of youth who are connected to mental health and related services and supports. Since program launch, the BCAARE/OCET team has conducted over 48 consultation meetings for

MHPs to strengthen implementation and quality improvement efforts. In turn, MHPs have provided regular coaching sessions to their respective CBO staff.

Goal 2 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at the NYC Health Department funds five community coalitions citywide to change norms, practices and/or physical environments to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors impacting LGBTQ+ youth substance use. In 2024, these coalitions provided 383 direct services to 264 LGBTQ+ youth and reached more than 2,800 community members through various community activities.

Goal 2 Objective 7, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 7, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment (BADUPCT) has entered into a MOA with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to reimburse three substance use disorder (SUD) programs in contract with the NYC Health Department to provide SUD Services, including medications, to youth while they are in ACS-managed detention.

Goal 3

Goal 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3, 2026 Status Update Description: Objectives for Goal 3 are either in progress or completed. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: No changes: the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) continues to work closely with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to review and recommend related Certificate of Need applications to create housing for the I/DD population. This work is ongoing.

Goal 3 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) opened 430 units of permanent supportive housing for people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or substance use disorder (SUD) since the start of FY25, totaling 12,508 units open and available as of April 2025. We meet regularly with the Department of Social Services (DSS), Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and Human Resources Administration (HRA) to discuss the ongoing NY15/15 initiative (the City's goal of developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years).

Goal 3 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Complete

Goal 3 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024

Goal 3 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department continues to work closely with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to review and recommend related Certificate of Need applications to create housing for this need. This work continues.

Goal 4

Goal 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4, 2026 Status Update Description: Adding a new Objective (4.7) for this goal, which will be submitted through the appropriate platform. Please see Objective updates for further details on progress towards Goal 4.

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: As of April 2025, 12 of 13 clubhouses have opened. The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department has developed a data system and metrics for monitoring of contracted clubhouses.

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) is continuing its work with the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) , NYS Education Department-Adult Career and Continuing education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and other community partners to engage the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) to address this objective in the future.

Goal 4 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department manages a small portfolio of contracts that provide vocational support to individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities in the five boroughs. We work in close collaboration with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), NYS Education Department-Adult Career and Continuing

education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and other community partners including the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD).

Goal 4 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: HPJIP has secured one year grant funding for four CHW Navigator Supervisors who will be overseeing 4 staff who work in courts in Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. HPJIP has also secured OMH funding to hire 12 Court Navigators who will be working at courts in all New York City boroughs. All Navigator staff will preferably have lived experience of the criminal legal system or navigating mental health or substance use services.

Goal 4 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: In the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT), the Peer Corps program trains early-career Peers with lived experience with substance use and places them to work in shelters, syringe support programs and supportive housing. Peers provide harm reduction and overdose education, naloxone, and service connections. The 2023-24 cohort served more than 4,300 individuals, and peers distributed more than 1,200 Narcan kits, facilitated more than 1,000 naloxone and Fentanyl test trainings, made more than 2,800 referrals to supportive services and 600 linkages to care, including recovery and treatment services, harm reduction services, support groups, and mental health services.

Goal 4 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at the NYC Health Department is looking for additional funding for the NYC Health Justice Network program. We are exploring collaboration with courts and other City partners for this ongoing work.

HPJIP has secured funding from OMH to hire court navigators.

Goal 4 Objective 7, 2026 Status Update (Added 2026): Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 7, 2026 Status Update Description: In 2024, CRT had 559 referrals assigned. CRT contacted 430 clients. (Of note, at the time CRT was operating 2 tours, 7 days.)

Goal 5

Goal 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5, 2026 Status Update Description: All objectives under Goal 5 are in progress. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) is working with City partners to ensure interoperability between 988 and 911 so that New Yorkers experiencing a mental health crisis can be transferred from 911 to 988 and are ultimately met with health-led response.

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The East Harlem Support and Connection Center continues to offer person centered engagement, stabilization and connection to services. The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department is currently collecting monthly data from the East Harlem SCC to support evaluation and program monitoring.

Goal 5 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: As of April 2025, BCAARE/OCET reached over 3,500 participants for the PMH-AANHPI Learning Workshop. BCAARE continues to expand its community-informed and culturally and linguistically tailored mental health awareness learning opportunities. The PMH-AANHPI workshop is currently available in 8 languages.

BCAARE/OCET conducted a survey of participants in PMH-AANHPI workshops in the prior one to twelve months. The June-August 2024 survey revealed that respondents reported using the information to help someone with mental health concerns or conditions at least once a month; that the workshops influenced how they handle daily challenges; and that they would recommend BCAARE/OCET mental health workshops to other New Yorkers, to help improve their mental health awareness and coping skills. (Respondents participated in PMH-AANHPI programming one to twelve months prior to the survey)

Goal 5 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: Through its Behavioral Health Office for Emergency Preparedness and Response (BH-OEPR), BCAARE continues its mental health preparedness reach of New Yorkers:

- BCAARE/BH-OEPR co-piloted the Subway Homeless Outreach program through outreach, engagement, connection to services, and coordination of a learning collaborative for inter-governmental staff through May 2024. The program since has been transitioned under the auspices of Department of Homeless Services.

- BCAARE/BH-OEPR sponsors asylum seeker emotional support services, including connections and linkages to ongoing

mental health care and services. BCAARE staff provide "Stress Management and Self-Care" workshops to responder staff located at the Red Cross and other asylum seeker support locations.

- BCAARE/BH-OEPR offers mental health supportive trainings to staff working with asylees to improve coping and wellness and reduce risk of burnout, including, "Stress Management and Self-Care" workshops to responder staff located at the Red Cross and other asylum seeker support locations.

- BCAARE/BH-OEPR offers a range of mental health workshops to NYC Health Department colleagues, partner agencies, and contracted providers with an aim to improve coping and wellness and reduce risk of burnout.

Goal 6

Goal 6, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6, 2026 Status Update Description: All objectives under Goal 6 are in progress. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Goal 6 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: In 2024, the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at the NYC Health Department distributed more than 300,000 naloxone kits to hundreds of Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs citywide, where they were provided for free to community members. In addition, since June 2023, we launched NYC's first four Public Health Vending Machines (PHVMs) in Brooklyn and Queens to support 24/7 low-barrier, no-cost, and anonymous access to naloxone and a range of additional health and wellness supplies. In 2024, the PHVMs were utilized more than 26,600 times and dispensed 2,784 naloxone kits.

Goal 6 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: Relay, the City's peer-led, hospital based non-fatal overdose response service in the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT), is currently in the process of planning its expansion to a total of 17 hospitals by the end of 2025. In 2024, Relay was activated 2,545 times. 94.0% of patients in eligible activations (N=1,764) accepted Relay services and 50.3% of those patients also accepted additional 90-day follow-up services.

Goal 6 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: Since inception in November 2021, OnPoint NYC's OPCs have served more than 5,800 unique participants, safely supervised more than 171,000 utilizations of OPC services, and successfully intervened in more than 1,600 overdoses.

Goal 6 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at the NYC Health Department runs a drug-checking initiative at five syringe service programs in NYC with trained technicians. The drug-checking initiative allows program participants to analyze pre-obtained drug samples to determine what they contain. Participants receive results along with individualized counseling to help make more informed choices about their substance use. The City's drug-checking initiative began in November 2021. In 2024, the drug-checking program received 973 samples from 130 unique participants.

Goal 6 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) works along the substance use continuum of care to promote accessible, evidence-based best practices in care in a variety of systems, including 56 contracted substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. This includes sharing programmatic and public health interventions to improve the health and wellness of people and communities impacted by drugs and alcohol.

Goal 6 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) operates multiple learning collaboratives on a range of substance use topics for a spectrum of service providers, including adolescent treatment programs, peer implementation, primary care providers, emergency departments, and syringe service programs. This includes creating and disseminating resources to improve the continuum of care for patients receiving and initiating buprenorphine treatment.

Goal 7

Goal 7, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7, 2026 Status Update Description: Objectives under Goal 7 are either in progress or completed. Please refer to the updates under each Objective for more information. Please also remove Objective 7.4.as it is a duplicate of Objective 7.3.

Goal 7 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Complete

Goal 7 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024

Goal 7 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The website (Mental Health Connect) is expected to begin populating provider information over the summer and be available to the public in the fall of 2025.

Goal 7 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: BCAARE/OCA continues partnership with OMH and OASAS to explore, implement, and evaluate efforts to achieve goals and objectives set forth by the virtual network. Together, this collaborative has set forth a number of related efforts. For example, Storytellers in Residence program was launched in 2024 to uplift stories and storytelling from individuals with lived experience. Three Storytellers in Residence were hired and on-boarded in Fall 2024 to leverage their lived experience to support the TINRC's community engagement efforts and deliverables.

NYS TINRC on Tour hosted 5 events across New York State that brought communities together to talk about trauma-informed equity-focused and wellness practices, learn what organizations and communities are doing, network, and build collective vision.

The TINRC on Tour events were small-group immersive, reflection-based discussions, and exercises accommodating up to 30-40 people with aims to:

- Bring communities together to talk about trauma-informed, equity focused and wellness practices.
- Learn what local organizations and people are doing to support community wellness and trauma-responsive practices and identify ways to elevate their work through TINRC.
- Invite people to help build the TINRC network by getting connected and participating in initiatives.
- Collectively vision what a more trauma-responsive New York looks like.

21 participants attended the first ever TINRC On Tour held in New York City this August.

Trauma Responsive and Resilient Informed Training of Trainers (Tending the Roots)

- The TINRC team reached more people New York City in 2024: hosting both a Tending the Roots and TTR Instructor's Edition in NYC.

Goal 7 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: N/A

Goal 7 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: Kindly remove as this is a duplicate of Objective 7.3.

Goal 8

Goal 8, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8, 2026 Status Update Description: Goal 8 is currently ongoing. Please add a new Objective 8.8. under this Goal, which was submitted through the appropriate form.

Goal 8 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: From January 2024 to April 2025, 812 service providers and 365 insurance beneficiaries attended the Division of Mental Hygiene's 21 Behavioral Health (BH) Parity 101 trainings and 36 provider trainings. These trainings are widely publicized on our website, and via our contracted provider and consumer listservs and a number of NYS advocacy organizations including InUnity, GNYHA, the Alliance, CHCANYS, etc. Attendees included behavioral health service providers, hospital staff, primary care providers, city agency staff as well as beneficiaries and families. We've also had a number of State OMH staff and upstate county providers join as well.

Pre and post tests indicated significant knowledge increases among all audiences on why BH parity matters, how to identify parity violations, awareness of resources and mechanisms for filing appeals and complaints.

Goal 8 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: The Division of Mental Hygiene continues its behavioral health parity social media campaign on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We developed and launched this initiative in 2023, and our social media posts are especially promoted and highlighted during significant months for behavioral health such as mental health awareness month, recovery month, minority health month etc. The social media campaign has also helped increase the number of registrants for our BH parity trainings described in objective 8.1, and several individuals have accessed the NYS Ombudsman program (CHAMP) for help on insurance issues after getting it's contact information from our agency's BH parity webpage which is linked on our social media posts.

Goal 8 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: From January to December 2024, the Division of Mental Hygiene was able to train the full staff of the Mayor's Office for Community Mental Health and the Office of School Health at the NYC Health Department on BH parity and started partnering with these teams to have them connect community members who contacts them about parity issues to the Div. Mental Hygiene's Parity Team or directly to the NYS Ombudsman program (CHAMP). Additionally, several units within the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) were trained in BH parity and several of their contracted providers have joined our trainings as well. In 2025, we will continue to discuss training NYC 988 Call Center staff as well as NYCHA and Department of Social Services (DSS) staff.

Goal 8 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: The Division of Mental Hygiene decided to start the work described in this objective by convening NYC agencies that serve individuals with commercial insurance before convening other stakeholders. We've developed a contacts list of relevant city agencies and will be scheduling individual meetings before convening a cross-agency meeting. The goals of the cross-agency meeting will be to 1) develop a shared understanding of privately insured populations served by each invited agency and barriers experienced by their respective clients in accessing behavioral health services, 2) foster interagency and external communication to amplify existing and upcoming efforts, and 3) identify service/support gaps and potential strategies for improving access to care. Once our cross-agency work starts, we will consider the feasibility of convening the other stakeholders mentioned in this objective.

Goal 8 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: Our Medicaid managed behavioral healthcare trainings were temporarily put on hold in 2024 because the lead staff person was on leave, but we've resumed this work since March 2025. Before resuming trainings for the public, we are updating the training slides with user friendly and easy to comprehend information about Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) services now available in NYS via the newly established Social Care Networks (SCN) developed through the recent 1115 waiver amendment. Once this step is completed, trainings will be promoted via our consumer and contracted provider listservs, our website and various advocacy groups to consumers, families, BH and primary care providers, care managers, hospital and GQHC staff and others who are interested.

Goal 8 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update Description: Our VBP trainings were temporarily put on hold in 2024 due to the ambiguity around VBP for behavioral health providers in New York's recent 1115 waiver amendment. However, the Division of Mental Hygiene convened six of the seven NYC based former Behavioral Health Care Collaboratives (now Independent Practice Associations (IPAs)) twice in 2024 to discuss the future of VBP for NYC BH providers. We also actively tracked all NYS and federal VBP related developments including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) approval of the All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model for New York and several other states. We are currently awaiting further guidance from NYS on the AHEAD model but have started updating our trainings to include relevant aspects of this model for BH providers.

Goal 8 Objective 7, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 7, 2026 Status Update Description: Our VBP work was temporarily put on hold in 2024 due to the ambiguity around VBP for behavioral health providers in New York's recent 1115 waiver amendment. However, the Division of Mental Hygiene convened six of the seven NYC based former Behavioral Health Care Collaboratives (now Independent Practice Associations (IPAs)) twice in 2024 to discuss the future of VBP for NYC BH providers. We also actively tracked all NYS and federal VBP related developments including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) approval of the All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model for New York and several States. We are currently awaiting further guidance from NYS on the AHEAD model and plan on reconvening the NYC IPAs in the near future to discuss potential next steps and to play a role in supporting NYC BH providers and IPAs interested in participating in the AHEAD model.

Goal 8 Objective 8, 2026 Status Update (Added 2026): Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 8, 2026 Status Update Description: Since New York State applied for the 1115 waiver amendment for the provision of HRSN services, the Division of Mental Hygiene has been partnering with our agency's Chief Medical Officer's Team and another Division in preparing for roles that the NYC Health Department could play in supporting NYC's three SCNs and downstate work managed by the HERO. Since the waiver amendment was approved by CMS in 2024, we have been meeting regularly with each NYC SCN and preparing internally to support data analytics, VBP and evaluation work that the United Hospital fund would undertake as the Statewide HERO. We will report out more specific details on this work in next year's update.

Goal 9

Goal 9, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9, 2026 Status Update Description: Please remove Objective 9.2. Kindly refer to Objective updates for the status of other Objectives.

Goal 9 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at NYC Health Department works within a Divisional policy group in the Division of Mental Hygiene for legislative and regulatory comments. We are also conducting external outreach with community partners and leaders regarding criminal legal system reform.

HPJIP delivers presentations on the health impacts of criminal legal system involvement and laws, policies and practices and the effects of racism and over-criminalization on the social determinants of health. In 2024, HPJIP presented on Drug Policy and Racial Equity in NY to R2J BMH Bureau Action Team; HPJIP's Surveillance of Cannabis Policies and Enforcement Pre and Post Adult Use Legalization to the department-wide Cannabis Work Group; and Mental Health Care and the Criminal Legal System in NYC: A Research and Policy Review Presentation to HPJIP All Staff by Epi and Policy Units.

Goal 9 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: N/A

Goal 9 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: Remove Objective. HEAT, the team in charge, transitioned out of HPJIP in 2024

Goal 9 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at the NYC Health Department is conducting external outreach with community partners and leaders regarding criminal legal system reform.

HPJIP has developed presentations and hosted an event to educate Health Department staff on the historic and present-day structural racism present in the criminal legal system as well as the experiences of those incarcerated.

Goal 9 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: Our epidemiology team in the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) contributed analyses regarding individuals impacted by the criminal legal system to the NYC Health Department Mental Health Report, which was published and distributed in May 2024. We also met with Vital Records and established a workflow for vital documents for justice impacted participants. Furthermore, we work to secure non-driver's license identification cards for participants. HPJIP is maintaining close relationships and partnerships with community-based organizations that promote racial equity.

Goal 9 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: Our epidemiology team in the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) is advocating for inclusion and analysis of questions on criminal legal system involvement on multiple citywide population-based surveys, and currently drafting manuscripts using these data, including an Epi Data Brief with expected publication in May 2025. Our Epidemiology team and Policy team are collaborating on a project using cannabis arrest and summonses data to monitor implementation of cannabis legalization. Our Epidemiology team is also developing dashboards to monitor NYPD arrests and summonses and is pursuing critical data use agreements with multiple criminal legal system agencies.

Goal 9 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 6, 2026 Status Update Description: The Health Justice Network (HJN) meets quarterly with Point of Reentry and Transition (PORT) and identifies ways to work on the City's Mental Health Plan. The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at the NYC Health Department shares best practices and materials. PORT is supporting our sustainability Request for Proposals submission with Letters of Support and Memorandums of Agreement around substance use.

HPJIP has secured funding from OMH to hire court navigators.

Goal 9 Objective 7, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 7, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) at the NYC Health Department conducted a baseline survey early last year and recently completed the second phase, with the goal of assessing the progress organizations and programs have been able to make over the last year in implementing equity policies and practices in workplace, service delivery, and improving participant outcomes outlined in the Guidance document.

We are now in the process of following up with the organizations and programs that haven't yet responded to the second phase. We will give them an extension to respond. Once that extension deadline passes, we'll compile and analyze the findings.

Goal 10

Goal 10, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 10, 2026 Status Update Description: Several objectives have been completed. Please refer to Objective updates for further details.

Goal 10 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update: Complete

Goal 10 Objective 1, 2026 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024

Goal 10 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update: Complete

Goal 10 Objective 2, 2026 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024

Goal 10 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 10 Objective 3, 2026 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) is collaborating with the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) and the NYC Justice Peer Initiative to develop joint efforts that focus on peer support workers and Community Health Workers (CHW). Exploratory meetings for these workforce initiatives were held in 2024.

Goal 10 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 10 Objective 4, 2026 Status Update Description: BCAARE/OCA in collaboration with work group partners gathered feedback through a "Listening & Feedback Tour", inviting key stakeholders to comment on the workgroup's charge and directionality. As a result, four needs/problem areas were identified and task and finish workgroups led by Peer Support and Community Health workers were established: Career advancement; Supervision; Mentorship; and Increasing roles for individuals with lived experience in city contracts. Workgroup participants, including BCAARE/OCA, committed to and are ongoingly lending talents to address identified focal areas.

Recommended Action Plan for PSW, CHW career advancement:

1. Collaborate with the NYS credentialing body to develop a dual credential for a streamline career ladder for PSWs

Workgroup proposed activities:

1. Build a year-long comprehensive training program and industrywide credential for PSWs and CHWs that will create alternative career opportunities for them to advance into mid-level BH paraprofessional roles in the behavioral health workforce.
2. Develop Behavioral Health apprenticeships for PSWs & CHWs
3. Embed comprehensive mental health education and evidence-based interventions into CUNY curricula citywide
4. Facilitate conversations with City and State government stakeholders responsible for workforce development, training, and the credentialing of PSWs to:
 - A. Develop a dual credential that serves as a career ladder for PSWs to transition into other PS roles
 - B. Pilot with YPAs (Youth Peer Advocates) transitioning into the FPA (Family Peer Advocate) role

Recommended Action Plan for PSW, CHW Supervision:

1. Adapt and pilot the Academy for Community Behavioral Health's Trauma Informed Supervisory Practice training for individuals that supervise PSWs and CHWs.

Workgroup proposed activities:

1. Begin reviewing the Academy's Trauma Informed Supervisory Practice training for the supervisors of PSWs and CHWs.
2. Plan and launch the pilot.

Recommended Action Plan for PSW mentoring:

1. Support the expansion of an existing statewide peer mentorship program for PSWs across NY. Status: Completed. 8 mentors completed the first cohort. The Mayor's Office for Community Mental Health is seeking additional funding for a second cohort and will be identifying a new vendor based on participant feedback.

Workgroup proposed activities:

1. Currently, there is collaboration being formed to expand an existing statewide PSW mentorship program.

Recommended Action Plan for increasing roles for individuals with lived experience in city contracts:

1. Advocate to ensure city funded contracts promote the inclusion of lived experience in organizations that employ PSWs

Workgroup proposed activities:

1. Identify strategies to Promote organizational culture changes in city contracted provider organizations to include best practices for: (1) Hiring, (2) Disclosure, (3) Accommodations that promote inclusion of people with lived experience in the workplace.
2. Recommend language for city contracts that hire PSWs to prioritize hiring supervisors with lived experience and experience working as a PSW.

Goal 10 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update: **Complete**

Goal 10 Objective 5, 2026 Status Update Description: **Completed in 2024**

LSP 2026 Updates			
Goal	Objective	2026 Status	2026 Update
		<i>Not yet started, Ongoing, Completed, N/A</i>	<i>Please write an update for each objective and goal for your Bureau. Be as detailed as possible (include numbers, statistics, etc.).</i>
Goal 1: Provide children and youth with mental health care and developmental disabilities services that is timely, culturally responsive, accessible, and affordable	Objective 1.1: Leverage and increase accessibility of telehealth as part of a continuum of care	In progress	In November 2023, the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) launched NYC Teenspace, a free, digital mental health service for NYC teens aged 13-17. Between the start of the program and the end of 2024, over 20,000 youth enrolled. Participants have access to licensed therapists to message, speak on the phone with, or videochat, and self-guided lessons and exercises to support mental well-being.
	Objective 1.2: Support youth facing a mental health crisis	In progress	The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department is partnering with New York City Health + Hospitals (NYC H+H) to implement a new hospital-based suicide prevention program. The Caring Transitions Program (CTP) supports youth who present to a Queens or Bronx H+H hospital (5 total) following a suicide attempt or serious suicide related behavior. Services include follow-up care and transition support; connections to clinical and community support; caregiver support; and bridging clinical services. CTP launched in June 2024 in Queens and launched in the Bronx at Lincoln Hospital on April 1, 2025.
	Objective 1.3: Increase appropriate care for children and youth impacted by inequities leading to disparate mental health outcomes.	In progress	The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) is currently planning the following two suicide prevention demonstration projects to address the needs of BIPOC youth. • Dialectical Behavioral Therapy for Adolescents (DBT-A) - DBT-A has the most empirical support for suicide and self-harm behaviors among youth. While there is preliminary evidence that DBT-A is effective in reducing emotion dysregulation and increasing adaptive coping in a sample of BIPOC youth, more research is required to understand how to address racism and other sociocultural stressors that impact this population. Partners include Montefiore Medical Center and Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology. Adaptive services are expected to start early 2026. • Family Check-Up for Asian American Families (FCU-AA) - FCU is effective in reducing mental health symptoms in children, including suicide risk. While FCU has been tested on diverse populations, there has never been research into the efficacy of the model for Asian youth and their families. FCU-AA will provide individual psychotherapy for Asian-American adolescents and trainings for caregivers around managing difficult emotions associated with suicide risk. Partners include Teachers College, Columbia, and Hamilton-Madison House. Services are expected to start May 2025.

	Objective 1.4: Build out school capacity to provide and connect children and youth to care.	In progress	The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department is supporting the expansion of school-based mental health clinics by coordinating and planning with NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and The NYC Health Department's Office of School Health (OSH). This includes consulting with interested providers, reviewing licensing applications, and tracking application data. As of March 2025 in NYC, a total of 38 new clinics were approved to open this school year (2024-2025), and 8 new clinics are in the approval process. Additionally, CYF-DD, in collaboration with NYC Public Schools and NYC Health and Hospitals (NYC H+H), is implementing the Mental Health Continuum Initiative to increase access to mental health services and decrease use of 911 in 50 high needs schools. Through this initiative, The NYC Health Department continues to increase awareness and use of Children Mobile Crisis Teams (CMCTs) among schools. To support this effort, we developed a tip sheet providing guidance for schools on accessing 988 and Children's Mobile Crisis Teams and administered it to all school principals. We also consulted NYC H+H in the licensing application process, resulting in 16 new licensed school-based mental health satellite clinics in 16 of the 50 high needs schools.
	Objective 1.5: Guide mental health system improvements informed by the experiences of youth and families.	In progress	The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at The NYC Health Department is implementing Centering Children and Families in NYC's System of Care with the support of a SAMHSA System of Care Expansion Grant. CYF-DD developed and is currently implementing a Community-Based Participatory Action Research approach to support our efforts to partner with youth, families and other stakeholders to identify and implement needed improvements to the children's mental health care system in NYC. To date we have conducted multiple community forums and received feedback from youth, family members and providers. Community feedback has been shared with all stakeholders through a series of data parties as a way to implement a participatory approach to interpreting community feedback and identifying priorities. In Spring 2025 several Community Action Groups will be established to co-design solutions to address priority areas. Additionally, in October 2024, the Health Department launched its first ever Youth Committee on Mental Health in order to have youth voice guide the programs, policies and strategies of the bureau. A diverse group of young people ages 16-24 and represent all 5 boroughs were selected and meet monthly with bureau staff.
	Objective 1.6: Ensure online mental health service directories and other navigational resources are more youth-friendly and increase use of such resources by youth, their families and child/youth-serving providers.	In progress	The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) and NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), in collaboration with the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH), secured resources to design a new mental health resource website to support New Yorkers, including young people and their family members, in identifying and accessing mental health supports/services based on mental health needs. Website continues to be developed and we anticipate website launched by the end of 2025 (see Objective 7.2 for further details).
Goal 2: Improve access to prevention interventions for children and youth exposed to risk factors	Objective 2.1: Provide early identification, intervention, and prevention services within systems that serve and support children and youth.	In progress	In the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department, the NYC Early Childhood Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) provides specialized training and technical assistance for the many types of professionals who work with young children, expanding New York's capacity to promote positive mental health in early years. TTAC equips professionals in licensed mental health clinics, early care and education settings, and practitioners in other children-serving systems with the knowledge and tools they need to support the healthy social-emotional development of New York's youngest children. Between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, TTAC trained 2,013 individuals in perinatal and early childhood mental health topics across 73 trainings.

	Objective 2.2: Expand supports focused on maternal mental health.	In progress	The NYC Health Department launched a new Perinatal Mental Health Initiative, which expands access to perinatal mental health care within the Early Childhood Mental Health Network clinics. The clinics have been serving children from birth to five and families since 2016 and have now increased their capacity to serve pregnant and postpartum individuals and their partners across the five boroughs. As part of this initiative, the ECMH TTAC provides trainings on equity-focused, culturally appropriate perinatal mental health topics to home visitors, doulas, social workers, and community health workers in the Health Department programs serving pregnant people and families, including the New Family Home Visiting Initiative, Nurse-Family Partnership, Citywide Doula Initiative, and Family Wellness Suites. This initiative is a partnership between the Divisions of Mental Hygiene, Family and Child Health, and Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness (CHECW).
	Objective 2.3: Create a child and youth mental health “safety net”.	In progress	The NYC Health Department partners in various ways with other child serving systems to support cross-collaboration and improve youth mental health and well-being. One example of continued partnership is the NYC Health Department's Children's Single Point of Access (CSPOA) participation in NYC's Administration for Children Services' (ACS) Complex Needs Committee during which foster care agencies identify youth in need of services that have been difficult to refer and/or place. Multiple cross system agency representatives attend this meeting and youth are often times referred to CSPOA to be assessed for higher level of care residential care.
	Objective 2.4: Expand mental health knowledge, skills, and strategies among Youth-serving Community Based Organization (CBO) staff that will enhance their capacity to identify and address mental health needs among community youth and their families.	In progress	BCAARE/OCET's BRY CBOs and MHPs continue to develop, employ, and connect youth to services premised on the program's task-sharing framework. Since the program's launch, 205 CBO staff have participated in the BRY program. The program has engaged over 5,371 youth, of whom 2,125 were screened by participating CBO staff; among those screened, 341 accepted referrals for mental health services. To support implementation, more than 80 technical assistance and training meetings have been held for CBO staff to strengthen implementation and quality improvement efforts. Additionally, 7 learning collaborative meetings have been convened, with an average staff satisfaction rating of 4.0 on a 5-point Likert scale.
	Objective 2.5: Develop a strong partnership with a mental health clinic partner (MHP) that will facilitate referrals for youth when appropriate. Joint trainings and strategies such as warm handoffs, regular consultation and coaching with CBO staff will support service coordination. Further CBO staff will apply acquired skills such as mental health awareness, screening and “light touch” counseling to expand possible intervention options.	In progress	BCAARE/OCET's BRY program continues and has met with early success, measured in staff satisfaction and successful enrollment of youth who are connected to mental health and related services and supports. Since program launch, the BCAARE/OCET team has conducted over 48 consultation meetings for MHPs to strengthen implementation and quality improvement efforts. In turn, MHPs have provided regular coaching sessions to their respective CBO staff.
	Objective 2.6: Support development of protective factors for youth at risk of problem substance use by funding community coalitions.	In progress	The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at the NYC Health Department funds five community coalitions citywide to change norms, practices and/or physical environments to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors impacting LGBTQ+ youth substance use. In 2024, these coalitions provided 383 direct services to 264 LGBTQ+ youth and reached more than 2,800 community members through various community activities.

	Objective 2.7: Intensify support and provide early intervention for youth and families affected by problem substance use.	In progress	The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment (BADUPCT) has entered into a MOA with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to reimburse three substance use disorder (SUD) programs in contract with the NYC Health Department to provide SUD Services, including medications, to youth while they are in ACS-managed detention.
Goal 3: Improve quality of life by increasing investments in stable housing	Objective 3.1: Make safe and stable housing more available, affordable and accessible to help improve the quality of life of New Yorkers with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).	In progress	No changes: the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) continues to work closely with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to review and recommend related Certificate of Need applications to create housing for the I/DD population. This work is ongoing .
	Objective 3.2: Open 8,000 units of permanent supportive housing for people with SMI (note: the City set a goal of developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years and reached 7,000 to date), and preserve existing supportive housing units for people with SMI while accounting for increasing costs.	In progress	The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) opened 430 units of permanent supportive housing for people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) since the start of FY25, totaling 12,508 units open and available as of April 2025. We meet regularly with the Department of Social Services (DSS), Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and Human Resources Administration (HRA) to discuss the ongoing NY15/15 initiative (the City's goal of developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years).
	Objective 3.3: Streamline processes through policy changes and reform them across agencies to reduce the time and paperwork to apply for and access permanent supportive housing, as part of implementing Housing Our Neighbors: A Blueprint for Housing and Homelessness.	Completed	Completed in 2024

	Objective 3.4: Increase access to stable housing for people with development disabilities by increasing residential options for people who have aged out of state placements; Increase access to new and existing community-based housing units for people with developmental disabilities, including those who need 24-hour nursing services and those living at home with aging caregivers.	In progress	The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department continues to work closely with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to review and recommend related Certificate of Need applications to create housing for this need. This work continues.
Goal 4: Expand City infrastructure for rehabilitative supports, social services, education, and employment for people with SMI, intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and/or impacted by the criminal justice system	Objective 4.1: Ensure that people with SMI are part of the wider community and supported with education, employment and relationship-building opportunities.	In progress	As of April 2025, 12 of 13 clubhouses have opened. The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department has developed a data system and metrics for monitoring of contracted clubhouses.
	Objective 4.2: Increase and vary employment and internship opportunities to increase the number of people with developmental disabilities who are employed so that employment is person-centered and customized. Efforts may include promotional events such as career fairs and collaborative efforts with OPWDD DDROs, local Chambers of Commerce and other local partners, including not-for-profit entities.	In progress	The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) is continuing its work with the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) , NYS Education Department-Adult Career and Continuing education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and other community partners to engage the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) to address this objective in the future.

Objective 4.3: Through local contracting with vocational support service providers in all 5 boroughs, increase the number of individuals with I/DD (who are not eligible for OPWDD employment support services) who are successfully placed in internships or employed.	In progress	The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department manages a small portfolio of contracts that provide vocational support to individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities in the five boroughs. We work in close collaboration with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), NYS Education Department-Adult Career and Continuing education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and other community partners including the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD).
Objective 4.4 Support and invest in people returning to the community from jails and prisons by facilitating connections to healthcare and social services, and improving social determinants of health	In progress	HPJIP has secured one year grant funding for four CHW Navigator Supervisors who will be overseeing 4 staff who work in courts in Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. HPJIP has also secured OMH funding to hire 12 Court Navigators who will be working at courts in all New York City boroughs. All Navigator staff will preferably have lived experience of the criminal legal system or navigating mental health or substance use services.
Objective 4.5: Provide vocational support for people experiencing substance use disorders who are chronically excluded from the workforce	In progress	In the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT), the Peer Corps program trains early-career Peers with lived experience with substance use and places them to work in shelters, syringe support programs and supportive housing. Peers provide harm reduction and overdose education, naloxone, and service connections. The 2023-24 cohort served more than 4,300 individuals, and peers distributed more than 1,200 Narcan kits, facilitated more than 1,000 naloxone and Fentanyl test trainings, made more than 2,800 referrals to supportive services and 600 linkages to care, including recovery and treatment services, harm reduction services, support groups, and mental health services.
Objective 4.6: Increase participant enrollment to NYC's Health Justice Network participant by identifying additional criminal justice serving partner sites to join the HJN network.	In progress	The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at the NYC Health Department is looking for additional funding for the NYC Health Justice Network program. We are exploring collaboration with courts and other City partners for this ongoing work. HPJIP has secured funding from OMH to hire court navigators.

	Objective 4.7: In partnership with the NYPD, provide pre- and post-crisis intervention citywide to individuals impacted by or at risk of a mental health crisis and/or criminal legal involvement.	In progress	In 2024, CRT had 559 referrals assigned. CRT contacted 430 clients. (Of note, at the time CRT was operating 2 tours, 7 days.)
Goal 5: Serve New Yorkers in mental health crisis through a health-led response	Objective 5.1: Improve the experience of New Yorkers who are facing a mental health crisis through strengthened connections to a range of community-based supports and acute care services.	In progress	The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) is working with City partners to ensure interoperability between 988 and 911 so that New Yorkers experiencing a mental health crisis can be transferred from 911 to 988 and are ultimately met with health-led response.
	Objective 5.2: Improve access to and use of crisis stabilization options, including hospital alternatives for people with SMI in need of intensive and supportive care.	In progress	The East Harlem Support and Connection Center continues to offer person centered engagement, stabilization and connection to services. The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department is currently collecting monthly data from the East Harlem SCC to support evaluation and program monitoring.
	Objective 5.3: Collaborate with Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) stakeholders to promote awareness, acceptance, and action for mental health concerns, causes, and supports within NYC AANHPI communities.	In progress	As of April 2025 BCAARE/OCET reached over 3,500 participants for the PMH-AANHPI Learning Workshop. BCAARE continues to expand its community-informed and culturally and linguistically tailored mental health awareness learning opportunities. The PMH-AANHPI workshop is currently available in 8 languages. BCAARE/OCET conducted a survey of participants in PMH-AANHPI workshops in the prior one to twelve months. The June-August 2024 survey revealed that respondents reported using the information to help someone with mental health concerns or conditions at least once a month; that the workshops influenced how they handle daily challenges; and that they would recommend BCAARE/OCET mental health workshops to other New Yorkers, to help improve their mental health awareness and coping skills. (Respondents participated in PMH-AANHPI programming one to twelve months prior to the survey)

	Objective 5.4: Enhance, expand and strengthen programs and initiatives that center behavioral health community preparedness, engagement, and crisis response.	In progress	Through its Behavioral Health Office for Emergency Preparedness and Response (BH-OEPR), BCAARE continues its mental health preparedness reach of New Yorkers: •BCAARE/BH-OEPR co-piloted the Subway Homeless Outreach program through outreach, engagement, connection to services, and coordination of a learning collaborative for inter-governmental staff through May 2024. The program since has been transitioned under the auspices of Department of Homeless Services. •BCAARE/BH-OEPR sponsors asylum seeker emotional support services, including connections and linkages to ongoing mental health care and services. BCAARE staff provide "Stress Management and Self-Care" workshops to responder staff located at the Red Cross and other asylum seeker support locations. •BCAARE/BH-OEPR offers mental health supportive trainings to staff working with asylees to improve coping and wellness and reduce risk of burnout, including, "Stress Management and Self-Care" workshops to responder staff located at the Red Cross and other asylum seeker support locations. •BCAARE/BH-OEPR offers a range of mental health workshops to NYC Health Department colleagues, partner agencies, and contracted providers with an aim to improve coping and wellness and reduce risk of burnout.
Goal 6: Advance a range of accessible and high-quality supports and services across the continuum of prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction, to reduce the risk of death and drug-related harms and enhance quality of life for individuals with substance use disorders, with a focus on neighborhoods with the highest overdose death rates	Objective 6.1: Expand citywide naloxone distribution.	In progress	In 2024, the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at the NYC Health Department distributed more than 300,000 naloxone kits to hundreds of Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs citywide, where they were provided for free to community members. In addition, since June 2023, we launched NYC's first four Public Health Vending Machines (PHVMs) in Brooklyn and Queens to support 24/7 low-barrier, no-cost, and anonymous access to naloxone and a range of additional health and wellness supplies. In 2024, the PHVMs were utilized more than 26,600 times and dispensed 2,784 naloxone kits.
	Objective 6.2: Expand and enhance nonfatal overdose response efforts.	In progress	Relay, the City's peer-led, hospital based non-fatal overdose response service in the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT), is currently in the process of planning its expansion to a total of 17 hospitals by the end of 2025. In 2024, Relay was activated 2,545 times. 94.0% of patients in eligible activations (N=1,764) accepted Relay services and 50.3% of those patients also accepted additional 90-day follow-up services.
	Objective 6.3: Optimize and expand overdose prevention services.	In progress	Since inception in November 2021, OnPoint NYC's OPCs have served more than 5,800 unique participants, safely supervised more than 171,000 utilizations of OPC services, and successfully intervened in more than 1,600 overdoses.
	Objective 6.4: Understand and respond to the risks of an unregulated drug supply.	In progress	The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) at the NYC Health Department runs a drug-checking initiative at five syringe service programs in NYC with trained technicians. The drug-checking initiative allows program participants to analyze pre-obtained drug samples to determine what they contain. Participants receive results along with individualized counseling to help make more informed choices about their substance use. The City's drug-checking initiative began in November 2021. In 2024, the drug-checking program received 973 samples from 130 unique participants.
	Objective 6.5: Enhance the scope and reach of existing harm reduction, treatment and recovery services.	In progress	The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) works along the substance use continuum of care to promote accessible, evidence-based best practices in care in a variety of systems, including 56 contracted substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. This includes sharing programmatic and public health interventions to improve the health and wellness of people and communities impacted by drugs and alcohol.

	Objective 6.6: Optimize the availability, accessibility and acceptability of evidence-based treatment.	In progress	The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, Prevention, Care, and Treatment (BADUPCT) operates multiple learning collaboratives on a range of substance use topics for a spectrum of service providers, including adolescent treatment programs, peer implementation, primary care providers, emergency departments, and syringe service programs. This includes creating and disseminating resources to improve the continuum of care for patients receiving and initiating buprenorphine treatment.
Goal 7: Improve access to specialty SMI care and primary care that is race conscious and trauma informed	Objective 7.1: Add 475 mobile treatment spots	Completed	Completed in 2024
	Objective 7.2: Create a public-facing website (Mental Health Connect) to help New Yorkers better search and access child, adult, and family mental health services in the city	In progress	The website (Mental Health Connect) is expected to begin populating provider information over the summer and be available to the public in the fall of 2025.
	Objective 7.3: In partnership with OMH and OASAS, mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences by collaborating with trauma survivors and trauma champions to advance collective understanding of trauma, improve practice, and support resilience by increasing the availability of training and technical assistance	In progress	BCAARE/OCA continues partnership with OMH and OASAS to explore, implement, and evaluate efforts to achieve goals and objectives set forth by the virtual network. Together, this collaborative has set forth a number of related efforts. For example, Storytellers in Residence program was launched in 2024 to uplift stories and storytelling from individuals with lived experience. Three Storytellers in Residence were hired and on-boarded in Fall 2024 to leverage their lived experience to support the TINRC's community engagement efforts and deliverables. NYS TINRC on Tour hosted 5 events across New York State that brought communities together to talk about trauma-informed equity-focused and wellness practices, learn what organizations and communities are doing, network, and build collective vision. The TINRC on Tour events were small-group immersive, reflection-based discussions, and exercises accommodating up to 30-40 people with aims to: •Bring communities together to talk about trauma-informed, equity focused and wellness practices. •Learn what local organizations and people are doing to support community wellness and trauma-responsive practices and identify ways to elevate their work through TINRC. •Invite people to help build the TINRC network by getting connected and participating in initiatives. •Collectively vision what a more trauma-responsive New York looks like. 21 participants attended the first ever TINRC On Tour held in New York City this August. Trauma Responsive and Resilient Informed Training of Trainers (Tending the Roots) The TINRC team reached more people New York City in 2024: hosting both a Tending the Roots and TTR Instructor's Edition in NYC.
Goal 8: Advance systems improvements and equitable access to behavioral health care for NYC residents with public or private insurance	Objective 8.1: Educate a minimum of 400 NYC service providers and insurance beneficiaries per year on behavioral health parity laws, beneficiary rights, and mechanisms for appeals and complaints.	In progress	From January 2024 to April 2025, 812 service providers and 365 insurance beneficiaries attended the Division of Mental Hygiene's 21 Behavioral Health (BH) Parity 101 trainings and 36 provider trainings. These trainings are widely publicized on our website, and via our contracted provider and consumer listservs and a number of NYS advocacy organizations including InUnity, GNYHA, the Alliance, CHCANYS, etc. Attendees included behavioral health service providers, hospital staff, primary care providers, city agency staff as well as beneficiaries and families. We've also had a number of State OMH staff and upstate county providers join as well. Pre and post tests indicated significant knowledge increases among all audiences on why BH parity matters, how to identify parity violations, awareness of resources and mechanisms for filing appeals and complaints.

	Objective 8.2: Continue to implement social media campaigns to raise awareness among NYC residents and service providers regarding behavioral health parity and rights to accessing care.	In progress	The Division of Mental Hygiene continues it's behavioral health parity social media campaign on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We developed and launched this initiative in 2023 and our social media posts are especially promoted and highlighted during significant months for behavioral health such as mental health awareness month, recovery month, minority health month etc. The social media campaign has also helped increase the number of registrants for our BH parity trainings described in objective 8.1, and several individuals have accessed the NYS Ombudsman program (CHAMP) for help on insurance issues after getting it's contact information from our agency's BH parity webpage which is linked on our social media posts.
	Objective 8.3: Assess feasibility within existing city agency services to 1) identify behavioral health parity violations, 2) direct individuals to resources, and 3) elevate issues to state regulatory authorities.	In progress	From January to December 2024, the Division of Mental Hygiene was able to train the full staff of the Mayor's Office for Community Mental Health and the Office of School Health at the NYC Health Department on BH parity and started partnering with these teams to have them connect community members who contacts them about parity issues to the Div. Mental Hygiene's Parity Team or directly to the NYS Ombudsman program (CHAMP). Additionally, several units within the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) were trained in BH parity and several of their contracted providers have joined our trainings as well. In 2025, we will continue to discuss training NYC 988 Call Center staff as well as NYCHA and Department of Social Services (DSS) staff.
	Objective 8.4: Convene commercial insurance plans, MH and SUD providers, provider and insurer membership associations, and accreditation organizations to fill in information gaps on the MH/SUD care landscape and promote the expansion of behavioral health networks and services covered by commercial insurance plans.	In progress	The Division of Mental Hygiene decided to start the work described in this objective by convening NYC agencies that serve individuals with commercial insurance before convening other stakeholders. We've developed a contacts list of relevant city agencies and will be scheduling individual meetings before convening a cross-agency meeting. The goals of the cross-agency meeting will be to 1) develop a shared understanding of privately insured populations served by each invited agency and barriers experienced by their respective clients in accessing behavioral health services, 2) foster interagency and external communication to amplify existing and upcoming efforts, and 3) identify service/support gaps and potential strategies for improving access to care. Once our cross- agency work starts, we will consider the feasibility of convening the other stakeholders mentioned in this objective.
	Objective 8.5: Educate a minimum of 300 NYC providers and beneficiaries per year on Medicaid managed behavioral healthcare by offering trainings and disseminating information via periodic newsletters.	In progress	Our Medicaid managed behavioral healthcare trainings were temporarily put on hold in 2024 because the lead staff person was on leave but we've resumed this work since March 2025. Before resuming trainings for the public, we are updating the training slides with user friendly and easy to comprehend information about Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) services now available in NYS via the newly established Social Care Networks (SCN) developed through the recent 1115 waiver amendment. Once this step is completed, trainings will be promoted via our consumer and contracted provider listservs, our website and various advocacy groups to consumers, families, BH and primary care providers, care managers, hospital and GQHC staff and others who are interested.
	Objective 8.6: Support NYC's behavioral health providers interested in preparing for Value Based Payment (VBP) arrangements by offering trainings on VBP 101, data collection, and networking.	In progress	Our VBP trainings were temporarily put on hold in 2024 due to the ambiguity around VBP for behavioral health providers in New York's recent 1115 waiver amendment. However, the Division of Mental Hygiene convened six of the seven NYC based former Behavioral Health Care Collaboratives (now Independent Practice Associations (IPAs)) twice in 2024 to discuss the future of VBP for NYC BH providers. We also actively tracked all NYS and federal VBP related developments including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) approval of the All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model for New York and several other states. We are currently awaiting further guidance from NYS on the AHEAD model but have started updating our trainings to include relevant aspects of this model for BH providers.

	Objective 8.7: Increase readiness among NYC behavioral health providers for participation in value based payment arrangements by offering VBP readiness assessments and facilitating connections to payors, hospital systems and primary care partners.	In progress	Our VBP work was temporarily put on hold in 2024 due to the ambiguity around VBP for behavioral health providers in New York's recent 1115 waiver amendment. However, the Division of Mental Hygiene convened six of the seven NYC based former Behavioral Health Care Collaboratives (now Independent Practice Associations (IPAs)) twice in 2024 to discuss the future of VBP for NYC BH providers. We also actively tracked all NYS and federal VBP related developments including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) approval of the All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model for New York and several States. We are currently awaiting further guidance from NYS on the AHEAD model and plan on reconvening the NYC IPAs in the near future to discuss potential next steps and to play a role in supporting NYC BH providers and IPAs interested in participating in the AHEAD model.
	Objective 8.8: Support New York City's Social Care Networks (SCN) and the Statewide Health Equity Regional Organization (HERO) in their rollout of the 1115 waiver Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) services to NYC residents experiencing SMI, SED, SUD, I/DD issues and those who have a history of incarceration.	In progress	Since New York State applied for the 1115 waiver amendment for the provision of HRSN services, the Division of Mental Hygiene has been partnering with our agency's Chief Medical Officer's Team and another Division in preparing for roles that the NYC Health Department could play in supporting NYC's three SCNs and downstate work managed by the HERO. Since the waiver amendment was approved by CMS in 2024, we have been meeting regularly with each NYC SCN and preparing internally to support data analytics, VBP and evaluation work that the United Hospital fund would undertake as the Statewide HERO. We will report out more specific details on this work in next year's update.
Goal 9: Advance anti-racist health and social policies, laws, and practices that support the well-being of New Yorkers disproportionately impacted and criminalized due to structural racism	Objective 9.1: Build collaboration and policy support for criminal legal system reforms with internal and external partners.	In progress	The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at NYC Health Department works within a Divisional policy group in the Division of Mental Hygiene for legislative and regulatory comments. We are also conducting external outreach with community partners and leaders regarding criminal legal system reform. HPJIP delivers presentations on the health impacts of criminal legal system involvement and laws, policies and practices and the effects of racism and over-criminalization on the social determinants of health. In 2024, HPJIP presented on Drug Policy and Racial Equity in NY to R2J BMH Bureau Action Team; HPJIP's Surveillance of Cannabis Policies and Enforcement Pre and Post Adult Use Legalization to the department-wide Cannabis Work Group; and Mental Health Care and the Criminal Legal System in NYC: A Research and Policy Review Presentation to HPJIP All Staff by Epi and Policy Units
	Objective 9.2: Reduce the stigma associated with talking about criminal legal system through educating the public during outreach and community tabling events	Remove	HEAT transitioned to a different office in 2024.
	Objective 9.3: Increase awareness of the health disparities among individuals who have been impacted by the criminal legal system.	In progress	The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at the NYC Health Department is conducting external outreach with community partners and leaders regarding criminal legal system reform. HPJIP has developed presentations and hosted an event to educate Health Department staff on the historic and present day structural racism present in the criminal legal system as well as the experiences of those incarcerated.

	Objective 9.4: Increase awareness of the impact of social determinants of health on populations disproportionately impacted and criminalized due to systemic racism.	In progress	Our epidemiology team in the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) contributed analyses regarding individuals impacted by the criminal legal system to the NYC Health Department Mental Health Report, which was published and distributed in May 2024. We also met with Vital Records and established a workflow for vital documents for justice impacted participants. Furthermore, we work to secure non-driver's license identification cards for participants. HPJIP is maintaining close relationships and partnerships with community-based organizations that promote racial equity.
	Objective 9.5: Elevate surveillance data to inform and advance evidence-based policy development and recommendations.	In progress	Our epidemiology team in the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) is advocating for inclusion and analysis of questions on criminal legal system involvement on multiple citywide population-based surveys, and currently drafting manuscripts using these data, including an Epi Data Brief with expected publication in May 2025. Our Epidemiology team and Policy team are collaborating on a project using cannabis arrest and summonses data to monitor implementation of cannabis legalization. Our Epidemiology team is also developing dashboards to monitor NYPD arrests and summonses and is pursuing critical data use agreements with multiple criminal legal system agencies.
	Objective 9.6: Enhance reentry services for people impacted by SMI and the criminal legal system.	In progress	The Health Justice Network (HJN) meets quarterly with Point of Reentry and Transition (PORT) and identifies ways to work on the City's Mental Health Plan. The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) at the NYC Health Department shares best practices and materials. PORT is supporting our sustainability Request for Proposals submission with Letters of Support and Memorandums of Agreement around substance use. HPJIP has secured fnding from OMH to hire court navigators.
	Objective 9.7: Address racial inequities in health care services and treatment for New Yorkers of color with SMI.	In progress	The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) at the NYC Health Department conducted a baseline survey early last year and recently completed the second phase, with the goal of assessing the progress organizations and programs have been able to make over the last year in implementing equity policies and practices in workplace, service delivery, and improving participant outcomes outlined in the Guidance document. We are now in the process of following up with the organizations and programs that haven't yet responded to the second phase. We will give them an extension to respond. Once that extension deadline passes, we'll compile and analyze the findings.
Goal 10: Support provider organizations in recruitment and retention of the behavioral health workforce	Objective 10.1: In collaboration with state partners, explore/develop a mechanism for collecting reliable data on staff attrition in the behavioral health service system.	Completed	Completed in 2024
	Objective 10.2: Research existing loan forgiveness programs and innovative models for recruitment and retention, including barriers, challenges, and limitations and disseminate among contracted providers.	Completed	Completed in 2024

	Objective 10.3: Host feedback sessions with different types of providers (i.e., social workers, peer support workers, community health workers, etc.) to assess their experiences in the behavioral health workforce and develop provider-informed strategies for recruitment and retention.	In progress	The Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP) is collaborating with the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE) and the NYC Justice Peer Initiative to develop joint efforts that focus on peer support workers and Community Health Workers (CHW). Exploratory meetings for these workforce initiatives were held in 2024.
	Objective 10.4: Work with community partners to assess emerging needs of the expanding peer workforce and identify strategies to support successful workforce integration.	In progress	BCAARE/OCA in collaboration with work group partners gathered feedback through a "Listening & Feedback Tour", inviting key stakeholders to comment on the workgroup's charge and directionality. As a result, four needs/problem areas were identified and task and finish workgroups led by Peer Support and Community Health workers were established: Career advancement; Supervision; Mentorship; and Increasing roles for individuals with lived experience in city contracts. Workgroup participants, including BCAARE/OCA, committed to and are ongoingly lending talents to address identified focal areas. <u>Recommended Action Plan for PSW, CHW career advancement</u> Collaborate with the NYS credentialing body to develop a dual credential for a streamline career ladder for PSWs <u>Workgroup proposed activities:</u> 1. Build a year-long comprehensive training program and industrywide credential for PSWs and CHWs that will create alternative career opportunities for them to advance into mid-level BH paraprofessional roles in the behavioral health workforce. 2. Develop Behavioral Health apprenticeships for PSWs & CHWs 3. Embed comprehensive mental health education and evidence-based interventions into CUNY curricula citywide 4. Facilitate conversations with City and State government stakeholders responsible for workforce development, training, and the credentialing of PSWs to: A. Develop a dual credential that serves as a career ladder for PSWs to transition into other PS roles B. Pilot with YPAs (Youth Peer Advocates) transitioning into the FPA (Family Peer Advocate) role <u>Recommended Action Plan for PSW, CHW Supervision:</u> Adapt and pilot the Academy for Community Behavioral Health's Trauma Informed Supervisory Practice training for individuals that supervise PSWs and CHWs. <u>Workgroup proposed activities:</u>
	Objective 10.5: Partner up with criminal justice re-entry programs to increase job development and placement for individuals with criminal justice involvement.	Completed	Completed 2024



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

2027 Update to 2024-2027 Goals and Objectives NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Naomi Legros, Senior Planning Analyst
(nlegros@health.nyc.gov)

Goal 1

Goal 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1, 2027 Status Update Description: All objectives under Goal 1 are in progress. Please see objectives updates for more details

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: In November 2023, the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) launched NYC Teenspace, a free, digital mental health service for NYC teens aged 13-17. In 2025, over 20,000 youth registered. Participants have access to licensed therapists to message, speak on the phone with, or videochat, and self-guided lessons and exercises to support mental well-being.

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department is partnering with New York City Health + Hospitals (NYC H+H) to implement a new hospital-based suicide prevention program. The Caring Transitions Program (CTP) supports youth who present to a Queens or Bronx H+H hospital (5 total) following a suicide attempt or serious suicide related behavior. Services include follow-up care and transition support; connections to clinical and community support; caregiver support; and bridging clinical services. As of September 2025, all CTP is fully launched across all 5 H+H Hospitals in Queens and the Bronx.

Goal 1 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: During CY2025, the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response, and Engagement (BCAARE)/Office of Community Engagement and Training (OCET)'s programs Building Resilience in Youth (BRY) and Partnerships for Early Diversion of Youth (PEDY) increased access to appropriate mental health care for children and youth affected by inequities. BRY/PEDY strengthened early identification, referral, and connection to community-based supports in underserved neighborhoods. Through capacity-building for community organizations, task-sharing, and cross-system partnerships with mental health providers and diversion partners, BRY/PEDY expanded screening, improved warm handoffs to services, and supported earlier intervention before crisis or justice involvement.

BRY CBOs and MHPs continue to develop, employ, and connect youth to services premised on the program's task-sharing framework. Since the program's launch, 264 CBO staff have participated in the BRY program. The program has engaged over 12,328 youth, of whom 4,749 were screened by participating CBO staff and 946 consented to receive BRY services; among those screened, 688 accepted referrals for mental health services. BRY provided stress management sessions to 336 youth. Stress management topics included Behavioral Activation (233 sessions), Communication and Relationship-Building (292 sessions), Engagement and Goal Setting (379 sessions), and Mindfulness/Self-Compassion (377 sessions), and Transition Planning (124 sessions). Some sessions covered more than one topic. To support implementation, more than 240 technical assistance and training meetings have been held for CBO staff to strengthen implementation and quality improvement efforts.

The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) supports the implementation of the following two suicide prevention demonstration projects to address the needs of BIPOC youth.

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy for Adolescents (DBT-A) - DBT-A has the most empirical support for suicide and self-harm behaviors among youth. While there is preliminary evidence that DBT-A is effective in reducing emotion dysregulation and increasing adaptive coping in a sample of BIPOC youth, more research is required to understand how to address racism and other sociocultural stressors that impact this population.

- Family Check-Up for Asian American Families (FCU-AA) - FCU is effective in reducing mental health symptoms in children, including suicide risk. While FCU has been tested on diverse populations, there has never been research into the efficacy of the model for Asian youth and their families. FCU-AA will provide individual psychotherapy for Asian-American adolescents and trainings for caregivers around managing difficult emotions associated with suicide risk. Partners include Teachers College, Columbia (TC) and Hamilton-Madison House (HMH). As of March 2025, with the support TC researchers, HMH has fully implemented FCU-AA. Youth and caregiver participants are receiving the intervention. A process evaluation will be

completed in June 2026, and an outcomes evaluation will be completed in FY28.

Goal 1 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department is supporting the expansion of school-based mental health clinics by coordinating and planning with NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and The NYC Health Department's Office of School Health (OSH). This includes consulting with interested providers, reviewing licensing applications, and tracking application data. As of March 2026 in NYC, a total of 38 new clinics were approved to open this school year (2025-2026), and 6 new clinics are in the approval process. Additionally, CYF-DD, in collaboration with NYC Public Schools and NYC Health and Hospitals (NYC H+H), is implementing the Mental Health Continuum Initiative to increase access to mental health services and decrease use of 911 in 50 high needs schools. Through this initiative, The NYC Health Department continues to increase awareness and use of Children Mobile Crisis Teams (CMCTs) among schools. To support this effort, we developed a tip sheet providing guidance for schools on accessing 988 and Children's Mobile Crisis Teams and administered it to all school principals.

Partners at Montefiore Medical Center and Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology are implementing and evaluating Culturally Optimizing DBT-A (CODA) to optimize multiple levels of DBT-A to target multiple levels of discrimination, racism, marginalization (e.g., patient level, provider level, structural level) and intersectionality, as well as target issues that disproportionately affect BIPOC youth (e.g., disparities in treatment engagement, enhancing caregiver involvement).

Goal 1 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: BRY CBOs and MHPs continue to develop, employ, and connect youth to services premised on the program's task-sharing framework. Since the program's launch, 264 CBO staff have participated in the BRY program. The program has engaged over 12,328 youth, of whom 4,749 were screened by participating CBO staff and 946 consented to receive BRY services; among those screened, 688 accepted referrals for mental health services. BRY provided stress management sessions to 336 youth. Stress management topics included Behavioral Activation (233 sessions), Communication and Relationship-Building (292 sessions), Engagement and Goal Setting (379 sessions), and Mindfulness/Self-Compassion (377 sessions), and Transition Planning (124 sessions). Some sessions covered more than one topic. To support implementation, more than 240 technical assistance and training meetings have been held for CBO staff to strengthen implementation and quality improvement efforts.

In September 2025, the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) completed its SAMHSA funded Centering Children and Families in NYC's System of Care initiative. Through this initiative CYF-DD implemented a Community-Based Participatory Action Research approach to support its efforts to partner with youth, families and other stakeholders to identify and implement needed improvements to NYC's children's mental health care system. Multiple community forums were conducted to gather feedback from youth, family members and providers. Community feedback was shared with stakeholders through a series of data parties to implement a participatory approach to interpreting community feedback and identifying priorities. In Spring 2025 several Community Action Groups were established and co-designed solutions to address priority areas.

As of March 2026, the CODA team has completed eight focus groups with youth, caregivers, and providers and established a Community Advisory Board. The team continues to document and evaluate the work that MMC has already done to incorporate cultural humility and antiracism in its DBT-A program.

Goal 1 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 1 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) and NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH), in collaboration with the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH), secured resources to design a new mental health resource website to support New Yorkers, including young people and their family members, in identifying and accessing mental health supports/services based on mental health needs. The website will have dedicated pages for youth and family specific information about mental health services. Website continues to be developed, and we anticipate website launched the summer of 2026 (see Objective 11.2 for further details).

Goal 2

Goal 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2, 2027 Status Update Description: All objectives under Goal 2 are in progress. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: In the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department, the NYC Early Childhood Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) provides specialized training and technical assistance for the many types of professionals who work with young children, expanding New York's capacity to promote positive mental health in early years. TTAC equips professionals in licensed mental health clinics, early care and education settings, and practitioners in other children-serving systems with the knowledge and tools they need to support the healthy social-emotional development of New York's

youngest children. Between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, TTAC trained 3,187 individuals in perinatal and early childhood mental health topics across 79 trainings in addition to early intervention module learnings. Training topics include foundational knowledge in infant and early childhood mental health, early childhood mental health consultation, trauma and resilience, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, diagnosis and assessment, supporting parents; and, racism, inequality, and child mental health. Additionally in the last year, an annual conference and resource fair was conducted. These events brought together hundreds of providers across NYC to strengthen linkages between mental health organizations, as well as build providers' capacity with latest research and best practices.

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department launched a new Perinatal Mental Health Initiative, which expands access to perinatal mental health care within the Early Childhood Mental Health Network clinics. The clinics have been serving children from birth to five and families since 2016 and have now increased their capacity to serve pregnant and postpartum individuals and their partners across the five boroughs. As part of this initiative, the ECMH TTAC provides trainings on equity-focused, culturally appropriate perinatal mental health topics to home visitors, doulas, social workers, and community health workers in the Health Department programs serving pregnant people and families, including the New Family Home Visiting Initiative, Nurse-Family Partnership, Citywide Doula Initiative, and Family Wellness Suites. This initiative is a partnership between the Divisions of Mental Hygiene, Family and Child Health, and Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness (CHECW). Furthermore, in January 2026, the Administration for Children's Services and the NYC Health Department announced a new partnership known as Strong Foundations. This initiative will allow for a further expansion of capacity in the Perinatal and Early Childhood Mental Health clinics, material supports for families, and additional training and workforce development opportunities in the field of perinatal and early childhood mental health.

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department partners in various ways with other child serving systems to support cross-collaboration and improve youth mental health and well-being. One example of continued partnership is the NYC Health Department's Children's Single Point of Access (CSPOA) participation in NYC's Administration for Children Services' (ACS) Complex Needs Committee during which foster care agencies identifies youth in need of services that have been difficult to refer and/or place. Multiple cross system agency representatives attend this meeting and youth are often times referred to CSPOA to be assessed for higher level of care residential care. Additionally this is an opportunity to identify and address barriers youth in foster care experience that cause delays in accessing mental health services.

As of March 2026, the CODA team has completed eight focus groups with youth, caregivers, and providers and established a Community Advisory Board. The team continues to document and evaluate the work that MMC has already done to incorporate cultural humility and antiracism in its DBT-A program.

Goal 2 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: BCAARE/OCET's BRY CBOs and MHPs continue to develop, employ, and connect youth to services premised on the program's task-sharing framework. Since the program's launch, 264 CBO staff have participated in the BRY program. The program has engaged over 12,328 youth, of whom 4,749 were screened by participating CBO staff; among those screened, 688 referrals for mental health services were accepted.

To support implementation, more than 240 technical assistance and training meetings have been held for CBO staff to strengthen implementation and quality improvement efforts.

Goal 2 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: Building Resilience in Youth (BRY) and Partnerships for Early Diversion of Youth (PEDY) strengthened coordination with 7 mental health clinical partners (MHP) to ensure timely, appropriate referrals for youth with emerging behavioral health needs. Through joint training, regular consultation, coaching, and structured warm handoffs, the MHPs worked closely with BRY/PEDY community-based organization (CBO) staff to support shared care planning and smoother transitions into clinical services when indicated.

CBO staff applied skills gained through BRY/PEDY capacity-building activities such as mental health awareness, screening, and counseling to identify concerns earlier and respond with supportive, non-clinical interventions when appropriate. Together, these strategies expanded intervention options available to youth and strengthened pathways to coordinated, community-based care.

Goal 2 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update Description: The Health Department funds five community coalitions citywide dedicated to creating safe, substance-free, and affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth and BIPOC LGBTQ+ youth. These coalitions also work to increase community awareness of the issues impacting these communities, with the goal of reducing substance use and promoting overall well-being. Each year, the LGBTQ+ coalitions conduct a community assessment to better understand the root causes of substance use within these communities and to identify gaps in services and needed supports. Through workshops, art shows, balls, Pride celebrations, and other community events, the coalitions engage thousands of LGBTQ+ youth, BIPOC LGBTQ+ youth, and community members annually, building connections and

strengthening community support networks. In 2025, over 5,000 community members and youth were reached through coalition activities.

Goal 2 Objective 7, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 2 Objective 7, 2027 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU) has entered into a MOA with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to reimburse three substance use disorder (SUD) programs in contract with the NYC Health Department to provide SUD Services, including medications, to youth while they are in ACS-managed detention.

Goal 3

Goal 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3, 2027 Status Update Description: Objectives for Goal 3 are either in progress or completed. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) continues to work closely with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to review and recommend related Certificate of Need applications to create housing for the I/DD population. This work is ongoing.

Goal 3 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) opened 553 units of permanent supportive housing for people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) since the start of FY26, totaling 13,370 units open and available as of April 2025. We meet regularly with the Department of Social Services (DSS), Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and Human Resources Administration (HRA) to discuss the ongoing NY15/15 initiative (the City's goal of developing 15,000 units of supportive housing over 15 years).

Goal 3 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 3 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024

Goal 3 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 3 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department continues to work closely with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to review and recommend related Certificate of Need applications to create housing for this need.

Goal 4

Goal 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4, 2027 Status Update Description: Goal 4 has been amended to reflect new language please see here:

Expand City infrastructure for rehabilitative supports, social services, education, and employment for New Yorkers, including people with SMI, intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and/or impacted by the criminal justice system.

Adding a new Objective (4.8) for this goal, which will be submitted through the appropriate platform.

Please see Objective updates for further details on progress towards Goal 4.

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: As of April 2027, 13 of 13 clubhouses have opened. The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department has developed a data system and metrics for monitoring of contracted clubhouses.

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) is continuing its work with the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), NYS Education Department-Adult Career and Continuing education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and other community partners to engage the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) to address this objective in the future.

Goal 4 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD) at the NYC Health Department manages a small portfolio of contracts that provide vocational support to individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities in the five boroughs. We work in close collaboration with NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), NYS Education Department-Adult Career and Continuing education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and other community partners including the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD). The Department has released a concept paper in relation to the planned reprourement of these services.

Goal 4 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: HPJIP has hired four CHW Navigator Supervisors who are overseeing staff who work in courts in Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. HPJIP has also hired Peer Court Navigators who will be working at courts in all New York City boroughs. All Navigator staff have lived experience of the criminal legal system or navigating mental health or substance use services or are connected to these experiences in some way.

Goal 4 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: In the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use, the Peer Corps program trains early-career Peers with lived experience with substance use and places them to work in shelters, syringe support programs and supportive housing. Peers provide harm reduction and overdose education, naloxone, and service connections. During the 2024 to 2025 period, the peer program saw 21 graduates, peers served 12 host sites including shelters and at supportive housing sites, serving more than 4,800 participants, and dispensed more than 2,000 naloxone kits. In total, the Peer Corps program has had 97 graduates since it launched in 2017.

Goal 4 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 4 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update Description: To increase participant enrollment in NYC's Health Justice Network, additional criminal justice-serving partner sites have been identified to expand referral pathways and strengthen system collaboration. These partners include Bronx Treatment Court, Bronx Felony Treatment, Brooklyn Mental Health Court, Queens Mental Health Court, and expanded court collocation with the Center for Justice Innovation through the Queens Center for Justice Innovation, Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, and the Midtown Community Justice Center. In addition, the Bronx Legal Aid MICA team has been identified as a key behavioral health-focused legal services partner that can support increased engagement and referrals into the Health Justice Network.

Goal 5

Goal 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5, 2027 Status Update Description: All objectives under Goal 5 are in progress. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Objective 5.3 has been amended to include new language: Collaborate with underserved communities in New York City, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI), BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, youth, aged, immigrant populations, NYCHA residents, and other stakeholders to promote awareness, acceptance, and action for mental health concerns, causes, and supports.

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) is working with City partners to ensure interoperability between 988 and 911 so that New Yorkers experiencing a mental health crisis can be transferred from 911 to 988 and are ultimately met with health-led response.

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The East Harlem Support and Connection Center continues to offer person centered engagement, stabilization and connection to services. The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department is currently collecting monthly data from the East Harlem SCC to support evaluation and program monitoring.

Goal 5 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: For CY2025, BCAARE/OCET reached nearly 5,000 (4985) participants across all of their workshops. The most attended workshop is Community Mental Wellness and Resilience (3004 attendees), followed by Mental Health First Aid (962), PMH-AANHPI (720 attendees) and Equity in Disaster Management (156 attendees). Attendees were largely BIPOC. After excluding attendees with missing race and ethnic information, attendees identified as Hispanic/Latino/a (28%), Black or African American (27%), Asian (22%) or more than one race or ethnicity (10%).

BCAARE continues to expand its community-informed and culturally and linguistically tailored mental health awareness learning opportunities. The PMH-AANHPI workshop is currently available in 8 languages and over 800 (824) persons have completed this workshop since July 2025.

As of April 2026 BCAARE/RET participated in the annual NYCHA Mental Health Summit, a NYCHA Community Mental Health Day in Bushwick, and in a shooting response in Brownsville.

Goal 5 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 5 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: Through its Behavioral Health Office for Emergency Preparedness and Response (BH-OEPR)/BCAARE continues its mental health preparedness reach of New Yorkers:

- BCAARE/BHOEPR sponsored asylum seeker emotional support services, including connections and linkages to ongoing mental health care and services. From July 2023 through program end in May 2025, BHOEPR served 12,383 individuals.

- BCAARE/BHOEPR offered mental health supportive trainings to staff working with asylees to improve coping and wellness and reduce risk of burnout, including, "Stress Management and Self-Care" workshops to responder staff located at the Red Cross and other asylum seeker support locations.

- BHOEPR worked on the rollout and implementation of the Prepare Today, Cope Better Tomorrow workshop for all NYC community members. This included curriculum design, train the trainer series to prepare workshop facilitators, and connecting with community organizations to promote the workshop series.

- BHOEPR also increased community resilience by working with partner agencies on their readiness through tailored preparedness and recovery toolkits.

- BHOEPR expanded response capacity by working with agencies to train their staff in Psychological First Aid and All Hazards Disaster Mental Health (REST required workshop).

Goal 6

Goal 6, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6, 2027 Status Update Description: All objectives under Goal 6 are in progress. Please see objectives updates for more details.

Goal 6 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: In 2025, the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU) at the NYC Health Department distributed more than 285,000 naloxone kits to over 300 Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs citywide, where they were provided for free to community members. In addition, since June 2023, we launched NYC's first four Public Health Vending Machines (PHVMs) in Brooklyn and Queens to support 24/7 low-barrier, no-cost, and anonymous access to naloxone and a range of additional health and wellness supplies. In 2025, the PHVMs were utilized more than 40,000 times and dispensed over 2,800 naloxone kits.

Goal 6 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: Relay is the City's peer-led, hospital based non-fatal overdose response service, led by the NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU). Relay's first planned expansion site was launched in October 2025 at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and the second expansion site is planned for June 2026. In 2025, Relay was activated a total of 2,343 times. 95.2% of eligible patients accepted Relay services and 51% of those patients also accepted additional 90-day follow-up services.

Goal 6 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: Since inception in November 2021, OnPoint NYC's OPCs have served more than 7,000 unique participants, safely supervised more than 244,000 utilizations of OPC services, and successfully intervened in more than 2,000 overdoses.

Goal 6 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU) at the NYC Health Department runs a drug-checking initiative at five syringe service programs in NYC with trained technicians. The drug-checking initiative allows program participants to analyze pre-obtained drug samples to determine what they contain. Participants receive results along with individualized counseling to help make more informed choices about their substance use. The City's drug-checking initiative began in November 2021. In 2025, the drug-checking program received over 1,100 samples from 230 unique participants.

Goal 6 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU) works along the substance use continuum of care to promote accessible, evidence-based best practices and care in a variety of systems, including 56 contracted substances use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.

This includes sharing programmatic and public health interventions to improve the health and wellness of people and communities impacted by drugs and alcohol. This also includes Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF) for several different initiatives citywide across harm reduction prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives:

- Substance use service provision on Staten Island across prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services (\$3M annually)

- Increasing the number of new and engaged participants with opioid use disorder (OUD) receiving medications for OUD, specifically promotes the implementation of low-threshold MOUD practices and

funds RFMH to provide comprehensive training and technical assistance in low-threshold MOUD practices (\$4M annually)

- Increasing the number of new and engaged participants in recovery services in NYC (\$3M annually)

-Expanding Relay, the Health Departments non-fatal overdose response program to 2 additional emergency departments (\$1M annually)

-Improving health and access services at Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) through infrastructure improvements and upgrades (\$4.1M annually)

- Fund the provision of wraparound basic needs and harm reduction services at OnPoint NYC (\$8.4 annually)

In CY25, BCAARE's Response and Engagement team (RET) made (1,450) referrals to overdose prevention centers, (1,314) referrals to syringe service programs, (849) referrals to detox centers, and (623) referrals to rehabs. Staff provided a recommendation for a specific treatment or services such as mental health, substance use, employment, housing entitlements, etc. to a community member based on their needs.

In CY25 BCAARE's RET administered (137) warm handoffs to substance use services, providing a recommendation for a specific treatment or services such as mental health, substance use, employment, housing entitlements, etc. to a community member based on their needs. Staff personally introduced a community members or stakeholder to another team member, service, or partner organization to assure smooth transition of support to service.

Goal 6 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 6 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update Description: The NYC Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU) operates multiple learning collaboratives on a range of substance use topics for a spectrum of service providers, including adolescent treatment programs, primary care providers, emergency departments, and syringe service programs. This includes creating and disseminating resources to improve the continuum of care for patients receiving and initiating buprenorphine treatment.

Goal 7

Goal 7, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7, 2027 Status Update Description: Objectives under Goal 7 are either in progress or completed. Please refer to the updates under each Objective for more information.

Goal 7 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 7 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024

Goal 7 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The website (NYC Mental Health Connect) is being populated with provider information and went through testing by a diverse group of end users including youth, families, adults and providers. The website is expected to be available to the public summer of 2026.

Goal 7 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 7 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: BCAARE's Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) supported the creation of the New York City Resilience Collaborative (NYCRC), established in 2025 to expand the work of the NYS Trauma-informed Network and Resource Center by increasing awareness of trauma, resilience, and healing by centering lived experience, sharing resources, and engaging communities across NYC.

Established in collaboration with the New York State Office of Mental Health and the N.Y.U. McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, the NYCRC is a 90-minute quarterly virtual space where champions of trauma-informed care can come together to learn from different guest speakers on various topics related to trauma-informed care and resilience-building, share resources, and connect with other people who are passionate about this work.

The NYCRC has engaged over 200 people through virtual meetings and shared trauma resources widely via multiple listservs and social media platforms.

In 2025, BCAARE/OCET completed the TINRC's TTR Instructor's Edition, enabling the team to facilitate TTR workshops for community partners. As of CY2025, OCET has delivered the Tending the Roots workshop to over 100 persons (104) and is prepared to expand delivery of this trauma-responsive, resilience-focused workshop, with CY2026 reach to be updated.

Goal 8

Goal 8, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8, 2027 Status Update Description: Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 8

Goal 8 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: From April 2025 to April 2026, 308 service providers and 158 insurance beneficiaries attended the Division of Mental Hygiene's 14 Behavioral Health (BH) Parity 101 trainings and 26 provider trainings. Offered by staff in the Executive Deputy Commissioner's (EDC) Office, these trainings are widely publicized on our website, and via our contracted provider, primary care and consumer listservs and a number of NYS advocacy organizations including InUnity, NAMI, GNYHA, the Alliance, CHCANYS, etc. Attendees included behavioral health service providers,

hospital staff, primary care providers, city agency staff as well as beneficiaries and families. We've also had a number of State OMH staff and upstate county providers join as well.

Pre and post tests indicated significant knowledge increases among all audiences on why BH parity matters, how to identify parity violations, awareness of resources and mechanisms for filing appeals and complaints. Additionally, based on recommendations from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, we translated the training slides, handouts and announcements into Mandarin and Spanish and will be offering simultaneous interpretation in these languages starting in May 2026.

Goal 8 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: The EDC team in the Division of Mental Hygiene continues its behavioral health parity social media campaign on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We developed and launched this initiative in 2023, and our social media posts are especially promoted and highlighted during significant months for behavioral health such as mental health awareness month, recovery month, minority health month etc. The social media campaign has also helped increase the number of registrants for our BH parity trainings described in objective 8.1, and many individuals have accessed the NYS Ombudsman program (CHAMP) for help on insurance issues after getting its contact information from our agency's BH parity webpage which is linked on our social media posts. In April 2026, we initiated the process for translating these social media ads into Spanish and Mandarin to complement the trainings that are now available in these languages.

Goal 8 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: From January to December 2025, the EDC team in the Division of Mental Hygiene trained the NYC 988 Follow-Up Teams and their managers on BH parity and urged them to connect callers who are experiencing insurance related challenges to the Division of Mental Hygiene's Parity Team or directly to the NYS Ombudsman program (CHAMP). Additionally, several units within the Department of Probation (DOP), Department of Education (DOE) Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) and several of their contracted providers have attended our trainings. In 2027, we will continue to discuss training NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA), Department of Social Services (DSS) and other city agency staff.

Goal 8 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: The EDC team at the Division of Mental Hygiene decided to start the work described in this objective by convening NYC agencies that serve individuals with commercial insurance before convening other stakeholders. Since September 2025, we meet monthly with high level colleagues from ACS, DOP, DSS, NYCHA, MOIA, Health and Hospitals (H+H), Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health (OCMH), Department of Veterans Services (DVS), Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The goals of the cross-agency meeting are: to 1) develop a shared understanding of privately insured populations served by each agency, 2) discuss barriers experienced by clients in accessing behavioral health services, 3) identify service/support gaps and potential strategies for improving access to care, and 4) foster inter-agency and external communication to amplify existing and future efforts. To date, the group has discussed: 1) inadequacy of BH provider networks, 2) CHAMP services, 3) reimbursement rates, 4) H.R. 1 Medicaid changes, 5) utilization management and 6) the BH workforce shortages. Several local level strategies recommended by this group are already being implemented, and whenever relevant, the EDC team shares recommendations from this group with NYS colleagues at OMH, DOH and at CHAMP. In 2026-2027, we will consider the feasibility of convening the other stakeholders mentioned in this objective either separately or together with NYC agency partners.

Goal 8 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: After a brief hiatus, the EDC team at the Division of Mental Hygiene resumed its "Making Connections to Medicaid Behavioral Health Services in NYC" for the public from November 2025 and has trained 327 participants to date. This training includes several important topics such as: Medicaid eligibility, network adequacy requirements, services available via HARP, HCBS, Health Home Care Management, Children's Behavioral health as well as Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) services now available via Social Care Networks (SCN), as well as helpful local and statewide resources. Trainings are promoted via our consumer and contracted provider listservs, primary care listservs, website and various advocacy groups such as NAMI, InUnity, the Alliance, GNYHA, etc. to consumers, families, BH and primary care providers, care managers, hospital and FQHC staff and others who are interested. The majority of attendees of the trainings to date have included Health Home Care Managers, Housing Care Managers, OMH clinical staff and some NYC ACS and DOE staff.

Goal 8 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update Description: Our VBP trainings were temporarily put on hold in 2025 due to the ambiguity around VBP for behavioral health providers in New York's recent 1115 waiver amendment and the lack of clarity on the scope of VBP work to be undertaken by the Health Equity Regional Organization (HERO). However, the EDC team in the Division of Mental Hygiene actively tracked all NYS and federal VBP related developments including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) approval of the All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model for New York, NYS VBP Roadmap updates, as well as any new models in other states related to VBP for BH providers. We are currently awaiting further guidance from NYS on the AHEAD model and updates on any VBP activities to be planned by the

HERO (as its 3rd set of convenings that will take place in early summer is to be about VBP) and will be updating our three trainings to include relevant aspects of the AHEAD model and VBP for HRSNs that would be relevant to BH providers.

Goal 8 Objective 7, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 8 Objective 7, 2027 Status Update Description: As mentioned above, our VBP work was temporarily put on hold in 2025 due to the ambiguity around VBP for behavioral health providers in the 1115 waiver amendment and the lack of clarity on the scope of the HERO's VBP work. However, the EDC team in the Division of Mental Hygiene stayed in contact with six of the seven NYC based former Behavioral Health Care Collaboratives (now Independent Practice Associations (IPAs)) and participated in behavioral health specific VBP interviews conducted by the United Hospital Fund (UHF) that runs the HERO. We provided a significant amount of BH related input and feedback to the HERO during these interviews and are hopeful that they would be taken into consideration. We also drafted BH specific comments on the April 2026 update to the NYS VBP Roadmap and hoping to share with NYS partners. We are currently awaiting further guidance from NYS on the AHEAD model and from the HERO on VBP for HRSNs and plan on reconvening the NYC IPAs to discuss potential next steps and play a role in supporting NYC BH providers and IPAs interested in participating in the AHEAD model and/or VBP for HRSNs.

Goal 9

Goal 9, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9, 2027 Status Update Description: Please see Objective updates for details on progress towards meeting Goal 9

Goal 9 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: HPJIP is working with the Divisional policy group for legislative and regulatory comments. We have also conducted external outreach with public defender organizations, courts, and institutions of higher education regarding criminal legal system reform.

Goal 9 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: N/A

Goal 9 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description:

Goal 9 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: HPJIP is developing an external facing webpage and working alongside their Executive Deputy Commissioner's office to create and post social media content.

HPJIP has developed presentations and hosted an event to educate Health Department staff on the historic and present-day structural racism present in the criminal legal system as well as the experiences of those incarcerated.

Goal 9 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: Our epidemiology team in HPJIP contributed analyses regarding individuals impacted by the criminal legal system to the Epi Data Brief on Impacts of Incarceration among New York City Adults, 2023, which was published and distributed in January 2026.

Goal 9 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: Our epidemiology team in HPJIP is advocating for inclusion and analysis of questions on criminal legal system involvement on multiple citywide population-based surveys. Our Epidemiology team and Policy team are collaborating on a youth detention study with ACS. Our Epidemiology team is also developing dashboards to monitor our program's success metrics and is pursuing critical data use agreements with multiple criminal legal system agencies.

Goal 9 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 6, 2027 Status Update Description: The Health Justice Network (HJN) meets with Point of Reentry and Transition (PORT) and identifies ways to work on the City's Mental Health Plan. HPJIP shares best practices and materials.

Goal 9 Objective 7, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 9 Objective 7, 2027 Status Update Description: The Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) at the NYC Health Department continues its commitment to reducing racial and other longstanding disparities in mental health service delivery and outcomes.

Goal 10

Goal 10, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 10, 2027 Status Update Description: Several objectives have been completed. Please refer to Objective updates for further details.

Goal 10 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 10 Objective 1, 2027 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024

Goal 10 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 10 Objective 2, 2027 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024

Goal 10 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 10 Objective 3, 2027 Status Update Description: HPJIP is developing a subcommittee under the community service board to support as an advisory board for the bureau and support with expansion of the bureau and our peer staff members.

Goal 10 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update: Ongoing

Goal 10 Objective 4, 2027 Status Update Description: BCAARE/OCA supported the advancement of the Peer/CHW workforce by expanding training and continuing to address ongoing workforce needs such as career advancement and professional development.

To expand workforce development opportunities in New York City, the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) promotes empowerment, self-advocacy, and resilience by helping individuals recognize personal strengths, triggers, and wellness tools. WRAP is a peer-developed, evidence-informed wellness and recovery tool that helps individuals identify strategies to maintain wellness, manage challenges, and support recovery through self-directed planning. In 2024, 26 participants completed the first series and 85% of participants (n=22) responded to the post-workshop feedback survey. Overall, feedback was extremely positive with 100% reporting that the experience of the training was helpful, and 86% finding it extremely helpful.

In 2025, Train-the-Trainer model was sponsored to increase access to WRAP facilitation across communities and service systems. This approach equipped peer specialists and community leaders with the skills to become certified WRAP facilitators, strengthening the peer workforce pipeline while promoting recovery-oriented practices, leadership development, and sustainable community-based training capacity throughout NYC. Over 25 peers were trained, 10 of which have qualified to facilitate future trainings.

OCA also collaborated with colleagues to develop and distribute a Peer and Community Health Worker survey to identify workplace challenges, successes, and opportunities impacting the peer and CHW workforce.

Goal 10 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update: Complete

Goal 10 Objective 5, 2027 Status Update Description: Completed in 2024



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

2024 Needs Assessment Form NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Adverse Childhood Experiences Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Experiences/Adverse Community Environments (ACEs) have been shown to increase risk for a variety of medical, psychological, and behavioral conditions in adulthood.[1] ACEs research also sheds light on the importance of protective factors during childhood and adolescence that promote resiliency and the ability to cope with toxic stress, while also targeting structural risk factors for trauma exposure.[2] NYC DOHMH's 2015 Child Health, Emotional Wellness, and Development Survey found that racial inequities persist in children's exposure to adverse events:

- 89% of Black children and 90% of Latinx children had a regular place to live in the last year compared to 99% of White children.
- 12% of Black children and 8% of Latinx children were reported by their caregiver(s) to have witnessed or been the targets of violence in their neighborhoods compared to 1% of White children.
- 45% of Black children and 46% of Latinx children were experiencing food insecurity, as reported by caregivers, in the last year compared to 12% of White children.

Furthermore, Latinx and Black children in NYC were less likely to live in supportive neighborhoods, defined as feeling that people in families' neighborhoods help each other out, than White children (61% and 72% vs. 84%).[3] The 2021 Health Opinion Poll found that 68% of Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults in NYC reported feeling a lack of emotional support compared to 47% of White adults.[4] This is particularly important given the recent spate of Anti-Asian hate crimes, both in NYC and nationally. Reducing children's exposure to adverse events and increasing their access to supportive environments requires us to address the long-standing economic and social ramifications of structural racism in addition to offering trauma-informed care.

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[1] <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/riskprotectivefactors.html> 5

[2] https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/reports/docs/adverse_childhood_experiences.pdf 6

[3] <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/child-chs.page> 7

[4] <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief130.pdf> 12

Crisis Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Acute care is a critical component of our mental health care system and essential for supporting many people when they are in crisis. However, acute care is not a solution to homelessness or other social factors that worsen mental illness. The entry way to our serious mental illness (SMI) care systems is often through emergency response systems, the majority of which have been led by law enforcement. Law enforcement and mental health advocates agree this situation is not ideal, and would prefer a clinical, trauma informed, and health-led response to mental health crises. This recognition is also shared nationally, with the initiation of 988, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, as a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care for people experiencing emergency mental health needs.

Because community-based mental health care can be difficult and confusing to access, many people end up calling 911 and getting transported to care in emergency and inpatient settings. According to data from the New York Police Department (NYPD), there were an average of nearly 15,000 911 calls per month in 2022 that were related to a mental health emergency and responded to by NYPD. We must improve availability of and funding for health-led response options and reduce police involvement in behavioral crisis while also increasing access to intensive community treatment and support options.

Cross System Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Despite a significant number of ongoing initiatives aimed at improving behavioral health conditions among NYC residents, there continue to be disparities in behavioral health care access, utilization, and outcomes in NYC.

One in five New Yorkers experiences mental illness in a given year, and hundreds of thousands of these New Yorkers are not connected to care.[5] Additionally, 9.2% of NYC public high school students have reported attempting suicide. Moreover, a 2018 study found that 8.3% of NYC adults had current symptomatic depression. Socioeconomic inequalities in mental health persist in NYC and highlight the need for better diagnosis and treatment.

Within the Medicaid funded behavioral health service system, the number of adult and youth Medicaid recipients with at least one mental health or substance use related primary diagnosis in 2022 was 526,137. Despite significant spending on behavioral health care, the current Medicaid funded system still

struggles to offer comprehensive and equitable care to the highest-need individuals, and to effectively integrate behavioral health services with physical health care. Throughout the country, as well as in NYS, behavioral healthcare providers also lag behind their primary care counterparts in opportunities to increase their revenue streams including through value-based payment arrangements. During NYC's community feedback process for local services planning, a Community Services Board (CSB) member shared that "smaller organizations are providing mental health services but don't have a system to actually generate revenue, despite the fact that these organizations have been in the communities for decades and have public trust". Another member stated that "it is much easier for primary care professionals who have data and analysis departments to negotiate rates, etc. We have to think boldly and differently and outside the box if we are going to meet all of this unmet need" (December 2022).

Regarding the privately/commercially insured population, research shows that individuals with private insurance may be even more vulnerable to gaps in behavioral health coverage than those with Medicaid. NYC's Community Health Survey conducted in 2020 indicated that approximately 45% of NYC residents are covered by private insurance plans, and a 2019 Kaiser Foundation study showed that 55% of adults with mental illness have private insurance. A 2015 study published in the journal of Psychiatric Services and the National Institute of Health (NIH) stated that U.S. adults with mental illness covered by Medicaid had over 2 to 3 times the odds, of receiving treatment compared to individuals with private insurance that had 1.5 times the odds. As there are currently no NYC specific studies on behavioral health care access by this population, in 2022, NYC DOHMH conducted interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders (n=71) and surveys of insurance beneficiaries (n=194) and healthcare providers (n=88) to gather NYC specific data on this topic. Select results from the beneficiary survey showed that:

Service providers:

- 78% cited low reimbursement rates as the main challenge when working with commercial insurance companies
- 85% said a helpline, chat services, or insurance navigators designated for providers to assist in resolving insurance-related issues would be most helpful for their work.
- 61% said standardized administrative process across all insurers would be most helpful
- 50% cited difficulties with denials as a main challenge

Insurance beneficiaries:

- 80% have at some point had to seek behavioral health care outside of their insurance network.
- 65% have encountered incorrect insurance acceptance information from a directory, website, or third-party platform like ZocDoc.
- 69% have been denied coverage of BH services by their health insurance plan.

Furthermore, despite the increased attention to the enforcement of behavioral health parity laws, a 2019 report showed that most consumers in NYS regardless of insurance type, experienced denials of mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) coverage due to medical necessity criteria and pre-authorization of services. Most consumers surveyed for the report had little to no knowledge of MH/SUD

visit and prior approval limitations and needed more information on how to challenge treatment denials. The most common insurance-related parity barrier cited by NYS providers was concerning financial requirements and pre-authorization. Most providers mentioned that they would be willing to file appeals on behalf of their patients but required more information on Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs) since claims denials was not their area of expertise. (Note: NQTLs include utilization review practices, preauthorization/medical necessity criteria, step therapy/fail-first policies, formulary design for prescription drugs, geographic/facility type/scope or duration of benefits limits and failure to complete treatment course exclusions etc.). In addition to research and survey data, a NYC CSB member shared that “parity between physical health and behavioral health is key to promoting access and engaging community members in treatment programs” (December 2022).

With regard to youth behavioral health, NYC DOHMH has identified a number of barriers to accessing cross-system behavioral health services among NYC youth and families.

For the Family Pathways to Care project, Public Policy Lab used human-centered research and design methods to understand how families connect with and experience Administration for Children’s Services (ACS)- and DOHMH-contracted mental health and prevention services. Regarding cross-system referrals, they noted that families struggle to find services that are accessible within their neighborhoods and don’t always know what they should be looking for. For example, when searching for services, they may not know what search terms to use or what clinical terms mean when reading program descriptions. Families who are non-English speaking, undocumented, or without community networks face additional fears or barriers to accessing the services they need.

Service providers in child-serving systems also face challenges referring families to mental health services in that they frequently don’t fully understand the range of services available in the mental health system. Strategies and tools for making referrals across agencies are inconsistent. High staff turnover at provider agencies means that institutional knowledge, which is infrequently documented, can be lost as staff come and go. Providers seek up-to-date, easy to access, and approachable information about programs, which they could ideally filter and search by eligibility rules. They need a centralized system for locating appropriate and available services for families. We are working to expand use of NYC Well by service providers and youth and families.

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[5] Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health | Data Dashboard ([cityofnewyork.us.](https://cityofnewyork.us/))

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): NYC currently contracts for approximately 11,200 units of supportive housing. However, despite this investment in supportive housing, homelessness continues to increase and threatens to erase progress made, especially among New Yorkers with behavioral health concerns.[6] Housing instability and homelessness are particularly important social determinants of health

for people with behavioral health concerns; evidence shows that both housing instability and homelessness are linked to morbidity and premature mortality and worse mental and physical health outcomes.[7][8][9] Housing insecurity can worsen symptoms of mental illness and increase the likelihood a person will encounter high-risk situations that lead to avoidable hospitalization or incarceration.

Since 2017, NYC has had more homeless individuals and families sleeping in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelters or rough on the streets than at any time since the Great Depression. Many homeless individuals are living with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUD), or other behavioral health concerns, further highlighting the importance of the supportive housing model, which provides subsidized permanent housing alongside wraparound care and social services for residents who need them.[10] In 2020, approximately 13,000 people with SMI experienced homelessness in the NYC shelter system or on the street.[11]

Some people with SMI will be able to maintain independent housing with financial supports and effective services. Others benefit from higher levels of care, including supportive housing, which offers permanent, affordable rental housing with support services.[12][13][14] While many homeless individuals in NYC currently qualify for supportive housing due to SMI, SUD, or other behavioral health issues, there is currently only one available unit of supportive housing for every five eligible applicants. There remains a significant need in NYC for both additional funding for supportive housing and additional units of supportive housing.

Furthermore, stable housing is closely associated with a person's ability to protect and enhance their health and well-being and is associated with improved health and social outcomes for people who use drugs. Unstable housing status and contact with the criminal legal system are both risk factors for overdose and drug-related harms. Drug-related death is the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness in NYC.[15] In addition, those who are involved in the criminal legal system are at increased risk of drug-related harms, including but not limited to overdose, HIV and hepatitis C virus infection.[16]

In order to recognize housing as a basic necessity and platform to improve an individual's health, supportive housing and other programs should take a "Housing First"

approach, which does not restrict eligibility based on current or previous drug use and provides re/habilitation supports to increase the ability to remain safely housed.

People experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to criminal legal system involvement, unnecessary hospitalizations, and potential for increased exposure to law enforcement on the subway system.

In addition, housing continues to be a major unmet need for individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities (I/DD) in NYC. For the past several years, adequate and accessible housing options for individuals with I/DD has been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for

individuals and their families. As in the past, this year, housing options was ranked among the top five areas of concern by NYC DOHMH I/DD stakeholders.

More research may be needed to understand ways to expand least-restrictive housing options while maintaining high quality housing for individuals with I/DD. Many advocates, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS), believe enhanced regulatory flexibility is needed, and suggest further study of ways to improve regulatory flexibility in the housing arena. Finally, better prioritization of residential placements is needed. Specifically, stakeholders have expressed difficulty with finding placements for people with I/DD who live in the community but need housing as parents age and are no longer able to care for their children.

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[6] <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/office-of-the-mayor/2022/Housing-Blueprint.pdf> (pg. 63)

[7] Taylor, L. (2018). "Housing and Health: An Overview of the Literature." Health Affairs. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hpb20180313.396577>.

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[11] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance

Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations. Published December 15, 2020. Accessed February 17,

2023. https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_CoC_NY-600-2020_NY_2020.pdf

[12] Culhane DP, Metraux S, Hadley T. Public service reductions associated with placement of homeless persons

with severe mental illness in supportive housing. Hous Policy Debate. 2022;13(1):107-163.

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[13] Lim S, Gao Q, Stazesky E, Singh TP, Harris TG, Levanon Seligson A. Impact of a New York City supportive

housing program on Medicaid expenditure patterns among people with serious mental illness and chronic homelessness. BMC Health Services Research. 2018;18(1):1-3. doi:10.1186/s12913-017-2816-9

[14] Gouse I, Walters S, Miller-Archie S, Singh T, Lim S. Evaluation of New York/New York III permanent supportive housing program. Evaluation and Program Planning. 2023;97:1-9.

doi:10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2023.102245

[15] NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and NYC Department of Homeless Services. Sixteenth annual report on deaths among persons experiencing homelessness. July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. https://a860-gpp.nyc.gov/concern/parent/zg64tp214/file_sets/j9602313t

[16] Freudenberg N, Heller D. A review of opportunities to improve the health of people involved in the criminal justice system in the United States. Annu Rev Public Health. 2016;37:313-333. doi:10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032315-021420

Inpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Several hospital-based detoxification programs include their beds under Med-Surg during non-emergencies, which is needed in order to normalize substance use withdrawal as a routine medical need. However, there is continued concern whether beds are made available equitably to those needing medically managed withdrawal when Med-Surg beds are in high demand. NYC DOHMH will review and monitor changes in bed utilization in these settings as well as inviting comment from community groups to ensure proper access to these critical services.

Additionally, NYC's inpatient programs (especially non-hospital based) have continued need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials to support infection control.

Non-Clinical Supports Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The onset of severe mental illness (SMI) often interrupts a person's relationships, education and employment in ways that substantially and negatively impact their quality of life — 45% of New Yorkers with SMI report having low social support, and 29% are at risk for social isolation.[17] Social isolation, in turn, increases the risk of mental health crisis, due to things like falling out of care or off treatment, or even struggling to maintain housing. People with SMI are also more likely to be unemployed and have a lower household income and lower levels of educational attainment.[18] Discrimination due to mental health diagnosis exacerbates the barriers to employment and social inclusion that people of color already face due to structural racism. People with SMI need more social infrastructure to connect with others and form community and relationships. Clubhouses are one-stop

programs offering an array of services including, but not limited to, building strong support networks, socialization through joining a clubhouse community, supported employment, education support, skill building, case management including identifying supportive housing, advocacy, low or no-cost snacks and meals, and recreation in a recovery-oriented environment.

Research shows the clubhouse model reduces people's hospitalization and contact with the criminal legal system, and improves their health and wellness.[19][20] Over the last year, NYC clubhouses have enrolled more than 1,000 new members. This ongoing growth demonstrates a clear demand for these services. By expanding clubhouses, more New Yorkers with SMI will be welcomed into safe, supportive communities and engaged in efforts to advance their quality of life, including social, educational and employment activities, while reducing their risk of isolation and crisis and associated risks like homelessness and hospitalization.

Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, and clubhouse services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services. Considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Psychiatric rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and peer support services are important and often overlooked, complementary and/or alternative services to clinical services. After decades of flat enrollment, NYC successfully increased the number of people in clubhouses citywide by 30% with a \$4M investment and coordinated recruitment effort. This expansion demonstrated previously unacknowledged demand for this valuable service. Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation and occupational therapy services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, clubhouse and recovery services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists and Certified Peer Recovery Advocates are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services and considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

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[17] Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023

[18] Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023.

[19] Killaspy H, Harvey C, Brasier C, et al. Community-based social interventions for people with severe mental illness: A systematic review and narrative synthesis of recent evidence. *World Psychiatry*. 2022;21(1):96-123. doi:10.1002/wps.20940

[20] McKay C, Nugent KL, Johnsen M, et al. A systematic review of evidence for the clubhouse model of

psychosocial rehabilitation. Adm Policy Ment Health. 2018;45:28-47. doi:10.1007/s10488-016-0760-3

Outpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): There is insufficient capacity to meet NYC's demand for specialty mental health care: 41% of people with severe mental illness (SMI) (around 100,000 New Yorkers) want treatment but are unable to get it.[21] Many of the greatest mental health provider shortages are concentrated in neighborhoods with the highest proportion of people of color. The services available are complex, inequitable, and difficult to navigate. These access issues are made worse by cost. One in eight (12.1%) New Yorkers are uninsured,[22] and for people who do have insurance, finding affordable mental health services is challenging due to low reimbursement rates. These financial barriers are more significant for people of color, who face greater inequities in access to health insurance and fair wages. New Yorkers need equitable access to culturally responsive, race-conscious, and trauma-informed care to improve mental health outcomes.

A single system for people with SMI to engage in care is necessary to facilitate efficient, well-planned connections from hospitals, jails and shelters to outpatient mental health and social services that tailor support for people to successfully reenter communities. Additionally, expanding access to comprehensive primary and community mental health care is essential for people to be able to establish relationships with trusted providers who can support their whole health over time. Only providers who have continuous relationships with individuals can identify changes in their circumstances that might quickly bring on a crisis, intervene to prevent it, and make sure they have the resources necessary to stabilize and recover. Lastly, people with SMI also may use drugs and alcohol or have a co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD). A holistic approach for people with SMI must include access to evidence-based substance use treatment and harm reduction services.

Significant investment is needed in order to expand access to outpatient mental healthcare for all New Yorkers who need it.

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[21] Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023.

[22] Unpublished raw data from the 2021 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2021. Accessed February 17, 2023.

Prevention Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Despite investment in behavioral healthcare services in NYC, including investment specifically aimed at treatment of serious mental illness (SMI), serious psychological distress (SPD) and other behavioral health issues, there is “a considerable need to raise the priority given to the prevention of mental disorders and to the promotion of mental health through action on the social determinants of health.”[23] Prevention is a central tenet of public health practice and yet when it comes to SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues, prevention receives little attention or funding compared to treatment within the mental healthcare system. The current model in NYC relies on treating behavioral health problems when they arise rather than working to prevent them to begin with.

Prevention is complex and relies on a wide array of resources and stakeholders; it is not relegated to the hospital, the clinic or the physician's office but is diffused throughout the areas of society in which individuals are born, grow, live, work and age.[24] Prevention often operates at the population level and is driven by politics and policy choices, economics, and social and cultural factors—what are often collectively referred to as social determinants of health (SDoH).[25] Decades of research have indicated the outsized impact that these social determinants of health have on patterns of morbidity and mortality and the extent to which addressing upstream social determinants improves health and health outcomes and prevents disease at the population level.

A renewed focus on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is required to adequately address prevention of SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues in NYC. In line with the World Health Organization's report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health, we call for an approach that follows the concept of proportionate universalism—policies should be universal, across the whole of society and proportionate to need. In practice, such an approach will be grounded in social and economic rights—including the right to housing, healthcare, employment and education—and will rely on publicly run and funded programs to provide these rights to New Yorkers. It is by now well documented that access to stable and affordable housing, healthcare, a living wage and education are health protective in nature and that reducing inequalities in access to these health protective resources also works to reduce health inequalities more broadly.

When it comes to social conditions NYC ranks particularly poorly with high rates of homelessness, income and wealth inequality and poverty as well as unequal access to healthcare and higher education— New Yorkers of low socioeconomic status (SES) are less likely to have stable access to healthcare or access to higher education and are far more likely to experience substandard mental and physical health and worse health outcomes.[26][27] Without meaningful intervention to address this, SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues will continue to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable New Yorkers and preventable health inequalities will continue to be commonplace.

New Yorkers of low SES are disproportionately represented among those with behavioral health issues, SPD and SMI. According to the 2020 NYC Community Health Survey:

- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who are unemployed (8.2%) or not in the labor force (8.9%) compared to those who are employed (4.1%).
- The prevalence of SPD among those with an annual household income lower than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) was significantly higher (8.8%) than it was among those with household incomes that are greater than 400% of the FPL (4.0%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those with less than a high school education (8.5%), high school graduates (6.6%), and some college (6.5%) compared with those who are college graduates (4.8%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who delayed paying or were unable to pay rent in the past 12 months (12.7%) compared to those who did not delay paying rent (4.9%).

Such data underscores the importance of an approach to prevention that is grounded in addressing the social conditions in which New Yorkers are born, grow, live, work and age. Concretely this means ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to the health protective benefits of stable housing, healthcare, education and a living wage, while also promoting policies like progressive taxation and wealth taxation that reduce income and wealth inequality and the health inequalities they result in.[28][29] As the WHO report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health notes, “action [to address the social determinants of mental health] needs be universal: across the whole of society and proportionate to need in order to level the social gradient in health outcomes.”

Working to prevent behavioral health issues through action on the SDoMH is also a racial justice issue. Race-based health inequalities are often the result of decades of austerity and disinvestment in black and brown neighborhoods. Ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to housing, healthcare, higher education, and a living wage will disproportionately benefit black and brown New Yorkers and work to reduce racial health inequalities.

We recognize that many of the programs and policies outlined here fall outside of the purview of traditional public health discourse yet have an outsized impact on patterns of morbidity and mortality, mental and physical health outcomes, and health inequalities. For these reasons we believe that a population approach to prevention, grounded in addressing the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH), is urgently needed in NYC.

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[24] Rose, G. (2001). Sick individuals and sick populations. *Int J Epidemiol.* 30(3):427-34. doi: 10.1093/ije/30.3.427.

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[26] US Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021). The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, Part 1: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness in the United States. US Department of Housing and Urban Development. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

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[28] Pickett KE, Wilkinson RG. (2015). Income inequality and health: A Causal Review. Social Science & Medicine. 128:316-26.

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Problem Gambling Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Our two contracted programs providing problem gambling treatment services reported experiencing an increase in demand for services and admissions to treatment for mobile gambling since the legalization of online sport betting in NYS in 2021. One program reported the average debt from mobile gambling upon admission is at least \$50,000, and that it's not uncommon for individuals to have debt into the hundreds of thousands. Another program reported that from January to December of 2022, 33% of patients admitted reported mobile gambling as the main type of gambling they engaged in compared to 57% patients reporting this for only the first half of 2023. This program also reports a waitlist due to this increased demand for treatment, thereby necessitating more staff. Given these reports, there is a need for more problem gambling programming in NYC.

Refugees and Immigrants Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): In NYC, reports of hate crimes against members of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in 2021 outpaced records of similar complaints in 2020.[30] In addition to being targeted for hate crimes, the prevalence of experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner among U.S.-born AANHPI adults is about three times that of AANHPI adults born outside of the U.S. (8% vs. 2%).[31] AANHPI adults willing to report intimate partner violence may face barriers due to language accessibility in our health systems or lack of knowledge of resources. NYC DOHMH anticipates that the AANHPI community will require additional support and culturally competent services to ensure safety and wellness.

Furthermore, NYC has provided services to more than 14,000 asylum seekers arriving from the southern border of the United States since May 2022.[32] NYC's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), in conjunction with NYC Emergency Management (NYEM) and other City agencies, has tapped NYC DOHMH to

provide health insurance enrollment, mental health support, and referrals to pediatric care and immunizations. NYC DOHMH is the lead agency providing emotional support services to incoming asylum seekers and staff at the Resources Navigation Center. Services include supporting those in distress to cope better with stressors while accessing services. Additional support services include crisis counseling and facilitating connections to case management services for ongoing support.

NYC DOHMH anticipates that this unprecedented influx of asylum seekers and refugees will continue into the foreseeable future and will require additional resources and funding in 2024 to meet mental health needs of the individuals and families currently experiencing crisis. NYC DOHMH recognizes that the refugees arriving to New York are predominantly from Central and South America and will need to ensure that services provided are culturally sensitive and, to the extent possible, in-language to promote engagement.

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[30] NYPD Hate Crimes Dashboard. (n.d.).

[31] NYC Health Department. (2021, September). Health of Asians and Pacific Islanders - New York City. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/episrv/asian-pacific-islander-health-2021-summary.pdf>

[32] Mayor Adams Releases "The Road Forward," New Blueprint to Handle Asylum Seeker Crisis Moving Forward | City of New York (nyc.gov)

Residential Treatment Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Congregate care settings, including crisis and residential bedded programs, experienced challenges in maintaining social distancing amongst participants and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent guidance issued on February 16, 2023, permits all programs to return to admitting and discharging participants based on criteria, but also requires programs to adhere to infection control guidance from OASAS, state and local health departments. Masking is encouraged but not mandated. DOHMH Office of Emergency Response has coordinated with OASAS and OMH to receive regular transmission of program location and contact data in order to expedite communication around outbreaks and other regional disasters.

Transition Age Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Youth Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): DOHMH is a partner organization in NYC's plan to prevent and end Youth Homelessness ("Opportunity Starts with a Home") [33] led by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). NYC DOHMH participated in DYCD's community coordinated planning process to support the health and well-being of youth experiencing homelessness, called "Opportunity Starts with a

Home.” The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) recommended that the city address the following needs for youth and young adults (YYA):

- Hire mental health professionals within DYCD shelters for more accessible mental health supports.
- Improve access to existing health-related resources that meet a broad array of YYA basic needs, provide ongoing support, and offer training for YYA to lead healthy lives.
- Ensure that YYA have a broad array of options to engage in social activities that help them build relationships, develop skills, relieve stress, contribute to the community, and enjoy themselves.
- Increase opportunities for YYA survivors of violence to build healthy relationships and support their wellbeing. Please enter needs assessment here. Please cite sources as comments.

Additionally, through this initiative DOHMH has committed to working on following action steps to improve access to mental health and harm reduction/addiction supports and services for homeless youth and young adults (YYA):

- Work with DYCD and community-based organizations to increase awareness and accessibility of Crisis Respite/Residence Centers to support YYA experiencing mental or emotional health crises, including family conflict.
- Explore creating a connection between the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) drop-in centers.

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[33] <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2022/NYC-Community-Plan-DIGITAL.pdf>

Workforce Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): According to a recent report from the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) on Health Worker Recruitment and Retention in NYC, behavioral health providers are some of the most difficult health care occupations to recruit and retain. The report identifies psychiatrists in particular as one of the most difficult behavioral health occupations to recruit and retain. This aligns with observations made by the NYC Community Services Board (CSB), who have also raised concerns about a shortage of child psychiatrists in particular, as well as widespread workforce shortages in community-based settings.

The findings from the CHWS report on the reasons for difficulties in retention and recruitment generally align with those identified by NYC CSB members, including:

- Demand outstripped supply: The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated health workforce shortages in NYC, dramatically increasing the number of occupations in short supply as well as the magnitude of the shortages. This aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, who have stated that the demand for behavioral health services have grown exponentially, but staffing hasn't grown to meet the demand. The NYC CSB have continually advocated for the expansion of professional development pipelines that connect new behavioral health providers to community-based organizations (CBOs) in need of staff, particularly for social workers.
- Noncompetitive salaries: This finding in the CHWS report aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, particularly regarding higher starting salaries for behavioral health occupations in private sectors that CBOs are unable to compete with. Noncompetitive salaries (and low entry level pay in particular), in combination with the high cost of living in NYC and limited affordable housing opportunities, may have driven workers out of the behavioral health sector and the city entirely. While the proposed FY24 NYS Budget recommends \$38 million to support minimum wage increases for existing staff at programs licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by OPWDD, OMH, and OASAS, continued funding and opportunities for permanent or long-term wage increases may need to be explored.
- Lack of flexible scheduling: In alignment with observations made by the NYC CSB about the behavioral health workforce in NYC, the CHWS report shows that there is a significant generational and workforce culture shift among health care occupations, indicating that the younger workforce is more concerned with work-life balance and opportunities for flexible scheduling, including remote telework. Similarly, the NYC CSB has elevated the need for new types of incentives to ensure retention, including innovative scheduling models that provide flexible hours, as well as opportunities to meet childcare, eldercare, and other needs to better prevent burnout. In Mayor Adams's newly released Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for NYC, the City committed to reduce burnout by increasing quality supervision and appropriate staffing ratios (which requires a sufficient workforce), supporting continuing education and advancement, and creating financial incentives to make sure mental health staff can meet their work-related needs.

Concerning the peer workforce in particular, community input continues to identify peer support workers as integral components of the behavioral health workforce in NYC. Their specialized training and intentional use of lived experience has uniquely positioned them to engage and support clients burdened with a mental health concern(s), substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Despite the promise of the peer support workforce, challenges such as limited opportunities for career advancement and provider readiness continue to be identified as barriers to workforce integration. Moreover, as New York State considers expansion of the peer workforce through the 1115 Waiver by including Community Health Workers and other healthcare titles that prioritize lived experience, it will be critical to better understand their unique needs and develop strategies to ensure that are successfully integrated into the behavioral health workforce.

Telehealth and tele-support have become commonplace in the provision of behavioral health services, requiring peer support workers to adapt their services to virtual, digital, and telephonic platforms. Although the provision of in-person services have increased post-pandemic, there will be an ongoing need for peer support workers to successfully use technology in their practice. However, this segment of the workforce continues to experience barriers in accessing and using technology to provide telehealth

peer support. Moreover, there is some concern that principles of peer support may not be easily translated through tele-support, which will require additional training for the peer workforce.

In 2021, NYC conducted a survey on the Effects of COVID-19 on Peer Support Workforce (n= 275). Findings included:

- 50% of Peer support workers said the in-ability to meet in-person was the biggest barrier to delivering services during the pandemic.
- 48% reported technology as the most critical new skill they learned, yet 45% felt they were not very well or only somewhat supported in learning how to use technology.

The New York State Office of Mental Health also conducted a survey that included peer support workers and managers/supervisors on competencies in peer telehealth during the COVID-19 (n=313, n=164)[34] found that competency-based training and performance-based training was needed to preserve the unique nature of peer support services in the provision of Peer Telehealth.

These findings suggest there is an area of ongoing need for peer support workers and their supervisors/managers to ensure that they are able to successfully integrate technology into their work. As New York State continues to build its digital telehealth structure, targeted resources are needed to study potential barriers to successful integration of the technology and develop strategies to increase workforce literacy as needed.

A centralized system for receiving workforce information and updates has also been identified as essential to the advancement of the Peer and Community Health Worker workforce. This need has become increasingly evident as Peer and Community Health Workers complete dual certifications. However, there is currently no central point of access for all peer support workers (PSWs) to obtain information on training, continuing education units (CEU) and professional development opportunities, or general community resources of interest to the workforce.

While peer support workers are considered to be especially vulnerable to burnout and stress, many have noted that this stress is often in reaction to toxic workplace culture and is pervasive in organizations regardless of title. Since the onset of the pandemic, the workforce has been increasingly complex which has contributed to heightened levels of stress and burnout among many workers. Studies indicate that:

- 80% of workers reported that workplace stress affects their relationships with friends, family, and coworkers. Only 38% of those who knew about their organization's mental health services would feel comfortable using them.[35]
- It is estimated that cost employers in the United States up to \$193.2 billion annually in lost earnings due to absenteeism and presenteeism. Anxiety and depression cost the global economy over \$1

trillion in lost productivity yearly.[36]

- Workplace stress costs U.S. employers \$500 billion annually in lost productivity.

As NYC's workforce continues to adapt and evolve, there is an urgent need to increase access to resources and tools to support the well-being of the workforce. Many of these strategies are currently being used but will need to be built to scale such as:

- Assuring access and connection to culturally responsive resources and services that address traumatic stress and loss.
- Employing supports and resources that address underlying complex trauma due to historical or racial trauma and its disproportionate impact on historically underrepresented workers- LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, differently abled, neurodivergent, etc.
- Increasing awareness of trauma-specific treatment modalities.

Ongoing development of tools to track the impact of COVID-19 associated collective trauma and the needs of frontline workers.[37]

Concerning the I/DD workforce, recruitment and retention have been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals with I/DD and their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated a historic need to strengthen I/DD workforce recruitment and retention. While OPWDD has begun crucial work in this area, including dedicating 76% of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to workforce development grants and workforce incentives and bonuses, a variety of structural factors impact the DD workforce. These include high stress, low wages, a lack of professional development opportunities, a lack of retention incentives, and insufficient and/or ineffective marketing of DD workforce careers.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), both those employed directly by OPWDD as well as contracted providers through the nonprofit sector, remain the backbone of the I/DD workforce. These critical staff contribute to community habilitation programs, respite services, and congregate settings, among others, and essential to day-to-day programming. Chronic underfunding continues to create barriers to a sustainable, well-trained, and supported workforce.

Stakeholders, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) and the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies (IAC), have advocated for increased incentives for DSP training and professional development and have recommended that OPWDD promote opportunities for people to make their work a long-term career.

Addressing challenges with the DD workforce can have a cascading effect in improving other areas of unmet need impacted by staffing shortages, such as crisis services and service continuity for of

individuals with developmental disabilities. NYC DOHMH will consider the merits of conducting a research study to better understand underlying I/DD workforce recruitment and retention concerns. Such a study would be conducted in collaboration with intergovernmental partners (OPWDD, etc.) and among contractors for services.

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[34] Spagnolo, A. B., Pratt, C. W., Jia, Y., DeMasi, M., Cronise, R., & Gill, K. (2022) The Competencies of Telehealth Peer Support: Perceptions of Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Community mental health journal*, 58(7), 1386–1392.

[35] Reinert, Nguyen, & Fritze. (2021) *The State of Mental Health in America*. Mental Health America, Alexandria VA.

[36] Adams & Nguyen. (2022) *Mind the Workplace 2022 Report: Employer Responsibility to Employer Mental Health*. Mental Health America, Alexandria VA.

[37] <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/statistics/2021-needs-of-frontline-workers-interim-report.pdf>

Harm Reduction Services to Combat Overdose Epidemic Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The unintentional overdose rate in NYC is at an all-time high, with 2,668 overdose deaths reported in 2021, making it the deadliest year on record. As a result, there is a need to strengthen and enhance the following services and initiatives, many of which exist but could be broadened/bolstered across the harm reduction service continuum:

- Identifying sustainable funding to support enhancement of low threshold wraparound services at SSPs, including mental health, primary care, SUD treatment, and meeting basic needs (e.g., food, showers, laundry), with a focus on neighborhoods with high overdose mortality rates
- Expanding additional OPC services throughout NYC including in areas with high overdose mortality rates
- Building greater capacity to address access to fentanyl test strips through various types of service providers
- Expanding access to drug checking technology (e.g., tests drug sample for fentanyl and xylazine) so participants can make better informed decisions around their use
- Promoting safer means of syringe disposal including more syringe litter kiosks
- Creating post-use clinical observation programs

Racial Equity and Justice-Impacted Populations Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Communities of Color in the U.S. experience significant health inequities laid bare and exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic; these inequities severely impact persons with criminal legal system involvement.

The impact of long-standing systemic racism is evident in the US criminal legal system (CLS), with persons of color experiencing disproportionately high incarceration rates.[38] Persons with criminal legal system involvement (CLSI) also face systemic racism and other barriers when re-entering the community, experiencing poorer health outcomes, higher rates of heart disease, trauma, hypertension, behavioral health conditions,[39], and premature mortality.[40] Housing insecurity is widespread, with persons with CLSI experiencing almost 10 times the rate of homelessness compared to the general population.[41] Persons with CLSI also face numerous barriers to employment, with only 55% of individuals report having any income during the first year following release.

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[38] The Sentencing Project. Lifetime likelihood of imprisonment of US residents born in 2001. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/criminal-justice-facts/> Accessed May 6, 2020

[39] Siegler A, Bersofsky M, Unangst J. Medical problems of state and prisoner and jail inmates. 2011-2012. US Department of Justice. 2015

[40] Binswanger IA, Stern CF, Deyo RA, et al. Release from prison — a high risk of death for former inmates. N Engl J Med. 2007;356(5):157-165. doi:10.1056/NEJMs064115.

[41] <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html>

Emergency Preparedness in the Behavioral Health Service System Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Research and anecdotal evidence from previous disasters and public health emergencies highlighted the need for a better prepared behavioral health service system to address the impact of these events on their workforce and the population they serve. This need was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disaster planning and preparedness often neglects to adequately consider the unique event related needs of the service recipients of all three areas of the behavioral health service system. This can lead to inadequate response to their event-related behavioral health needs and contribute to adverse outcomes such as impaired coping, inability to access needed care, worsening of existing conditions, and

diminished chance for recovery. Evidence also indicates lack of adequate readiness and failure to engage the staff of the Behavioral Health Service System in disaster planning and pre-renders negatively affects their health and functioning during an event, with high rates of burnout and turn around. It also increases their risk for event related mental health illnesses, such as depression anxiety, and alcohol and substance use.

NYC DOHMH identified three main gaps in the Behavioral Health Service System planning, preparedness, response. Addressing these will be essential to improve future response outcomes. Activities need to focus on 1) Engaging staff in planning and preparedness and enhancing their resilience and supporting their emotional health and well-being to prevent burnout and costly high turn around. 2) providing adequate and timely behavioral health support services to individuals and communities most impacted by the incident. 3) planning to coordinate response among Behavioral Health Service providers

NYC DOHMH requires support from city and state leadership to enhance its behavioral health care system's response readiness, most urgently to develop comprehensive, standardized, and scalable disasters and public health emergencies response plans with corresponding tools, protocols, and trainings, and to build and strengthen systems for collaboration among behavioral health care providers around resource sharing.

LGU Representative: Kirklyn Escondo

Submitted for: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene



2025 Needs Assessment Form NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Adverse Childhood Experiences Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Experiences/Adverse Community Environments (ACEs) have been shown to increase risk for a variety of medical, psychological, and behavioral conditions in adulthood. ACEs research also sheds light on the importance of protective factors during childhood and adolescence that promote resiliency and the ability to cope with toxic stress, while also targeting structural risk factors for trauma exposure. NYC DOHMH's 2015 Child Health, Emotional Wellness, and Development Survey found that racial inequities persist in children's exposure to adverse events:

- 89% of Black children and 90% of Latinx children had a regular place to live in the last year compared to 99% of White children.
- 12% of Black children and 8% of Latinx children were reported by their caregiver(s) to have witnessed or been the targets of violence in their neighborhoods compared to 1% of White children.
- 45% of Black children and 46% of Latinx children were experiencing food insecurity, as reported by caregivers, in the last year compared to 12% of White children.

Furthermore, Latinx and Black children in NYC were less likely to live in supportive neighborhoods, defined as feeling that people in families' neighborhoods help each other out, than White children (61% and 72% vs. 84%). The 2021 Health Opinion Poll found that 68% of Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults in NYC reported feeling a lack of emotional support compared to 47% of White adults. This is particularly important given the recent spate of Anti-Asian hate crimes, both in NYC and nationally. Reducing children's exposure to adverse events and increasing their access to supportive environments requires us to address the long-standing economic and social ramifications of structural racism in addition to offering trauma-informed care.

Crisis Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Acute care is a critical component of our mental health care system and essential for supporting many people when they are in crisis. However, acute care is not a solution to homelessness or other social factors that worsen mental illness. The entry way to our serious mental illness (SMI) care systems is often through emergency response systems, the majority of which have been led by law enforcement. Law enforcement and mental health advocates agree this situation is not ideal, and would prefer a clinical, trauma informed, and health-led response to mental health crises. This recognition is also shared nationally, with the initiation of 988, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, as a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care for people experiencing emergency mental health needs.

Because community-based mental health care can be difficult and confusing to access, many people end up calling 911 and getting transported to care in emergency and inpatient settings. According to data from the New York Police Department (NYPD), there were an average of nearly 15,000 911 calls per month in 2022 that were related to a mental health emergency and responded to by NYPD. We must improve availability of and funding for health-led response options and reduce police

involvement in behavioral crisis while also increasing access to intensive community treatment and support options.

Cross System Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Despite a significant number of ongoing initiatives aimed at improving behavioral health conditions among NYC residents, there continue to be disparities in behavioral health care access, utilization, and outcomes in NYC.

One in five New Yorkers experiences mental illness in a given year, and hundreds of thousands of these New Yorkers are not connected to care. Additionally, 9.2% of NYC public high school students have reported attempting suicide. Moreover, a 2018 study found that 8.3% of NYC adults had current symptomatic depression. Socioeconomic inequalities in mental health persist in NYC and highlight the need for better diagnosis and treatment.

Within the Medicaid funded behavioral health service system, the number of adult and youth Medicaid recipients with at least one mental health or substance use related primary diagnosis in 2022 was 526,137. Despite significant spending on behavioral health care, the current Medicaid funded system still struggles to offer comprehensive and equitable care to the highest-need individuals, and to effectively integrate behavioral health services with physical health care. Throughout the country, as well as in NYS, behavioral healthcare providers also lag behind their primary care counterparts in opportunities to increase their revenue streams including through value-based payment arrangements. During NYC's community feedback process for local services planning, a Community Services Board (CSB) member shared that "smaller organizations are providing mental health services but don't have a system to actually generate revenue, despite the fact that these organizations have been in the communities for decades and have public trust". Another member stated that "it is much easier for primary care professionals who have data and analysis departments to negotiate rates, etc. We have to think boldly and differently and outside the box if we are going to meet all of this unmet need" (December 2022).

Regarding the privately/commercially insured population, research shows that individuals with private insurance may be even more vulnerable to gaps in behavioral health coverage than those with Medicaid. NYC's Community Health Survey conducted in 2020 indicated that approximately 45% of NYC residents are covered by private insurance plans, and a 2019 Kaiser Foundation study showed that 55% of adults with mental illness have private insurance. A 2015 study published in the journal of Psychiatric Services and the National Institute of Health (NIH) stated that U.S. adults with mental illness covered by Medicaid had over 2 to 3 times the odds, of receiving treatment compared to individuals with private insurance that had 1.5 times the odds. As there are currently no NYC specific studies on behavioral health care access by this population, in 2022, NYC DOHMH conducted interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders (n=71) and surveys of insurance beneficiaries (n=194) and healthcare providers (n=88) to gather NYC specific data on this topic. Select results from the beneficiary survey showed that:

Service providers:

- 78% cited low reimbursement rates as the main challenge when working with commercial insurance companies
- 85% said a helpline, chat services, or insurance navigators designated for providers to assist in resolving insurance-related issues would be most helpful for their work.
- 61% said standardized administrative process across all insurers would be most helpful
- 50% cited difficulties with denials as a main challenge

Insurance beneficiaries:

- 80% have at some point had to seek behavioral health care outside of their insurance network.
- 65% have encountered incorrect insurance acceptance information from a directory, website, or third-party platform like ZocDoc.
- 69% have been denied coverage of BH services by their health insurance plan.

Furthermore, despite the increased attention to the enforcement of behavioral health parity laws, a 2019 report showed that most consumers in NYS regardless of insurance type, experienced denials of mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) coverage due to medical necessity criteria and pre-authorization of services. Most consumers surveyed for the report had little to no knowledge of MH/SUD visit and prior approval limitations and needed more information on how to challenge treatment denials. The most common insurance-related parity barrier cited by NYS providers was concerning financial requirements and pre-authorization. Most providers mentioned that they would be willing to file appeals on behalf of their patients but required more information on Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs) since claims denials was not their area of expertise. (Note: NQTLs include utilization review practices, preauthorization/medical necessity criteria, step therapy/fail-first policies, formulary design for prescription drugs, geographic/facility type/scope or duration of benefits limits and failure to complete treatment course exclusions etc.). In addition to research and survey data, a NYC CSB member shared that “parity between physical health and behavioral health is key to promoting access and engaging community members in treatment programs” (December 2022).

With regard to youth behavioral health, NYC DOHMH has identified a number of barriers to accessing cross-system behavioral health services among NYC youth and families.

For the Family Pathways to Care project, Public Policy Lab used human-centered research and design methods to understand how families connect with and experience Administration for Children's Services (ACS)- and DOHMH-contracted mental health and prevention services. Regarding cross-system referrals, they noted that families struggle to find services that are accessible within their neighborhoods and don't always know what they should be looking for. For example, when searching for services, they may not know what search terms to use or what clinical terms mean when reading program descriptions. Families who are non-English speaking, undocumented, or without community networks face additional fears or barriers to accessing the services they need.

Service providers in child-serving systems also face challenges referring families to mental health services in that they frequently don't fully understand the range of services available in the mental health system. Strategies and tools for making referrals across agencies are inconsistent. High staff turnover at provider agencies means that institutional knowledge, which is infrequently documented, can be lost as staff come and go. Providers seek up-to-date, easy to access, and approachable information about programs, which they could ideally filter and search by eligibility rules. They need a centralized system for locating appropriate and available services for families. We are working to expand use of NYC Well by service providers and youth and families.

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): NYC currently contracts for approximately 11,200 units of supportive housing. However, despite this investment in supportive housing, homelessness continues to increase and threatens to erase progress made, especially among New Yorkers with behavioral health concerns. Housing instability and homelessness are particularly important social determinants of health for people with behavioral health concerns; evidence shows that both housing instability and homelessness are linked to morbidity and premature mortality and worse mental and physical health outcomes. Housing insecurity can worsen symptoms of mental illness and increase the likelihood a person will encounter high-risk situations that lead to avoidable hospitalization or incarceration.

Since 2017, NYC has had more homeless individuals and families sleeping in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelters or rough on the streets than at any time since the Great Depression. Many homeless individuals are living with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUD), or other behavioral health concerns, further highlighting the importance of the supportive housing model, which provides subsidized permanent housing alongside wraparound care and social services for residents who need them. In 2020, approximately 13,000 people with SMI experienced homelessness in the NYC shelter system or on the street.

Some people with SMI will be able to maintain independent housing with financial supports and effective services. Others benefit from higher levels of care, including supportive housing, which offers permanent, affordable rental housing with support services. While many homeless individuals in NYC currently qualify for supportive housing due to SMI, SUD, or other behavioral health issues, there is currently only one available unit of supportive housing for every five eligible applicants. There remains a significant need in NYC for both additional funding for supportive housing and additional units of supportive housing.

Furthermore, stable housing is closely associated with a person's ability to protect and enhance their health and well-being and is associated with improved health and social outcomes for people who use drugs. Unstable housing status and contact with the criminal legal system are both risk factors for overdose and drug-related harms. Drug-related death is the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness in NYC. In addition, those who are involved in the criminal legal system are at increased risk of drug-related harms, including but not limited to overdose, HIV and hepatitis C virus infection.

In order to recognize housing as a basic necessity and platform to improve an individual's health, supportive housing and other programs should take a "Housing First" approach, which does not restrict eligibility based on current or previous drug use and provides re/habilitation supports to increase the ability to remain safely housed.

People experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to criminal legal system involvement, unnecessary hospitalizations, and potential for increased exposure to law enforcement on the subway system.

In addition, housing continues to be a major unmet need for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in NYC. For the past several years, adequate and accessible housing options for individuals with I/DD has been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals and their families. As in the past, this year, housing options was ranked among the top five areas of concern by NYC DOHMH I/DD stakeholders.

More research may be needed to understand ways to expand least-restrictive housing options while maintaining high quality housing for individuals with I/DD. Many advocates, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS), believe enhanced regulatory flexibility is needed, and suggest further study of ways to improve regulatory flexibility in the housing arena. Finally, better prioritization of residential placements is needed. Specifically, stakeholders have expressed difficulty with finding placements for people with I/DD who live in the community but need housing as parents age and are no longer able to care for their children.

Inpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Several hospital-based detoxification programs include their beds under Med-Surg during non-emergencies, which is needed in order to normalize substance use withdrawal as a routine medical need. However, there is continued concern whether beds are made available equitably to those needing medically managed withdrawal when Med-Surg beds are in high demand. NYC DOHMH will review and monitor changes in bed utilization in these settings as well as inviting comment from community groups to ensure proper access to these critical services.

Additionally, NYC's inpatient programs (especially non-hospital based) have continued need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials to support infection control.

Non-Clinical Supports Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The onset of severe mental illness (SMI) often interrupts a person's relationships, education and employment in ways that substantially and negatively impact their quality of life — 45% of New Yorkers with SMI report having low social support, and 29% are at risk for social isolation. Social isolation, in turn, increases the risk of mental health crisis, due to things like falling out of care or off treatment, or even struggling to maintain housing. People with SMI are also more likely to be unemployed and have a lower household income and lower levels of educational attainment. Discrimination due to mental health diagnosis exacerbates the barriers to employment and social inclusion that people of color already face due to structural racism. People with SMI need more social infrastructure to connect with others and form community and relationships. Clubhouses are one-stop programs offering an array of services including, but not limited to, building strong support networks, socialization through joining a clubhouse community, supported employment, education support, skill building, case management including identifying supportive housing, advocacy, low or no-cost snacks and meals, and recreation in a recovery-oriented environment.

Research shows the clubhouse model reduces people's hospitalization and contact with the criminal legal system, and improves their health and wellness. Over the last year, NYC clubhouses have enrolled more than 1,000 new members. This ongoing growth demonstrates a clear demand for these services. By expanding clubhouses, more New Yorkers with SMI will be welcomed into safe, supportive communities and engaged in efforts to advance their quality of life, including social, educational and employment activities, while reducing their risk of isolation and crisis and associated risks like homelessness and hospitalization.

Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, and clubhouse services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services. Considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Psychiatric rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and peer support services are important and often overlooked, complementary and/or alternative services to clinical services. After decades of flat enrollment, NYC successfully increased the number of people in clubhouses citywide by 30% with a \$4M investment and coordinated recruitment effort. This expansion demonstrated previously unacknowledged demand for this valuable service. Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation and occupational therapy services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, clubhouse and recovery services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists and Certified Peer Recovery Advocates are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services and considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Outpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): There is insufficient capacity to meet NYC's demand for specialty mental health care: 41% of people with severe mental illness (SMI) (around 100,000 New Yorkers) want treatment but are unable to get it. Many of the greatest mental health provider shortages are concentrated in neighborhoods with the highest proportion of people of color. The services available are complex, inequitable, and difficult to navigate. These access issues are made worse by cost. One in eight (12.1%) New Yorkers are uninsured, and for people who do have insurance, finding affordable mental health services is challenging due to low reimbursement rates. These financial barriers are more significant for people of color, who face greater inequities in access to health insurance and fair wages. New Yorkers need equitable access to culturally responsive, race-conscious, and trauma-informed care to improve mental health outcomes.

A single system for people with SMI to engage in care is necessary to facilitate efficient, well-planned

connections from hospitals, jails and shelters to outpatient mental health and social services that tailor support for people to successfully reenter communities. Additionally, expanding access to comprehensive primary and community mental health care is essential for people to be able to establish relationships with trusted providers who can support their whole health over time. Only providers who have continuous relationships with individuals can identify changes in their circumstances that might quickly bring on a crisis, intervene to prevent it, and make sure they have the resources necessary to stabilize and recover. Lastly, people with SMI also may use drugs and alcohol or have a co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD). A holistic approach for people with SMI must include access to evidence-based substance use treatment and harm reduction services.

Significant investment is needed in order to expand access to outpatient mental healthcare for all New Yorkers who need it.

Prevention Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Despite investment in behavioral healthcare services in NYC, including investment specifically aimed at treatment of serious mental illness (SMI), serious psychological distress (SPD) and other behavioral health issues, there is “a considerable need to raise the priority given to the prevention of mental disorders and to the promotion of mental health through action on the social determinants of health.”

Prevention is a central tenet of public health practice and yet when it comes to SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues, prevention receives little attention or funding compared to treatment within the mental healthcare system. The current model in NYC relies on treating behavioral health problems when they arise rather than working to prevent them to begin with.

Prevention is complex and relies on a wide array of resources and stakeholders; it is not relegated to the hospital, the clinic or the physician's office but is diffused throughout the areas of society in which individuals are born, grow, live, work and age. Prevention often operates at the population level and is driven by politics and policy choices, economics, and social and cultural factors—what are often collectively referred to as social determinants of health (SDoH). Decades of research have indicated the outsized impact that these social determinants of health have on patterns of morbidity and mortality and the extent to which addressing upstream social determinants improves health and health outcomes and prevents disease at the population level.

A renewed focus on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is required to adequately address prevention of SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues in NYC. In line with the World Health Organization's report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health, we call for an approach that follows the concept of proportionate universalism—policies should be universal, across the whole of society and proportionate to need. In practice, such an approach will be grounded in social and economic rights— including the right to housing, healthcare, employment and education—and will rely on publicly run and funded programs to provide these rights to New Yorkers. It is by now well documented that access to stable and affordable housing, healthcare, a living wage and education are health protective in nature and that reducing inequalities in access to these health protective resources also works to reduce health inequalities more broadly.

When it comes to social conditions NYC ranks particularly poorly with high rates of homelessness, income and wealth inequality and poverty as well as unequal access to healthcare and higher education— New Yorkers of low socioeconomic status (SES) are less likely to have stable access to healthcare or access to higher education and are far more likely to experience substandard mental and physical health and worse health outcomes. Without meaningful intervention to address this, SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues will continue to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable New Yorkers and preventable health inequalities will continue to be commonplace.

New Yorkers of low SES are disproportionately represented among those with behavioral health issues, SPD and SMI. According to the 2020 NYC Community Health Survey:

- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who are unemployed (8.2%) or not in the labor force (8.9%) compared to those who are employed (4.1%).
- The prevalence of SPD among those with an annual household income lower than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) was significantly higher (8.8%) than it was among those with household incomes that are greater than 400% of the FPL (4.0%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those with less than a high school education (8.5%), high school graduates (6.6%), and some college (6.5%) compared with those who are college graduates (4.8%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who delayed paying or were unable to pay rent in the past 12 months (12.7%) compared to those who did not delay paying rent (4.9%).

Such data underscores the importance of an approach to prevention that is grounded in addressing the social conditions in which New Yorkers are born, grow, live, work and age. Concretely this means ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to the health protective benefits of stable housing, healthcare, education and a living wage, while also promoting policies like progressive taxation and wealth taxation that reduce income and wealth inequality and the health inequalities they result in. As the WHO report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health notes, “action [to address the social determinants of mental health] needs be universal: across the whole of society and proportionate to need in order to level the social gradient in health outcomes.”

Working to prevent behavioral health issues through action on the SDoMH is also a racial justice issue. Race-based health inequalities are often the result of decades of austerity and disinvestment in black and brown neighborhoods. Ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to housing, healthcare, higher education, and a living wage will disproportionately benefit black and brown New Yorkers and work to reduce racial health inequalities.

We recognize that many of the programs and policies outlined here fall outside of the purview of traditional public health discourse yet have an outsized impact on patterns of morbidity and mortality, mental and physical health outcomes, and health inequalities. For these reasons we believe that a population approach to prevention, grounded in addressing the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH), is urgently needed in NYC.

Problem Gambling Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Our two contracted programs providing problem gambling treatment services reported experiencing an increase in demand for services and admissions to treatment for mobile gambling since the legalization of online sport betting in NYS in 2021. One program reported the average debt from mobile gambling upon admission is at least \$50,000, and that it's not uncommon for individuals to have debt into the hundreds of thousands. Another program reported that from January to December of 2022, 33% of patients admitted reported mobile gambling as the main type of gambling they engaged in compared to 57% patients reporting this for only the first half of 2023. This program also reports a waitlist due to this increased demand for treatment, thereby necessitating more staff. Given these reports, there is a need for more problem gambling programming in NYC.

Refugees and Immigrants Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): In NYC, reports of hate crimes against members of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in 2021 outpaced records of similar complaints in 2020. In addition to being targeted for hate crimes, the prevalence of experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner among U.S.-born AANHPI adults is about three times that of AANHPI adults born outside of the U.S. (8% vs. 2%). AANHPI adults willing to report intimate partner

violence may face barriers due to language accessibility in our health systems or lack of knowledge of resources. NYC DOHMH anticipates that the AANHPI community will require additional support and culturally competent services to ensure safety and wellness.

Furthermore, NYC has provided services to more than 14,000 asylum seekers arriving from the southern border of the United States since May 2022. NYC's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), in conjunction with NYC Emergency Management (NYEM) and other City agencies, has tapped NYC DOHMH to provide health insurance enrollment, mental health support, and referrals to pediatric care and immunizations. NYC DOHMH is the lead agency providing emotional support services to incoming asylum seekers and staff at the Resources Navigation Center. Services include supporting those in distress to cope better with stressors while accessing services. Additional support services include crisis counseling and facilitating connections to case management services for ongoing support.

NYC DOHMH anticipates that this unprecedented influx of asylum seekers and refugees will continue into the foreseeable future and will require additional resources and funding in 2024 to meet mental health needs of the individuals and families currently experiencing crisis. NYC DOHMH recognizes that the refugees arriving to New York are predominantly from Central and South America and will need to ensure that services provided are culturally sensitive and, to the extent possible, in-language to promote engagement.

Residential Treatment Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Congregate care settings, including crisis and residential bedded programs, experienced challenges in maintaining social distancing amongst participants and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent guidance issued on February 16, 2023, permits all programs to return to admitting and discharging participants based on criteria, but also requires programs to adhere to infection control guidance from OASAS, state and local health departments. Masking is encouraged but not mandated. DOHMH Office of Emergency Response has coordinated with OASAS and OMH to receive regular transmission of program location and contact data in order to expedite communication around outbreaks and other regional disasters.

Transition Age Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): DOHMH is a partner organization in NYC's plan to prevent and end Youth Homelessness ("Opportunity Starts with a Home") led by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). NYC DOHMH participated in DYCD's community coordinated planning process to support the health and well-being of youth experiencing homelessness, called "Opportunity Starts with a Home." The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) recommended that the city address the following needs for youth and young adults (YYA):

- Hire mental health professionals within DYCD shelters for more accessible mental health supports.
- Improve access to existing health-related resources that meet a broad array of YYA basic needs, provide ongoing support, and offer training for YYA to lead healthy lives.
- Ensure that YYA have a broad array of options to engage in social activities that help them build relationships, develop skills, relieve stress, contribute to the community, and enjoy themselves.
- Increase opportunities for YYA survivors of violence to build healthy relationships and support their wellbeing. Please enter needs assessment here. Please cite sources as comments.

Additionally, through this initiative DOHMH has committed to working on following action steps to improve access to mental health and harm reduction/addiction supports and services for homeless youth and young adults (YYA):

- Work with DYCD and community-based organizations to increase awareness and accessibility of Crisis Respite/Residence Centers to support YYA experiencing mental or emotional health crises, including family conflict.
- Explore creating a connection between the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) drop-in centers.

Workforce Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): According to a recent report from the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) on Health Worker Recruitment and Retention in NYC, behavioral health providers are some of the most difficult health care occupations to recruit and retain. The report identifies psychiatrists in particular as one of the most difficult behavioral health occupations to recruit and retain. This aligns with observations made by the NYC Community Services Board (CSB), who have also raised concerns about a shortage of child psychiatrists in particular, as well as widespread workforce shortages in community-based settings.

The findings from the CHWS report on the reasons for difficulties in retention and recruitment generally align with those identified by NYC CSB members, including:

- Demand outstripped supply: The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated health workforce shortages in NYC, dramatically increasing the number of occupations in short supply as well as the magnitude of the shortages. This aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, who have stated that the demand for behavioral health services have grown exponentially, but staffing hasn't grown to meet the demand. The NYC CSB have continually advocated for the expansion of professional development pipelines that connect new behavioral health providers to community-based organizations (CBOs) in need of staff, particularly for social workers.
- Noncompetitive salaries: This finding in the CHWS report aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, particularly regarding higher starting salaries for behavioral health occupations in private sectors that CBOs are unable to compete with. Noncompetitive salaries (and low entry level pay in particular), in combination with the high cost of living in NYC and limited affordable housing opportunities, may have driven workers out of the behavioral health sector and the city entirely. While the proposed FY24 NYS Budget recommends \$38 million to support minimum wage increases for existing staff at programs licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by OPWDD, OMH, and OASAS, continued funding and opportunities for permanent or long-term wage increases may need to be explored.
- Lack of flexible scheduling: In alignment with observations made by the NYC CSB about the behavioral health workforce in NYC, the CHWS report shows that there is a significant generational and workforce culture shift among health care occupations, indicating that the younger workforce is more concerned with work-life balance and opportunities for flexible scheduling, including remote telework. Similarly, the NYC CSB has elevated the need for new types of incentives to ensure retention, including innovative scheduling models that provide flexible hours, as well as opportunities to meet childcare, eldercare, and other needs to better prevent burnout. In Mayor Adams's newly released Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for NYC, the City committed to reduce burnout by increasing quality supervision and appropriate staffing ratios (which requires a sufficient workforce), supporting continuing education and advancement, and creating financial incentives to make sure mental health staff can meet their work-related needs.

Concerning the peer workforce in particular, community input continues to identify peer support workers as integral components of the behavioral health workforce in NYC. Their specialized training and intentional use of lived experience has uniquely positioned them to engage and support clients burdened with a mental health concern(s), substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Despite the promise of the peer support workforce, challenges such as limited opportunities for career advancement and provider readiness continue to be identified as barriers to workforce integration. Moreover, as New York State considers expansion of the peer workforce through the 1115 Waiver by including Community Health Workers and other healthcare titles that prioritize lived experience, it will be critical to better understand their unique needs and develop strategies to ensure that are successfully integrated into the behavioral health workforce.

Telehealth and tele-support have become commonplace in the provision of behavioral health services, requiring peer support workers to adapt their services to virtual, digital, and telephonic platforms. Although the provision of in-person services have increased post-pandemic, there will be an ongoing need for peer support workers to successfully use technology in their practice. However, this segment of the workforce continues to experience barriers in accessing and using technology to provide telehealth peer support. Moreover, there is some concern that principles of peer support may not be easily translated through tele-support, which will require additional training for the peer workforce.

In 2021, NYC conducted a survey on the Effects of COVID-19 on Peer Support Workforce (n= 275). Findings included:

- 50% of Peer support workers said the in-ability to meet in-person was the biggest barrier to delivering services during the pandemic.
- 48% reported technology as the most critical new skill they learned, yet 45% felt they were not very well or only somewhat supported in learning how to use technology.

The New York State Office of Mental Health also conducted a survey that included peer support workers and managers/supervisors on competencies in peer telehealth during the COVID-19 (n=313, n=164) found that competency-based training and performance-based training was needed to preserve the unique nature of peer support services in the provision of Peer Telehealth.

These findings suggest there is an area of ongoing need for peer support workers and their supervisors/managers to ensure that they are able to successfully integrate technology into their work. As New York State continues to build its digital telehealth structure, targeted resources are needed to study potential barriers to successful integration of the technology and develop strategies to increase workforce literacy as needed.

A centralized system for receiving workforce information and updates has also been identified as essential to the advancement of the Peer and Community Health Worker workforce. This need has become increasingly evident as Peer and Community Health Workers complete dual certifications. However, there is currently no central point of access for all peer support workers (PSWs) to obtain information on training, continuing education units (CEU) and professional development opportunities, or general community resources of interest to the workforce.

While peer support workers are considered to be especially vulnerable to burnout and stress, many have noted that this stress is often in reaction to toxic workplace culture and is pervasive in organizations regardless of title. Since the onset of the pandemic, the workforce has been increasingly complex which has contributed to heightened levels of stress and burnout among many workers. Studies indicate that:

- 80% of workers reported that workplace stress affects their relationships with friends, family, and coworkers. Only 38% of those who knew about their organization's mental health services would feel comfortable using them.
- It is estimated that cost employers in the United States up to \$193.2 billion annually in lost earnings due to absenteeism and presenteeism. Anxiety and depression cost the global economy over \$1 trillion in lost productivity yearly.
- Workplace stress costs U.S. employers \$500 billion annually in lost productivity.

As NYC's workforce continues to adapt and evolve, there is an urgent need to increase access to resources and tools to support the well-being of the workforce. Many of these strategies are currently being used but will need to be built to scale such as:

- Assuring access and connection to culturally responsive resources and services that address traumatic stress and loss.
- Employing supports and resources that address underlying complex trauma due to historical or racial trauma and its disproportionate impact on historically underrepresented workers- LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, differently abled, neurodivergent, etc.
- Increasing awareness of trauma-specific treatment modalities.

Ongoing development of tools to track the impact of COVID-19 associated collective trauma and the needs of frontline workers.

Concerning the I/DD workforce, recruitment and retention have been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals with I/DD and their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated a historic need to strengthen I/DD workforce recruitment and retention. While OPWDD has begun crucial work in this area, including dedicating 76% of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to workforce development grants and workforce incentives and bonuses, a variety of structural factors impact the DD workforce. These include high stress, low wages, a lack of professional development opportunities, a lack of retention incentives, and insufficient and/or ineffective marketing of DD workforce careers.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), both those employed directly by OPWDD as well as contracted providers through the nonprofit sector, remain the backbone of the I/DD workforce. These critical staff contribute to community habilitation programs, respite services, and congregate settings, among others, and essential to day-to-day programming. Chronic underfunding continues to create barriers to a sustainable, well-trained, and supported workforce.

Stakeholders, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) and the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies (IAC), have advocated for increased incentives for DSP training and professional development and have recommended that OPWDD promote opportunities for people to make their work a long-term career.

Addressing challenges with the DD workforce can have a cascading effect in improving other areas of unmet need impacted by staffing shortages, such as crisis services and service continuity for individuals with developmental disabilities. NYC DOHMH will consider the merits of conducting a research study to better understand underlying I/DD workforce recruitment and retention concerns. Such a study would be conducted in collaboration with intergovernmental partners (OPWDD, etc.) and among contractors for services.

Harm Reduction Services to Combat Overdose Epidemic Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The unintentional overdose rate in NYC is at an all-time high, with 2,668 overdose deaths reported in 2021, making it the deadliest year on record. As a result, there is a need to strengthen and enhance the following services and initiatives, many of which exist but could be broadened/bolstered across the harm reduction service continuum:

- Identifying sustainable funding to support enhancement of low threshold wraparound services at SSPs, including mental health, primary care, SUD treatment, and meeting basic needs (e.g., food, showers, laundry), with a focus on neighborhoods with high overdose mortality rates
- Expanding additional OPC services throughout NYC including in areas with high overdose mortality rates
- Building greater capacity to address access to fentanyl test strips through various types of service providers
- Expanding access to drug checking technology (e.g., tests drug sample for fentanyl and xylazine) so participants can make better informed decisions around their use
- Promoting safer means of syringe disposal including more syringe litter kiosks
- Creating post-use clinical observation programs

Racial Equity and Justice-Impacted Populations Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Communities of Color in the U.S. experience significant health inequities laid bare and exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic; these inequities severely impact persons with criminal legal system involvement.

The impact of long-standing systemic racism is evident in the US criminal legal system (CLS), with persons of color experiencing disproportionately high incarceration rates. Persons with criminal legal system involvement (CLSI) also face systemic racism and other barriers when re-entering the community, experiencing poorer health outcomes, higher rates of heart disease, trauma, hypertension, behavioral health conditions, and premature mortality. Housing insecurity is widespread, with persons with CLSI experiencing almost 10 times the rate of homelessness compared to the general population. Persons with CLSI also face numerous barriers to employment, with only 55% of individuals report having any income during the first year following release.

Emergency Preparedness in the Behavioral Health Service System Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Research and anecdotal evidence from previous disasters and public health emergencies highlighted the need for a better prepared behavioral health service system to address the impact of these events on their workforce and the population they serve. This need was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disaster planning and preparedness often neglects to adequately consider the unique event related needs of the service recipients of all three areas of the behavioral health service system. This can lead to inadequate response to their event-related behavioral health needs and contribute to adverse outcomes such as impaired coping, inability to access needed care, worsening of existing conditions, and diminished chance for recovery. Evidence also indicates lack of adequate readiness and failure to engage the staff of the Behavioral Health Service System in disaster planning and prerenders negatively affects their health and functioning during an event, with high rates of burnout and turn around. It also increases their risk for event related mental health illnesses, such as depression anxiety, and alcohol and substance use.

NYC DOHMH identified three main gaps in the Behavioral Health Service System planning, preparedness, response. Addressing these will be essential to improve future response outcomes. Activities need to focus on 1) Engaging staff in planning and preparedness and enhancing their resilience and supporting their emotional health and well-being to prevent burnout and costly high turn around. 2) providing adequate and timely behavioral health support services to individuals and communities most impacted by the incident. 3) planning to coordinate response among Behavioral Health Service providers

NYC DOHMH requires support from city and state leadership to enhance its behavioral health care system's response readiness, most urgently to develop comprehensive, standardized, and scalable disasters and public health emergencies response plans with corresponding tools, protocols, and trainings, and to build and strengthen systems for collaboration among behavioral health care providers around resource sharing.

LGU Representative: Anika Kalra

Submitted for: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

2024-2027 Needs Assessment Form

2.1. Adverse Childhood Experiences

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Experiences/Adverse Community Environments (ACEs) have been shown to increase risk for a variety of medical, psychological, and behavioral conditions in adulthood.¹ ACEs research also sheds light on the importance of protective factors during childhood and adolescence that promote resiliency and the ability to cope with toxic stress, while also targeting structural risk factors for trauma exposure.² NYC DOHMH's 2015 Child Health, Emotional Wellness, and Development Survey found that racial inequities persist in children's exposure to adverse events:

- 89% of Black children and 90% of Latinx children had a regular place to live in the last year compared to 99% of White children.
- 12% of Black children and 8% of Latinx children were reported by their caregiver(s) to have witnessed or been the targets of violence in their neighborhoods compared to 1% of White children.
- 45% of Black children and 46% of Latinx children were experiencing food insecurity, as reported by caregivers, in the last year compared to 12% of White children.

Furthermore, Latinx and Black children in NYC were less likely to live in supportive neighborhoods, defined as feeling that people in families' neighborhoods help each other out, than White children (61% and 72% vs. 84%).³ The 2021 Health Opinion Poll found that 68% of Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults in NYC reported feeling a lack of emotional support compared to 47% of White adults.⁴ This is particularly important given the recent spate of Anti-Asian hate crimes, both in NYC and nationally. Reducing children's exposure to adverse events and increasing their access to supportive environments requires us to address the long-standing economic and social ramifications of structural racism in addition to offering trauma-informed care.

2.2. Case Management/Care Coordination [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.3. Crisis Services

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Acute care is a critical component of our mental health care system and essential for supporting many people when they are in crisis. However, acute care is not a solution to homelessness or other social factors that worsen mental illness. The entry way to our serious mental illness (SMI) care systems is

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/riskprotectivefactors.html> 5

² https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/reports/docs/adverse_childhood_experiences.pdf 6

³ <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/child-chs.page> 7

⁴ <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief130.pdf> 12

often through emergency response systems, the majority of which have been led by law enforcement. Law enforcement and mental health advocates agree this situation is not ideal, and would prefer a clinical, trauma informed, and health-led response to mental health crises. This recognition is also shared nationally, with the initiation of 988, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, as a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care for people experiencing emergency mental health needs.

Because community-based mental health care can be difficult and confusing to access, many people end up calling 911 and getting transported to care in emergency and inpatient settings. According to data from the New York Police Department (NYPD), there were an average of nearly 15,000 911 calls per month in 2022 that were related to a mental health emergency and responded to by NYPD. We must improve availability of and funding for health-led response options and reduce police involvement in behavioral crisis while also increasing access to intensive community treatment and support options.

2.4. Cross System Services

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Despite a significant number of ongoing initiatives aimed at improving behavioral health conditions among NYC residents, there continue to be disparities in behavioral health care access, utilization, and outcomes in NYC.

One in five New Yorkers experiences mental illness in a given year, and hundreds of thousands of these New Yorkers are not connected to care.⁵ Additionally, 9.2% of NYC public high school students have reported attempting suicide. Moreover, a 2018 study found that 8.3% of NYC adults had current symptomatic depression. Socioeconomic inequalities in mental health persist in NYC and highlight the need for better diagnosis and treatment.

Within the Medicaid funded behavioral health service system, the number of adult and youth Medicaid recipients with at least one mental health or substance use related primary diagnosis in 2022 was 526,137. Despite significant spending on behavioral health care, the current Medicaid funded system still struggles to offer comprehensive and equitable care to the highest-need individuals, and to effectively integrate behavioral health services with physical health care. Throughout the country, as well as in NYS, behavioral healthcare providers also lag behind their primary care counterparts in opportunities to increase their revenue streams including through value-based payment arrangements. During NYC's community feedback process for local services planning, a Community Services Board (CSB) member shared that "smaller organizations are providing mental health services but don't have a system to actually generate revenue, despite the fact that these organizations have been in the communities for decades and have public trust". Another member stated that "it is much easier for primary care professionals who have data and analysis departments to negotiate rates, etc. We have to think boldly and differently and outside the box if we are going to meet all of this unmet need" (December 2022).

⁵ [Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health | Data Dashboard \(cityofnewyork.us.\)](https://cityofnewyork.us/data/mayors-office-of-community-mental-health/)

Regarding the privately/commercially insured population, research shows that individuals with private insurance may be even more vulnerable to gaps in behavioral health coverage than those with Medicaid. NYC's Community Health Survey conducted in 2020 indicated that approximately 45% of NYC residents are covered by private insurance plans, and a 2019 Kaiser Foundation study showed that 55% of adults with mental illness have private insurance. A 2015 study published in the journal of Psychiatric Services and the National Institute of Health (NIH) stated that U.S. adults with mental illness covered by Medicaid had over 2 to 3 times the odds, of receiving treatment compared to individuals with private insurance that had 1.5 times the odds. As there are currently no NYC specific studies on behavioral health care access by this population, in 2022, NYC DOHMH conducted interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders (n=71) and surveys of insurance beneficiaries (n=194) and healthcare providers (n=88) to gather NYC specific data on this topic. Select results from the beneficiary survey showed that:

Service providers:

- 78% cited low reimbursement rates as the main challenge when working with commercial insurance companies
- 85% said a helpline, chat services, or insurance navigators designated for providers to assist in resolving insurance-related issues would be most helpful for their work.
- 61% said standardized administrative process across all insurers would be most helpful
- 50% cited difficulties with denials as a main challenge

Insurance beneficiaries:

- 80% have at some point had to seek behavioral health care outside of their insurance network.
- 65% have encountered incorrect insurance acceptance information from a directory, website, or third-party platform like ZocDoc.
- 69% have been denied coverage of BH services by their health insurance plan.

Furthermore, despite the increased attention to the enforcement of behavioral health parity laws, a 2019 report showed that most consumers in NYS regardless of insurance type, experienced denials of mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) coverage due to medical necessity criteria and pre-authorization of services. Most consumers surveyed for the report had little to no knowledge of MH/SUD visit and prior approval limitations and needed more information on how to challenge treatment denials. The most common insurance-related parity barrier cited by NYS providers was concerning financial requirements and pre-authorization. Most providers mentioned that they would be willing to file appeals on behalf of their patients but required more information on Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs) since claims denials was not their area of expertise. (Note: NQTLs include utilization review practices, preauthorization/medical necessity criteria, step therapy/fail-first policies, formulary design for prescription drugs, geographic/facility type/scope or duration of benefits limits and failure to complete treatment course exclusions etc.). In addition to research and survey data, a NYC CSB member shared that "parity between physical health and behavioral health is key to promoting access and engaging community members in treatment programs" (December 2022).

With regard to youth behavioral health, NYC DOHMH has identified a number of barriers to accessing cross-system behavioral health services among NYC youth and families.

For the Family Pathways to Care project, Public Policy Lab used human-centered research and design methods to understand how families connect with and experience Administration for Children's Services (ACS)- and DOHMH-contracted mental health and prevention services. Regarding cross-system referrals,

they noted that families struggle to find services that are accessible within their neighborhoods and don't always know what they should be looking for. For example, when searching for services, they may not know what search terms to use or what clinical terms mean when reading program descriptions. Families who are non-English speaking, undocumented, or without community networks face additional fears or barriers to accessing the services they need.

Service providers in child-serving systems also face challenges referring families to mental health services in that they frequently don't fully understand the range of services available in the mental health system. Strategies and tools for making referrals across agencies are inconsistent. High staff turnover at provider agencies means that institutional knowledge, which is infrequently documented, can be lost as staff come and go. Providers seek up-to-date, easy to access, and approachable information about programs, which they could ideally filter and search by eligibility rules. They need a centralized system for locating appropriate and available services for families. We are working to expand use of NYC Well by service providers and youth and families.

2.5. Employment/volunteer (client) [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.6. Forensics [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.7. Housing

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH, OASAS, and OPWDD
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

NYC currently contracts for approximately 11,200 units of supportive housing. However, despite this investment in supportive housing, homelessness continues to increase and threatens to erase progress made, especially among New Yorkers with behavioral health concerns.⁶ Housing instability and homelessness are particularly important social determinants of health for people with behavioral health concerns; evidence shows that both housing instability and homelessness are linked to morbidity and premature mortality and worse mental and physical health outcomes.^{7 8 9} Housing insecurity can worsen symptoms of mental illness and increase the likelihood a person will encounter high-risk situations that lead to avoidable hospitalization or incarceration.

Since 2017, NYC has had more homeless individuals and families sleeping in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelters or rough on the streets than at any time since the Great Depression. Many homeless individuals are living with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUD), or other behavioral health concerns, further highlighting the importance of the supportive housing model, which

⁶ <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/office-of-the-mayor/2022/Housing-Blueprint.pdf> (pg. 63)

⁷ Taylor, L. (2018). "Housing and Health: An Overview of the Literature." Health Affairs. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hpb20180313.396577>.

⁸ Padgett, DK. (2020). Homelessness, housing instability and mental health: making the connections. BJPsych Bull. 44(5):197-201. doi: 10.1192/bjb.2020.49. PMID: 32538335; PMCID: PMC7525583.

⁹ Fazel S, Geddes JR, Kushel M. (2014). The health of homeless people in high-income countries: descriptive epidemiology, health consequences, and clinical and policy recommendations. The Lancet. 384(9953):1529-40. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61132-6.

provides subsidized permanent housing alongside wraparound care and social services for residents who need them.¹⁰ In 2020, approximately 13,000 people with SMI experienced homelessness in the NYC shelter system or on the street.¹¹

Some people with SMI will be able to maintain independent housing with financial supports and effective services. Others benefit from higher levels of care, including supportive housing, which offers permanent, affordable rental housing with support services.^{12 13 14} While many homeless individuals in NYC currently qualify for supportive housing due to SMI, SUD, or other behavioral health issues, there is currently only one available unit of supportive housing for every five eligible applicants. There remains a significant need in NYC for both additional funding for supportive housing and additional units of supportive housing.

Furthermore, stable housing is closely associated with a person's ability to protect and enhance their health and well-being and is associated with improved health and social outcomes for people who use drugs. Unstable housing status and contact with the criminal legal system are both risk factors for overdose and drug-related harms. Drug-related death is the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness in NYC.¹⁵ In addition, those who are involved in the criminal legal system are at increased risk of drug-related harms, including but not limited to overdose, HIV and hepatitis C virus infection.¹⁶

In order to recognize housing as a basic necessity and platform to improve an individual's health, supportive housing and other programs should take a "Housing First" approach, which does not restrict eligibility based on current or previous drug use and provides re/habilitation supports to increase the ability to remain safely housed.

People experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to criminal legal system involvement, unnecessary hospitalizations, and potential for increased exposure to law enforcement on the subway system.

¹⁰ US Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2015). The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, Part 2: Estimates of Homelessness in the United States. US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress Part 2 (huduser.gov)

¹¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations. Published December 15, 2020. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_CoC_NY-600-2020_NY_2020.pdf

¹² Culhane DP, Metraux S, Hadley T. Public service reductions associated with placement of homeless persons with severe mental illness in supportive housing. *Hous Policy Debate*. 2022;13(1):107-163. doi:10.1080/10511482.2002.9521437

¹³ Lim S, Gao Q, Stazesky E, Singh TP, Harris TG, Levanon Seligson A. Impact of a New York City supportive housing program on Medicaid expenditure patterns among people with serious mental illness and chronic homelessness. *BMC Health Services Research*. 2018;18(1):1-3. doi:10.1186/s12913-017-2816-9

¹⁴ Gouse I, Walters S, Miller-Archie S, Singh T, Lim S. Evaluation of New York/New York III permanent supportive housing program. *Evaluation and Program Planning*. 2023;97:1-9. doi:10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2023.102245

¹⁵ NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and NYC Department of Homeless Services. Sixteenth annual report on deaths among persons experiencing homelessness. July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. https://a860-gpp.nyc.gov/concern/parent/zg64tp214/file_sets/j9602313t

¹⁶ Freudenberg N, Heller D. A review of opportunities to improve the health of people involved in the criminal justice system in the United States. *Annu Rev Public Health*. 2016;37:313-333. doi:10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032315-021420

In addition, housing continues to be a major unmet need for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in NYC. For the past several years, adequate and accessible housing options for individuals with I/DD has been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals and their families. As in the past, this year, housing options was ranked among the top five areas of concern by NYC DOHMH I/DD stakeholders.

More research may be needed to understand ways to expand least-restrictive housing options while maintaining high quality housing for individuals with I/DD. Many advocates, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS), believe enhanced regulatory flexibility is needed, and suggest further study of ways to improve regulatory flexibility in the housing arena. Finally, better prioritization of residential placements is needed. Specifically, stakeholders have expressed difficulty with finding placements for people with I/DD who live in the community but need housing as parents age and are no longer able to care for their children.

2.8. Inpatient Treatment

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Several hospital-based detoxification programs include their beds under Med-Surg during non-emergencies, which is needed in order to normalize substance use withdrawal as a routine medical need. However, there is continued concern whether beds are made available equitably to those needing medically managed withdrawal when Med-Surg beds are in high demand. NYC DOHMH will review and monitor changes in bed utilization in these settings as well as inviting comment from community groups to ensure proper access to these critical services.

Additionally, NYC's inpatient programs (especially non-hospital based) have continued need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials to support infection control.

2.9. Non-Clinical Supports

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH, OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

The onset of severe mental illness (SMI) often interrupts a person's relationships, education and employment in ways that substantially and negatively impact their quality of life — 45% of New Yorkers with SMI report having low social support, and 29% are at risk for social isolation.¹⁷ Social isolation, in turn, increases the risk of mental health crisis, due to things like falling out of care or off treatment, or even struggling to maintain housing. People with SMI are also more likely to be unemployed and have a lower household income and lower levels of educational attainment.¹⁸ Discrimination due to mental health diagnosis exacerbates the barriers to employment and social inclusion that people of color

¹⁷ Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023

¹⁸ Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023.

already face due to structural racism. People with SMI need more social infrastructure to connect with others and form community and relationships. Clubhouses are one-stop programs offering an array of services including, but not limited to, building strong support networks, socialization through joining a clubhouse community, supported employment, education support, skill building, case management including identifying supportive housing, advocacy, low or no-cost snacks and meals, and recreation in a recovery-oriented environment.

Research shows the clubhouse model reduces people's hospitalization and contact with the criminal legal system, and improves their health and wellness.^{19 20} Over the last year, NYC clubhouses have enrolled more than 1,000 new members. This ongoing growth demonstrates a clear demand for these services. By expanding clubhouses, more New Yorkers with SMI will be welcomed into safe, supportive communities and engaged in efforts to advance their quality of life, including social, educational and employment activities, while reducing their risk of isolation and crisis and associated risks like homelessness and hospitalization.

Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, and clubhouse services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services. Considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Psychiatric rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and peer support services are important and often overlooked, complementary and/or alternative services to clinical services. After decades of flat enrollment, NYC successfully increased the number of people in clubhouses citywide by 30% with a \$4M investment and coordinated recruitment effort. This expansion demonstrated previously unacknowledged demand for this valuable service. Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation and occupational therapy services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, clubhouse and recovery services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists and Certified Peer Recovery Advocates are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services and considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

2.10. Outpatient Treatment

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

¹⁹ Killaspy H, Harvey C, Brasier C, et al. Community-based social interventions for people with severe mental illness: A systematic review and narrative synthesis of recent evidence. *World Psychiatry*. 2022;21(1):96-123. doi:10.1002/wps.20940

²⁰ McKay C, Nugent KL, Johnsen M, et al. A systematic review of evidence for the clubhouse model of psychosocial rehabilitation. *Adm Policy Ment Health*. 2018;45:28-47. doi:10.1007/s10488-016-0760-3

There is insufficient capacity to meet NYC's demand for specialty mental health care: 41% of people with severe mental illness (SMI) (around 100,000 New Yorkers) want treatment but are unable to get it.²¹ Many of the greatest mental health provider shortages are concentrated in neighborhoods with the highest proportion of people of color. The services available are complex, inequitable, and difficult to navigate. These access issues are made worse by cost. One in eight (12.1%) New Yorkers are uninsured,²² and for people who do have insurance, finding affordable mental health services is challenging due to low reimbursement rates. These financial barriers are more significant for people of color, who face greater inequities in access to health insurance and fair wages. New Yorkers need equitable access to culturally responsive, race-conscious, and trauma-informed care to improve mental health outcomes.

A single system for people with SMI to engage in care is necessary to facilitate efficient, well-planned connections from hospitals, jails and shelters to outpatient mental health and social services that tailor support for people to successfully reenter communities. Additionally, expanding access to comprehensive primary and community mental health care is essential for people to be able to establish relationships with trusted providers who can support their whole health over time. Only providers who have continuous relationships with individuals can identify changes in their circumstances that might quickly bring on a crisis, intervene to prevent it, and make sure they have the resources necessary to stabilize and recover. Lastly, people with SMI also may use drugs and alcohol or have a co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD). A holistic approach for people with SMI must include access to evidence-based substance use treatment and harm reduction services.

Significant investment is needed in order to expand access to outpatient mental healthcare for all New Yorkers who need it.

2.11. Prevention

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Despite investment in behavioral healthcare services in NYC, including investment specifically aimed at treatment of serious mental illness (SMI), serious psychological distress (SPD) and other behavioral health issues, there is “a considerable need to raise the priority given to the prevention of mental disorders and to the promotion of mental health through action on the social determinants of health.”²³ Prevention is a central tenet of public health practice and yet when it comes to SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues, prevention receives little attention or funding compared to treatment within the mental healthcare system. The current model in NYC relies on treating behavioral health problems when they arise rather than working to prevent them to begin with.

²¹ Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023.

²² Unpublished raw data from the 2021 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2021. Accessed February 17, 2023.

²³ World Health Organization. (2014). Social Determinants of Mental Health. World Health Organization. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/112828/9789241506809_eng.pdf

Prevention is complex and relies on a wide array of resources and stakeholders; it is not relegated to the hospital, the clinic or the physician's office but is diffused throughout the areas of society in which individuals are born, grow, live, work and age.²⁴ Prevention often operates at the population level and is driven by politics and policy choices, economics, and social and cultural factors—what are often collectively referred to as social determinants of health (SDoH).²⁵ Decades of research have indicated the outsized impact that these social determinants of health have on patterns of morbidity and mortality and the extent to which addressing upstream social determinants improves health and health outcomes and prevents disease at the population level.

A renewed focus on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is required to adequately address prevention of SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues in NYC. In line with the World Health Organization's report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health, we call for an approach that follows the concept of proportionate universalism—policies should be universal, across the whole of society and proportionate to need. In practice, such an approach will be grounded in social and economic rights—including the right to housing, healthcare, employment and education—and will rely on publicly run and funded programs to provide these rights to New Yorkers. It is by now well documented that access to stable and affordable housing, healthcare, a living wage and education are health protective in nature and that reducing inequalities in access to these health protective resources also works to reduce health inequalities more broadly.

When it comes to social conditions NYC ranks particularly poorly with high rates of homelessness, income and wealth inequality and poverty as well as unequal access to healthcare and higher education— New Yorkers of low socioeconomic status (SES) are less likely to have stable access to healthcare or access to higher education and are far more likely to experience substandard mental and physical health and worse health outcomes.^{26 27} Without meaningful intervention to address this, SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues will continue to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable New Yorkers and preventable health inequalities will continue to be commonplace.

New Yorkers of low SES are disproportionately represented among those with behavioral health issues, SPD and SMI. According to the 2020 NYC Community Health Survey:

- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who are unemployed (8.2%) or not in the labor force (8.9%) compared to those who are employed (4.1%).
- The prevalence of SPD among those with an annual household income lower than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) was significantly higher (8.8%) than it was among those with household incomes that are greater than 400% of the FPL (4.0%).

²⁴ Rose, G. (2001). Sick individuals and sick populations. *Int J Epidemiol.* 30(3):427-34. doi: 10.1093/ije/30.3.427.

²⁵ BG, Phelan J. (1995). Social conditions as fundamental causes of disease. *J Health Soc Behav. Spec No:*80-94. PMID: 7560851.

²⁶ US Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021). The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, Part 1: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness in the United States. US Department of Housing and Urban Development. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

²⁷ Sommellier, E. and Price, M. (2018). The New Gilded Age: Income Inequality in the US by State, Metropolitan Area, and County. Economic Policy Institute (EPI). <https://www.epi.org/publication/the-new-gilded-age-income-inequality-in-the-u-s-by-state-metropolitan-area-and-county/>

- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those with less than a high school education (8.5%), high school graduates (6.6%), and some college (6.5%) compared with those who are college graduates (4.8%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who delayed paying or were unable to pay rent in the past 12 months (12.7%) compared to those who did not delay paying rent (4.9%).

Such data underscores the importance of an approach to prevention that is grounded in addressing the social conditions in which New Yorkers are born, grow, live, work and age. Concretely this means ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to the health protective benefits of stable housing, healthcare, education and a living wage, while also promoting policies like progressive taxation and wealth taxation that reduce income and wealth inequality and the health inequalities they result in.^{28 29} As the WHO report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health notes, “action [to address the social determinants of mental health] needs be universal: across the whole of society and proportionate to need in order to level the social gradient in health outcomes.”

Working to prevent behavioral health issues through action on the SDoMH is also a racial justice issue. Race-based health inequalities are often the result of decades of austerity and disinvestment in black and brown neighborhoods. Ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to housing, healthcare, higher education, and a living wage will disproportionately benefit black and brown New Yorkers and work to reduce racial health inequalities.

We recognize that many of the programs and policies outlined here fall outside of the purview of traditional public health discourse yet have an outsized impact on patterns of morbidity and mortality, mental and physical health outcomes, and health inequalities. For these reasons we believe that a population approach to prevention, grounded in addressing the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH), is urgently needed in NYC.

2.12. Problem Gambling

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Adults only

Our two contracted programs providing problem gambling treatment services reported experiencing an increase in demand for services and admissions to treatment for mobile gambling since the legalization of online sport betting in NYS in 2021. One program reported the average debt from mobile gambling upon admission is at least \$50,000, and that it’s not uncommon for individuals to have debt into the hundreds of thousands. Another program reported that from January to December of 2022, 33% of patients admitted reported mobile gambling as the main type of gambling they engaged in compared to 57% patients reporting this for only the first half of 2023. This program also reports a waitlist due to this increased demand for treatment, thereby necessitating more staff. Given these reports, there is a need for more problem gambling programming in NYC.

²⁸ Pickett KE, Wilkinson RG. (2015). Income inequality and health: A Causal Review. *Social Science & Medicine*. 128:316-26.

²⁹ Piketty, T., & Goldhammer, A. (2020). *Capital and Ideology*. Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press.

2.13. Refugees and Immigrants

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

In NYC, reports of hate crimes against members of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in 2021 outpaced records of similar complaints in 2020.³⁰ In addition to being targeted for hate crimes, the prevalence of experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner among U.S.-born AANHPI adults is about three times that of AANHPI adults born outside of the U.S. (8% vs. 2%).³¹ AANHPI adults willing to report intimate partner violence may face barriers due to language accessibility in our health systems or lack of knowledge of resources. NYC DOHMH anticipates that the AANHPI community will require additional support and culturally competent services to ensure safety and wellness.

Furthermore, NYC has provided services to more than 14,000 asylum seekers arriving from the southern border of the United States since May 2022.³² NYC's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), in conjunction with NYC Emergency Management (NYEM) and other City agencies, has tapped NYC DOHMH to provide health insurance enrollment, mental health support, and referrals to pediatric care and immunizations. NYC DOHMH is the lead agency providing emotional support services to incoming asylum seekers and staff at the Resources Navigation Center. Services include supporting those in distress to cope better with stressors while accessing services. Additional support services include crisis counseling and facilitating connections to case management services for ongoing support.

NYC DOHMH anticipates that this unprecedented influx of asylum seekers and refugees will continue into the foreseeable future and will require additional resources and funding in 2024 to meet mental health needs of the individuals and families currently experiencing crisis. NYC DOHMH recognizes that the refugees arriving to New York are predominantly from Central and South America and will need to ensure that services provided are culturally sensitive and, to the extent possible, in-language to promote engagement.

2.14. Residential Treatment Services

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Congregate care settings, including crisis and residential bedded programs, experienced challenges in maintaining social distancing amongst participants and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent guidance issued on February 16, 2023, permits all programs to return to admitting and discharging participants based on criteria, but also requires programs to adhere to infection control

³⁰ [NYPD Hate Crimes Dashboard. \(n.d.\).](#)

³¹ NYC Health Department. (2021, September). Health of Asians and Pacific Islanders - New York City. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/episrv/asian-pacific-islander-health-2021-summary.pdf>

³² [Mayor Adams Releases "The Road Forward," New Blueprint to Handle Asylum Seeker Crisis Moving Forward | City of New York \(nyc.gov\)](#)

guidance from OASAS, state and local health departments. Masking is encouraged but not mandated. DOHMH Office of Emergency Response has coordinated with OASAS and OMH to receive regular transmission of program location and contact data in order to expedite communication around outbreaks and other regional disasters.

2.15. Respite [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.16. Transition age services

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

DOHMH is a partner organization in NYC's plan to prevent and end Youth Homelessness ("Opportunity Starts with a Home")³³ led by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). NYC DOHMH participated in DYCD's community coordinated planning process to support the health and well-being of youth experiencing homelessness, called "Opportunity Starts with a Home." The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) recommended that the city address the following needs for youth and young adults (YYA):

- Hire mental health professionals within DYCD shelters for more accessible mental health supports.
- Improve access to existing health-related resources that meet a broad array of YYA basic needs, provide ongoing support, and offer training for YYA to lead healthy lives.
- Ensure that YYA have a broad array of options to engage in social activities that help them build relationships, develop skills, relieve stress, contribute to the community, and enjoy themselves.
- Increase opportunities for YYA survivors of violence to build healthy relationships and support their wellbeing. Please enter needs assessment here. Please cite sources as comments.

Additionally, through this initiative DOHMH has committed to working on following action steps to improve access to mental health and harm reduction/addiction supports and services for homeless youth and young adults (YYA):

- Work with DYCD and community-based organizations to increase awareness and accessibility of Crisis Respite/Residence Centers to support YYA experiencing mental or emotional health crises, including family conflict.
- Explore creating a connection between the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) drop-in centers.

2.17. Transportation [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.18. Workforce

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH, OASAS, and OPWDD
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

³³ <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2022/NYC-Community-Plan-DIGITAL.pdf>

According to a recent report from the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) on Health Worker Recruitment and Retention in NYC, behavioral health providers are some of the most difficult health care occupations to recruit and retain. The report identifies psychiatrists in particular as one of the most difficult behavioral health occupations to recruit and retain. This aligns with observations made by the NYC Community Services Board (CSB), who have also raised concerns about a shortage of child psychiatrists in particular, as well as widespread workforce shortages in community-based settings.

The findings from the CHWS report on the reasons for difficulties in retention and recruitment generally align with those identified by NYC CSB members, including:

- **Demand outstripped supply:** The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated health workforce shortages in NYC, dramatically increasing the number of occupations in short supply as well as the magnitude of the shortages. This aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, who have stated that the demand for behavioral health services have grown exponentially, but staffing hasn't grown to meet the demand. The NYC CSB have continually advocated for the expansion of professional development pipelines that connect new behavioral health providers to community-based organizations (CBOs) in need of staff, particularly for social workers.
- **Noncompetitive salaries:** This finding in the CHWS report aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, particularly regarding higher starting salaries for behavioral health occupations in private sectors that CBOs are unable to compete with. Noncompetitive salaries (and low entry level pay in particular), in combination with the high cost of living in NYC and limited affordable housing opportunities, may have driven workers out of the behavioral health sector and the city entirely. While the proposed FY24 NYS Budget recommends \$38 million to support minimum wage increases for existing staff at programs licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by OPWDD, OMH, and OASAS, continued funding and opportunities for permanent or long-term wage increases may need to be explored.
- **Lack of flexible scheduling:** In alignment with observations made by the NYC CSB about the behavioral health workforce in NYC, the CHWS report shows that there is a significant generational and workforce culture shift among health care occupations, indicating that the younger workforce is more concerned with work-life balance and opportunities for flexible scheduling, including remote telework. Similarly, the NYC CSB has elevated the need for new types of incentives to ensure retention, including innovative scheduling models that provide flexible hours, as well as opportunities to meet childcare, eldercare, and other needs to better prevent burnout. In Mayor Adams's newly released *Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for NYC*, the City committed to reduce burnout by increasing quality supervision and appropriate staffing ratios (which requires a sufficient workforce), supporting continuing education and advancement, and creating financial incentives to make sure mental health staff can meet their work-related needs.

Concerning the peer workforce in particular, community input continues to identify peer support workers as integral components of the behavioral health workforce in NYC. Their specialized training and intentional use of lived experience has uniquely positioned them to engage and support clients burdened with a mental health concern(s), substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Despite the promise of the peer support workforce, challenges such as limited opportunities for career advancement and provider readiness continue to be identified as barriers to workforce integration. Moreover, as New York State considers expansion of the peer workforce through the 1115 Waiver by including Community Health Workers and other healthcare titles that prioritize lived

experience, it will be critical to better understand their unique needs and develop strategies to ensure that are successfully integrated into the behavioral health workforce.

Telehealth and tele-support have become commonplace in the provision of behavioral health services, requiring peer support workers to adapt their services to virtual, digital, and telephonic platforms. Although the provision of in-person services have increased post-pandemic, there will be an ongoing need for peer support workers to successfully use technology in their practice. However, this segment of the workforce continues to experience barriers in accessing and using technology to provide telehealth peer support. Moreover, there is some concern that principles of peer support may not be easily translated through tele-support, which will require additional training for the peer workforce.

In 2021, NYC conducted a survey on the Effects of COVID-19 on Peer Support Workforce (n= 275). Findings included:

- 50% of Peer support workers said the in-ability to meet in-person was the biggest barrier to delivering services during the pandemic.
- 48% reported technology as the most critical new skill they learned, yet 45% felt they were not very well or only somewhat supported in learning how to use technology.

The New York State Office of Mental Health also conducted a survey that included peer support workers and managers/supervisors on competencies in peer telehealth during the COVID-19 (n=313, n=164)³⁴ found that competency-based training and performance-based training was needed to preserve the unique nature of peer support services in the provision of Peer Telehealth.

These findings suggest there is an area of ongoing need for peer support workers and their supervisors/managers to ensure that they are able to successfully integrate technology into their work. As New York State continues to build its digital telehealth structure, targeted resources are needed to study potential barriers to successful integration of the technology and develop strategies to increase workforce literacy as needed.

A centralized system for receiving workforce information and updates has also been identified as essential to the advancement of the Peer and Community Health Worker workforce. This need has become increasingly evident as Peer and Community Health Workers complete dual certifications. However, there is currently no central point of access for all peer support workers (PSWs) to obtain information on training, continuing education units (CEU) and professional development opportunities, or general community resources of interest to the workforce.

While peer support workers are considered to be especially vulnerable to burnout and stress, many have noted that this stress is often in reaction to toxic workplace culture and is pervasive in organizations regardless of title. Since the onset of the pandemic, the workforce has been increasingly complex which has contributed to heightened levels of stress and burnout among many workers. Studies indicate that:

³⁴ Spagnolo, A. B., Pratt, C. W., Jia, Y., DeMasi, M., Cronise, R., & Gill, K. (2022) The Competencies of Telehealth Peer Support: Perceptions of Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Community mental health journal*, 58(7), 1386–1392.

- 80% of workers reported that workplace stress affects their relationships with friends, family, and coworkers. Only 38% of those who knew about their organization's mental health services would feel comfortable using them.³⁵
- It is estimated that cost employers in the United States up to \$193.2 billion annually in lost earnings due to absenteeism and presenteeism. Anxiety and depression cost the global economy over \$1 trillion in lost productivity yearly.³⁶
- Workplace stress costs U.S. employers \$500 billion annually in lost productivity.

As NYC's workforce continues to adapt and evolve, there is an urgent need to increase access to resources and tools to support the well-being of the workforce. Many of these strategies are currently being used but will need to be built to scale such as:

- Assuring access and connection to culturally responsive resources and services that address traumatic stress and loss.
- Employing supports and resources that address underlying complex trauma due to historical or racial trauma and its disproportionate impact on historically underrepresented workers- LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, differently abled, neurodivergent, etc.
- Increasing awareness of trauma-specific treatment modalities.

Ongoing development of tools to track the impact of COVID-19 associated collective trauma and the needs of frontline workers.³⁷

Concerning the I/DD workforce, recruitment and retention have been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals with I/DD and their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated a historic need to strengthen I/DD workforce recruitment and retention. While OPWDD has begun crucial work in this area, including dedicating 76% of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to workforce development grants and workforce incentives and bonuses, a variety of structural factors impact the DD workforce. These include high stress, low wages, a lack of professional development opportunities, a lack of retention incentives, and insufficient and/or ineffective marketing of DD workforce careers.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), both those employed directly by OPWDD as well as contracted providers through the nonprofit sector, remain the backbone of the I/DD workforce. These critical staff contribute to community habilitation programs, respite services, and congregate settings, among others, and essential to day-to-day programming. Chronic underfunding continues to create barriers to a sustainable, well-trained, and supported workforce.

Stakeholders, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) and the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies (IAC), have advocated for increased incentives for DSP training and professional development and have recommended that OPWDD promote opportunities for people to make their work a long-term career.

³⁵ Reinert, Nguyen, & Fritze. (2021) The State of Mental Health in America. Mental Health America, Alexandria VA.

³⁶ Adams & Nguyen. (2022) Mind the Workplace 2022 Report: Employer Responsibility to Employer Mental Health. Mental Health America, Alexandria VA.

³⁷ <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/statistics/2021-needs-of-frontline-workers-interim-report.pdf>

Addressing challenges with the DD workforce can have a cascading effect in improving other areas of unmet need impacted by staffing shortages, such as crisis services and service continuity for individuals with developmental disabilities. NYC DOHMH will consider the merits of conducting a research study to better understand underlying I/DD workforce recruitment and retention concerns. Such a study would be conducted in collaboration with intergovernmental partners (OPWDD, etc.) and among contractors for services.

2.19. Other

Harm Reduction Services to Combat Overdose Epidemic

The unintentional overdose rate in NYC is at an all-time high, with 2,668 overdose deaths reported in 2021, making it the deadliest year on record. As a result, there is a need to strengthen and enhance the following services and initiatives, many of which exist but could be broadened/bolstered across the harm reduction service continuum:

- Identifying sustainable funding to support enhancement of low threshold wraparound services at SSPs, including mental health, primary care, SUD treatment, and meeting basic needs (e.g., food, showers, laundry), with a focus on neighborhoods with high overdose mortality rates
- Expanding additional OPC services throughout NYC including in areas with high overdose mortality rates
- Building greater capacity to address access to fentanyl test strips through various types of service providers
- Expanding access to drug checking technology (e.g., tests drug sample for fentanyl and xylazine) so participants can make better informed decisions around their use
- Promoting safer means of syringe disposal including more syringe litter kiosks
- Creating post-use clinical observation programs

Racial Equity and Justice-Impacted Populations

Communities of Color in the U.S. experience significant health inequities laid bare and exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic; these inequities severely impact persons with criminal legal system involvement.

The impact of long-standing systemic racism is evident in the US criminal legal system (CLS), with persons of color experiencing disproportionately high incarceration rates.³⁸ Persons with criminal legal system involvement (CLSI) also face systemic racism and other barriers when re-entering the community, experiencing poorer health outcomes, higher rates of heart disease, trauma, hypertension, behavioral health conditions ³⁹, and premature mortality.⁴⁰ Housing insecurity is widespread, with

³⁸ The Sentencing Project. Lifetime likelihood of imprisonment of US residents born in 2001. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/criminal-justice-facts/> Accessed May 6, 2020

³⁹ Siegler A, Bersofsky M, Unangst J. Medical problems of state and prisoner and jail inmates. 2011-2012. US Department of Justice. 2015

⁴⁰ Binswanger IA, Stern CF, Deyo RA, et al. Release from prison — a high risk of death for former inmates. *N Engl J Med*. 2007;356(5):157-165. doi:10.1056/NEJMs064115.

persons with CLSI experiencing almost 10 times the rate of homelessness compared to the general population.⁴¹ Persons with CLSI also face numerous barriers to employment, with only 55% of individuals report having any income during the first year following release.

Emergency Preparedness in the Behavioral Health Service System

Research and anecdotal evidence from previous disasters and public health emergencies highlighted the need for a better prepared behavioral health service system to address the impact of these events on their workforce and the population they serve. This need was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disaster planning and preparedness often neglects to adequately consider the unique event related needs of the service recipients of all three areas of the behavioral health service system. This can lead to inadequate response to their event-related behavioral health needs and contribute to adverse outcomes such as impaired coping, inability to access needed care, worsening of existing conditions, and diminished chance for recovery. Evidence also indicates lack of adequate readiness and failure to engage the staff of the Behavioral Health Service System in disaster planning and preconditions negatively affects their health and functioning during an event, with high rates of burnout and turn around. It also increases their risk for event related mental health illnesses, such as depression anxiety, and alcohol and substance use.

NYC DOHMH identified three main gaps in the Behavioral Health Service System planning, preparedness, response. Addressing these will be essential to improve future response outcomes. Activities need to focus on 1) Engaging staff in planning and preparedness and enhancing their resilience and supporting their emotional health and well-being to prevent burnout and costly high turn around. 2) providing adequate and timely behavioral health support services to individuals and communities most impacted by the incident. 3) planning to coordinate response among Behavioral Health Service providers

NYC DOHMH requires support from city and state leadership to enhance its behavioral health care system's response readiness, most urgently to develop comprehensive, standardized, and scalable disasters and public health emergencies response plans with corresponding tools, protocols, and trainings, and to build and strengthen systems for collaboration among behavioral health care providers around resource sharing.

⁴¹ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html>



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

**2026 Needs Assessment Form
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

Adverse Childhood Experiences Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Experiences/Adverse Community Environments (ACEs) have been shown to increase risk for a variety of medical, psychological, and behavioral conditions in adulthood. ACEs research also sheds light on the importance of protective factors during childhood and adolescence that promote resiliency and the ability to cope with toxic stress, while also targeting structural risk factors for trauma exposure. The NYC Health Department's 2023 NYC KIDS survey focusing on children aged 1-13 found that racial inequities persist in children's exposure to adverse events:

- 6% of Black children and 5% of Latinx children were reported by their caregiver to have experienced housing instability in their lifetime compared to 1% of White children.
- 10% of Black children were reported by their caregiver to have witnessed or been the targets of violence in their neighborhoods compared to 1% of White children.
- 17% of Black children and 23% of Latinx children were experiencing food insecurity in their lifetime, as reported by caregivers, compared to 6% of White children.

Furthermore, Latinx and Black children in NYC were less likely to live in supportive neighborhoods, defined as feeling that people in families' neighborhoods help each other out, than White children (61% and 72% vs. 84%). The 2021 Health Opinion Poll found that 68% of Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults in NYC reported feeling a lack of emotional support compared to 47% of White adults. This is particularly important given the recent spate of Anti-Asian hate crimes, both in NYC and nationally. Reducing children's exposure to adverse events and increasing their access to supportive environments requires us to address the long-standing economic and social ramifications of structural racism in addition to offering trauma-informed care.

Crisis Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Acute care is a critical component of our mental health care system and essential for supporting many people when they are in crisis. However, acute care is not a

solution to homelessness or other social factors that worsen mental illness. The entry way to our serious mental illness (SMI) care systems is often through emergency response systems, the majority of which have been led by law enforcement. Law enforcement and mental health advocates agree this situation is not ideal, and would prefer a clinical, trauma informed, and health-led response to mental health crises. This recognition is also shared nationally, with the initiation of 988, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, as a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care for people experiencing emergency mental health needs.

Because community-based mental health care can be difficult and confusing to access, many people end up calling 911 and getting transported to care in emergency and inpatient settings. According to data from the New York Police Department (NYPD), there were an average of nearly 15,000 911 calls per month in 2022 that were related to a mental health emergency and responded to by NYPD. We must improve availability of and funding for health-led response options and reduce police involvement in behavioral crisis while also increasing access to intensive community treatment and support options.

Cross System Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Despite a significant number of ongoing initiatives aimed at improving behavioral health conditions among NYC residents, there continue to be disparities in behavioral health care access, utilization, and outcomes in NYC.

One in five New Yorkers experiences mental illness in a given year, and hundreds of thousands of these New Yorkers are not connected to care. Additionally, 13.6% of NYC public high school students and 9.9% of public middle school students have reported attempting suicide. Moreover, a 2018 study found that 8.3% of NYC adults had current symptomatic depression. Socioeconomic inequalities in mental health persist in NYC and highlight the need for better diagnosis and treatment.

Within the Medicaid funded behavioral health service system, the number of adult and youth Medicaid recipients with at least one mental health or substance use related primary diagnosis in 2022 was 526,137. Despite significant spending on behavioral health care, the current Medicaid funded system still struggles to offer comprehensive and equitable care to the highest-need individuals, and to effectively integrate behavioral health services with physical health care. Throughout the country, as well as in NYS, behavioral healthcare providers also lag behind their primary care counterparts in opportunities to increase their revenue streams including through value-based payment arrangements. During NYC's community feedback process for local services planning, a Community Services Board (CSB) member shared that "smaller organizations are providing mental health services but don't have a system to actually generate revenue, despite the fact that these organizations have been in the communities for decades and have public trust". Another member stated that "it is much easier for primary care professionals who have data and analysis departments to negotiate rates, etc. We have to think boldly and differently and outside the box if we are going to meet all of this unmet need" (December 2022).

Regarding the privately/commercially insured population, research shows that individuals with private insurance may be even more vulnerable to gaps in behavioral health coverage than those with Medicaid. NYC's Community Health Survey conducted in 2020 indicated that approximately 45% of NYC residents are covered by private insurance plans, and a 2019 Kaiser Foundation study showed that 55% of adults with mental illness have private insurance. A 2015 study published in the journal of Psychiatric Services and the National Institute of Health (NIH) stated that U.S. adults with mental illness covered by Medicaid had over 2 to 3 times the odds, of receiving treatment compared to individuals with private insurance that had 1.5 times the odds. As there are currently no NYC specific studies on behavioral health care access by this population, in 2022, the Health Department conducted interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders (n=71) and surveys of insurance beneficiaries (n=194) and healthcare providers (n=88) to gather NYC specific data on this topic. Select results from the beneficiary survey showed that:

Service providers:

- 78% cited low reimbursement rates as the main challenge when working with commercial insurance companies
- 85% said a helpline, chat services, or insurance navigators designated for providers to assist in resolving insurance-related issues would be most helpful for their work.
- 61% said standardized administrative process across all insurers would be most helpful
- 50% cited difficulties with denials as a main challenge

Insurance beneficiaries:

- 80% have at some point had to seek behavioral health care outside of their insurance network.
- 65% have encountered incorrect insurance acceptance information from a directory, website, or third-party platform like ZocDoc.
- 69% have been denied coverage of BH services by their health insurance plan.

Furthermore, despite the increased attention to the enforcement of behavioral health parity laws, a 2019 report showed that most consumers in NYS regardless of insurance type, experienced denials of mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) coverage due to medical necessity criteria and pre-authorization of services. Most consumers surveyed for the report had little to no knowledge of MH/SUD visit and prior approval limitations and needed more information on how to challenge treatment denials. The most common insurance-related parity barrier cited by NYS providers was concerning financial requirements and pre-authorization. Most providers mentioned that they would be willing to file appeals on behalf of their patients but required more information on Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs) since claims denials was not their area of expertise. (Note: NQTLs include utilization review practices, preauthorization/medical necessity criteria, step therapy/fail-first policies, formulary design for prescription drugs, geographic/facility type/scope or duration of benefits limits and failure to complete treatment course exclusions etc.). In addition to research and survey data, a NYC CSB member shared that "parity between physical health and behavioral health is key to promoting access and engaging community members in treatment programs" (December 2022).

With regard to youth behavioral health, the Health Department has identified a number of barriers to accessing cross-system behavioral health services among NYC youth and families.

For the Family Pathways to Care project, Public Policy Lab used human-centered research and

design methods to understand how families connect with and experience Administration for Children's Services (ACS)- and Health Department-contracted mental health and prevention services. Regarding cross-system referrals, they noted that families struggle to find services that are accessible within their neighborhoods and don't always know what they should be looking for. For example, when searching for services, they may not know what search terms to use or what clinical terms mean when reading program descriptions. Families who are non-English speaking, undocumented, or without community networks face additional fears or barriers to accessing the services they need.

Service providers in child-serving systems also face challenges referring families to mental health services in that they frequently don't fully understand the range of services available in the mental health system. Strategies and tools for making referrals across agencies are inconsistent. High staff turnover at provider agencies means that institutional knowledge, which is infrequently documented, can be lost as staff come and go. Providers seek up-to-date, easy to access, and approachable information about programs, which they could ideally filter and search by eligibility rules. They need a centralized system for locating appropriate and available services for families. The Health Department in collaboration with the NYS Office of Mental has secured resources to design a new mental health resource website to support New Yorkers, including youth people and their family members, in identifying and accessing mental health supports/services based on mental health needs.

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department currently contracts for approximately 12,508 units of supportive housing. However, despite this investment in supportive housing, homelessness continues to increase and threatens to erase progress made, especially among New Yorkers with behavioral health concerns. Housing instability and homelessness are particularly important social determinants of health for people with behavioral health concerns; evidence shows that both housing instability and homelessness are linked to morbidity and premature mortality and worse mental and physical health outcomes. Housing insecurity can worsen symptoms of mental illness and increase the likelihood a person will encounter high-risk situations that lead to avoidable hospitalization or incarceration.

Since 2017, NYC has had more homeless individuals and families sleeping in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelters or rough on the streets than at any time since the Great Depression. Many homeless individuals are living with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUD), or other behavioral health concerns, further highlighting the importance of the supportive housing model, which provides subsidized permanent housing alongside wraparound care and social services for residents who need them. In 2020, approximately 13,000 people with SMI experienced homelessness in the NYC shelter system or on the street.

Some people with SMI will be able to maintain independent housing with financial supports and effective services. Others benefit from higher levels of care, including supportive housing, which offers permanent, affordable rental housing with support services. While many homeless

individuals in NYC currently qualify for supportive housing due to SMI, SUD, or other behavioral health issues, there is currently only one available unit of supportive housing for every five eligible applicants. There remains a significant need in NYC for both additional funding for supportive housing and additional units of supportive housing.

Furthermore, stable housing is closely associated with a person's ability to protect and enhance their health and well-being and is associated with improved health and social outcomes for people who use drugs. Unstable housing status and contact with the criminal legal system are both risk factors for overdose and drug-related harms. Drug-related death is the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness in NYC. In addition, those who are involved in the criminal legal system are at increased risk of drug-related harms, including but not limited to overdose, HIV and hepatitis C virus infection.

In order to recognize housing as a basic necessity and platform to improve an individual's health, supportive housing and other programs should take a "Housing First" approach, which does not restrict eligibility based on current or previous drug use and provides re/habilitation supports to increase the ability to remain safely housed.

People experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to criminal legal system involvement, unnecessary hospitalizations, and potential for increased exposure to law enforcement on the subway system.

In addition, housing continues to be a major unmet need for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in NYC. For the past several years, adequate and accessible housing options for individuals with I/DD has been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals and their families. As in the past, this year, housing options was ranked among the top five areas of concern by NYC Health Department I/DD stakeholders.

More research may be needed to understand ways to expand least-restrictive housing options while maintaining high quality housing for individuals with I/DD. Many advocates, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYs), believe enhanced regulatory flexibility is needed, and suggest further study of ways to improve regulatory flexibility in the housing arena. Finally, better prioritization of residential placements is needed. Specifically, stakeholders have expressed difficulty with finding placements for people with I/DD who live in the community but need housing as parents age and are no longer able to care for their children.

Inpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need?

Need description (Optional): Several hospital-based detoxification programs include their beds under Med-Surg during non-emergencies, which is needed in order to normalize substance use withdrawal as a routine medical need and to ensure that beds do not remain under-utilized.

However, there is continued concern whether beds are made available equitably to those needing medically managed withdrawal when Med-Surg beds are in high demand.

Additionally, NYC's inpatient programs (especially non-hospital based) have continued need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials to support infection control.

Non-Clinical Supports Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The onset of severe mental illness (SMI) often interrupts a person's relationships, education and employment in ways that substantially and negatively impact their quality of life -- 45% of New Yorkers with SMI report having low social support, and 29% are at risk for social isolation. Social isolation, in turn, increases the risk of mental health crisis, due to things like falling out of care or off treatment, or even struggling to maintain housing. People with SMI are also more likely to be unemployed and have a lower household income and lower levels of educational attainment. Discrimination due to mental health diagnosis exacerbates the barriers to employment and social inclusion that people of color already face due to structural racism. People with SMI need more social infrastructure to connect with others and form community and relationships. Clubhouses are one-stop programs offering an array of services including, but not limited to, building strong support networks, socialization through joining a clubhouse community, supported employment, education support, skill building, case management including identifying supportive housing, advocacy, low or no-cost snacks and meals, and recreation in a recovery-oriented environment.

Research shows the clubhouse model reduces people's hospitalization and contact with the criminal legal system, and improves their health and wellness. In 2022, NYC clubhouses have enrolled more than 1,000 new members. This ongoing growth demonstrates a clear demand for these services. By expanding clubhouses, more New Yorkers with SMI will be welcomed into safe, supportive communities and engaged in efforts to advance their quality of life, including social, educational and employment activities, while reducing their risk of isolation and crisis and associated risks like homelessness and hospitalization.

Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, and clubhouse services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services. Considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Psychiatric rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and peer support services are important and often overlooked, complementary and/or alternative services to clinical services. After decades of flat enrollment, NYC successfully increased the number of people in clubhouses citywide by 30% with a \$4M investment and coordinated recruitment effort. This expansion demonstrated previously unacknowledged demand for this valuable service. Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation and occupational therapy services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, clubhouse and

recovery services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists and Certified Peer Recovery Advocates are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services and considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Outpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): There is insufficient capacity to meet NYC's demand for specialty mental health care: 41% of people with severe mental illness (SMI) (around 100,000 New Yorkers) want treatment but are unable to get it. Many of the greatest mental health provider shortages are concentrated in neighborhoods with the highest proportion of people of color. The services available are complex, inequitable, and difficult to navigate. These access issues are made worse by cost. One in eight (12.1%) New Yorkers are uninsured, and for people who do have insurance, finding affordable mental health services is challenging due to low reimbursement rates. These financial barriers are more significant for people of color, who face greater inequities in access to health insurance and fair wages. New Yorkers need equitable access to culturally responsive, race-conscious, and trauma-informed care to improve mental health outcomes.

A single system for people with SMI to engage in care is necessary to facilitate efficient, well-planned connections from hospitals, jails and shelters to outpatient mental health and social services that tailor support for people to successfully reenter communities. Additionally, expanding access to comprehensive primary and community mental health care is essential for people to be able to establish relationships with trusted providers who can support their whole health over time. Only providers who have continuous relationships with individuals can identify changes in their circumstances that might quickly bring on a crisis, intervene to prevent it, and make sure they have the resources necessary to stabilize and recover. Lastly, people with SMI also may use drugs and alcohol or have a co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD). A holistic approach for people with SMI must include access to evidence-based substance use treatment and harm reduction services.

Additionally, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducted 2023 the Family Mental Health Survey (FMHS), a research study that included a series of three surveys aimed to comprehensively assess the mental health landscape of families. The study included data collected from parents and guardians of children aged between 5-17 years old, teens aged 13 to 17 years old, and parent reporting on the mental health of their children aged 5 to 17 years old. In 2023, we found that 52% of caregivers in NYC told us that it was either difficult or somewhat difficult to get the mental health treatment or counseling that their child needed in the past 12 months. Additionally, 6% of caregivers in NYC told us their child needed to see a mental health professional in the past 12 months but they did not see one. The most common reasons for not seeing a professional were 'I did not know who to contact or where to go' (48%) and 'something else' (47%).

Significant investment is needed in order to expand access to outpatient mental healthcare for all New Yorkers who need it.

Prevention Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Despite investment in behavioral healthcare services in NYC, including investment specifically aimed at treatment of serious mental illness (SMI), serious psychological distress (SPD) and other behavioral health issues, there is "a considerable need to raise the priority given to the prevention of mental disorders and to the promotion of mental health through action on the social determinants of health."

Prevention is a central tenet of public health practice and yet when it comes to SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues, prevention receives little attention or funding compared to treatment within the mental healthcare system. The current model in NYC relies on treating behavioral health problems when they arise rather than working to prevent them to begin with.

Prevention is complex and relies on a wide array of resources and stakeholders; it is not relegated to the hospital, the clinic or the physician's office but is diffused throughout the areas of society in which individuals are born, grow, live, work and age. Prevention often operates at the population level and is driven by politics and policy choices, economics, and social and cultural factors--what are often collectively referred to as social determinants of health (SDoH). Decades of research have indicated the outsized impact that these social determinants of health have on patterns of morbidity and mortality and the extent to which addressing upstream social determinants improves health and health outcomes and prevents disease at the population level.

A renewed focus on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is required to adequately address prevention of SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues in NYC. In line with the World Health Organization's report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health, we call for an approach that follows the concept of proportionate universalism--policies should be universal, across the whole of society and proportionate to need. In practice, such an approach will be grounded in social and economic rights-- including the right to housing, healthcare, employment and education--and will rely on publicly run and funded programs to provide these rights to New Yorkers. It is by now well documented that access to stable and affordable housing, healthcare, a living wage and education are health protective in nature and that reducing inequalities in access to these health protective resources also works to reduce health inequalities more broadly.

The NYC Health Department's Family Mental Health Survey identified there are inequities observed surrounding parental resources and stress. We found that:

- When asked if parents/guardians had someone to turn to for day-to-day support with the stress of parenting in the past 12 months, a lower proportion of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED (45%) said yes compared to caregivers with a graduate or a professional degree (71%).
- When asked if they had enough financial resources to care for their children, 50% of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED said yes compared to 68% of caregivers with a graduate or a professional degree. A higher proportion of White caregivers also said they had enough financial resources (70%) compared to Black (36%), Latino (43%), Asian/Pacific Islander (64%), and other/multi-racial caregivers (55%).
- When asked if the food they bought did not last and that they did not have the money to buy

more in the last 12 months, 88% of White caregivers said this was never an issue for them compared to Black (49%), Latino (54%), Asian/Pacific Islander (78%), and other/multi-racial caregivers (65%).

Additionally, when it came to housing:

- In the past 12 months, 4% of Latino caregivers and Black caregivers said they were living in emergency shelter/transitional housing compared to 1% of White caregivers.
- When asked if they were worried about losing their housing, 34% of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED said yes compared to 13% of caregivers with a graduate or a professional degree. A lower proportion of White caregivers also said they were worried (11%) compared to Black (29%), Latino (34%), Asian/Pacific Islander (18%), and other/multi-racial (22%) caregivers.
- Overall, 24% of caregivers in NYC said they were worried about losing their housing in 2023.

When it comes to social conditions NYC ranks particularly poorly with high rates of homelessness, income and wealth inequality and poverty as well as unequal access to healthcare and higher education-- New Yorkers of low socioeconomic status (SES) are less likely to have stable access to healthcare or access to higher education and are far more likely to experience substandard mental and physical health and worse health outcomes. Without meaningful intervention to address this, SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues will continue to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable New Yorkers and preventable health inequalities will continue to be commonplace.

New Yorkers of low SES are disproportionately represented among those with behavioral health issues, SPD and SMI. According to the 2020 NYC Community Health Survey:

- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who are unemployed (8.2%) or not in the labor force (8.9%) compared to those who are employed (4.1%).
- The prevalence of SPD among those with an annual household income lower than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) was significantly higher (8.8%) than it was among those with household incomes that are greater than 400% of the FPL (4.0%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those with less than a high school education (8.5%), high school graduates (6.6%), and some college (6.5%) compared with those who are college graduates (4.8%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who delayed paying or were unable to pay rent in the past 12 months (12.7%) compared to those who did not delay paying rent (4.9%).

Such data underscores the importance of an approach to prevention that is grounded in addressing the social conditions in which New Yorkers are born, grow, live, work and age. Concretely this means ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to the health protective benefits of stable housing, healthcare, education and a living wage, while also promoting policies like progressive taxation and wealth taxation that reduce income and wealth inequality and the health inequalities they result in. As the WHO report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health notes, "action [to address the social determinants of mental health] needs be universal: across the whole of society and proportionate to need in order to level the social gradient in health outcomes."

Working to prevent behavioral health issues through action on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is also a racial justice issue. Race-based health inequalities are often the result of decades of austerity and disinvestment in black and brown neighborhoods. Ensuring that all New

Yorkers have access to housing, healthcare, higher education, and a living wage will disproportionately benefit black and brown New Yorkers and work to reduce racial health inequalities.

We recognize that many of the programs and policies outlined here fall outside of the purview of traditional public health discourse yet have an outsized impact on patterns of morbidity and mortality, mental and physical health outcomes, and health inequalities. For these reasons we believe that a population approach to prevention, grounded in addressing SDoMH, is urgently needed in NYC.

Problem Gambling Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Our two contracted programs providing problem gambling treatment services reported experiencing an increase in demand for services and admissions to treatment for mobile gambling since the legalization of online sport betting in NYS in 2021. One program reported the average debt from mobile gambling upon admission is at least \$50,000, and that it's not uncommon for individuals to have debt into the hundreds of thousands. Another program reported that from January to December of 2022, 33% of patients admitted reported mobile gambling as the main type of gambling they engaged in compared to 57% patients reporting this for only the first half of 2023. This program also reports a waitlist due to this increased demand for treatment, thereby necessitating more staff. Given these reports, there is a need for more problem gambling programming in NYC.

Refugees and Immigrants Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): In NYC, reports of hate crimes against members of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in 2021 outpaced records of similar complaints in 2020. In addition to being targeted for hate crimes, the prevalence of experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner among U.S.-born AANHPI adults is about three times that of AANHPI adults born outside of the U.S. (8% vs. 2%). AANHPI adults willing to report intimate partner violence may face barriers due to language accessibility in our health systems or lack of knowledge of resources. The NYC Health Department anticipates that the AANHPI community will require additional support and culturally competent services to ensure safety and wellness.

Furthermore, NYC has provided services to more than 180,000 asylum seekers arriving from the southern border of the United States since May 2022. NYC's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), and the NYC Office of Asylum Seeker Operations (OASO) in conjunction with NYC Emergency Management (NYEM) and other City agencies, tapped the Health Department to provide health insurance enrollment, mental health support, and referrals to pediatric care and immunizations.

The Health Department is the lead agency providing emotional support services to incoming asylum seekers and staff at the Application Assistance Help Center and St. Bridgid's reticketing service site. Services include supporting those in distress to cope better with stressors while accessing services. Additional support services include crisis counseling and facilitating connections to case management services for ongoing support.

The NYC Department of Health anticipates that this unprecedented influx of asylum seekers and refugees will continue into the foreseeable future and will require additional resources and funding in 2025 and 2026 to meet mental health needs of the individuals and families currently experiencing crisis. The Health Department recognizes that the refugees arriving to New York are predominantly from Central and South America and will need to ensure that services provided are culturally sensitive and, to the extent possible, in-language to promote engagement.

Residential Treatment Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Since the start of residential redesign in 2017, congregate care settings have experienced significant changes. The aim of this redesign is to enhance service flexibility based on resident needs, enhancing services that could be billed through Medicaid. It focuses on ensuring access to a variety of possible service combinations in one location including stabilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration services across the continuum. These changes provide residential treatment programs with greater flexibility to meet participant needs.

A significant update, effective January 9, 2024, is the removal of the Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) restrictions under a new federal waiver. This allows all Part 820 programs with the reintegration service element, which most closely aligns to Part 819 community residential programs, to receive Medicaid payments. Part 819 congregate care settings will cease operations after February 28, 2026. Operating certificates under Part 819 will expire on this date. Many small, community-based programs will require additional support for staffing and billing mechanisms. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted enrollment in congregate care settings. According to OASAS data, there has been a decline in enrollment in the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (NYS OASAS), especially in congregate programs.

Transition Age Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The NYC Health Department is a partner organization in NYC's plan to prevent and end Youth Homelessness ("Opportunity Starts with a Home") led by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The Health Department participated in DYCD's community coordinated planning process to support the health and well-being of youth experiencing homelessness, called "Opportunity Starts with a Home." The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) recommended that the city address the following needs for youth and young adults (YYA):

- Hire mental health professionals within DYCD shelters for more accessible mental health supports.
- Improve access to existing health-related resources that meet a broad array of YYA basic needs, provide ongoing support, and offer training for YYA to lead healthy lives.
- Ensure that YYA have a broad array of options to engage in social activities that help them build relationships, develop skills, relieve stress, contribute to the community, and enjoy themselves.
- Increase opportunities for YYA survivors of violence to build healthy relationships and support their wellbeing. Please enter needs assessment here. Please cite sources as comments.

Additionally, the Department has committed to working on following action steps to improve access to mental health and harm reduction/addiction supports and services for homeless youth and young adults (YYA):

- Work with DYCD and community-based organizations to increase awareness and accessibility of Crisis Respite/Residence Centers to support YYA experiencing mental or emotional health crises, including family conflict.
- Explore creating a connection between the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) drop-in centers.
- Strengthen partnerships with youth-serving community-based organizations to expand mental health knowledge, skills, and strategies among their staff in disproportionately burdened NYC communities.

Workforce Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): According to a recent report from the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) on Health Worker Recruitment and Retention in NYC, behavioral health providers are some of the most difficult health care occupations to recruit and retain. The report identifies psychiatrists in particular as one of the most difficult behavioral health occupations to recruit and retain. This aligns with observations made by the NYC Community Services Board (CSB), who have also raised concerns about a shortage of child psychiatrists in particular, as well as widespread workforce shortages in community-based settings.

The findings from the CHWS report on the reasons for difficulties in retention and recruitment generally align with those identified by NYC CSB members, including:

- Demand outstripped supply: The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated health workforce shortages in NYC, dramatically increasing the number of occupations in short supply as well as the magnitude of the shortages. This aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, who have stated that the demand for behavioral health services have grown exponentially, but staffing hasn't grown to meet the demand. The NYC CSB have continually advocated for the expansion of professional development pipelines that connect new behavioral health providers to community-based organizations (CBOs) in need of staff, particularly for social workers. Social workers face significant structural barriers that limit opportunities for career advancement. In The Mayor's Office for

Community Mental Health recent report Bridging the Gap: Challenges and Solutions for a Thriving Behavioral Health Workforce, requirements to become a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) are costly and burdensome barriers to entering the profession. Notably, biases in the master's level licensing exam create unnecessary obstacles for otherwise qualified mental health professionals to enter the workforce and practice in the field. Data released by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) in August 2022 showed significant disparities in pass rates by race and ethnicity. Pass rates were also lower for older adults, individuals whose first language was not English, and other marginalized demographic groups, demonstrating that the exam presents additional barriers to diversifying the workforce.

- **Noncompetitive salaries:** This finding in the CHWS report aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, particularly regarding higher starting salaries for behavioral health occupations in private sectors that CBOs are unable to compete with. Noncompetitive salaries (and low entry level pay in particular), in combination with the high cost of living in NYC and limited affordable housing opportunities, may have driven workers out of the behavioral health sector and the city entirely. While the proposed FY24 NYS Budget recommends \$38 million to support minimum wage increases for existing staff at programs licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by OPWDD, OMH, and OASAS, continued funding and opportunities for permanent or long-term wage increases may need to be explored.
- **Lack of flexible scheduling:** In alignment with observations made by the NYC CSB about the behavioral health workforce in NYC, the CHWS report shows that there is a significant generational and workforce culture shift among health care occupations, indicating that the younger workforce is more concerned with work-life balance and opportunities for flexible scheduling, including remote telework. Similarly, the NYC CSB has elevated the need for new types of incentives to ensure retention, including innovative scheduling models that provide flexible hours, as well as opportunities to meet childcare, eldercare, and other needs to better prevent burnout. In Mayor Adams's newly released Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for NYC, the City committed to reduce burnout by increasing quality supervision and appropriate staffing ratios (which requires a sufficient workforce), supporting continuing education and advancement, and creating financial incentives to make sure mental health staff can meet their work-related needs.

Concerning the peer workforce in particular, community input continues to identify peer support workers as integral components of the behavioral health workforce in NYC. Their specialized training and intentional use of lived experience has uniquely positioned them to engage and support clients burdened with a mental health concern(s), substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Despite the promise of the peer support workforce, challenges such as limited opportunities for career advancement and provider readiness continue to be identified as barriers to workforce integration. Moreover, as New York State considers expansion of the peer workforce through the 1115 Waiver by including Community Health Workers and other healthcare titles that prioritize lived experience, it will be critical to better understand their unique needs and develop strategies to ensure that are successfully integrated into the behavioral health workforce.

Telehealth and tele-support have become commonplace in the provision of behavioral health services, requiring peer support workers to adapt their services to virtual, digital, and telephonic platforms. Although the provision of in-person services have increased post-pandemic, there will be an ongoing need for peer support workers to successfully use technology in their practice. However, this segment of the workforce continues to experience barriers in accessing and using technology to provide telehealth peer support. Moreover, there is some concern that principles of

peer support may not be easily translated through tele-support, which will require additional training for the peer workforce.

In 2021, NYC conducted a survey on the Effects of COVID-19 on Peer Support Workforce (n= 275). Findings included:

- 50% of Peer support workers said the in-ability to meet in-person was the biggest barrier to delivering services during the pandemic.
- 48% reported technology as the most critical new skill they learned, yet 45% felt they were not very well or only somewhat supported in learning how to use technology.

The New York State Office of Mental Health also conducted a survey that included peer support workers and managers/supervisors on competencies in peer telehealth during the COVID-19 (n=313, n=164) found that competency-based training and performance-based training was needed to preserve the unique nature of peer support services in the provision of Peer Telehealth.

These findings suggest there is an area of ongoing need for peer support workers and their supervisors/managers to ensure that they are able to successfully integrate technology into their work. As New York State continues to build its digital telehealth structure, targeted resources are needed to study potential barriers to successful integration of the technology and develop strategies to increase workforce literacy as needed.

A centralized system for receiving workforce information and updates has also been identified as essential to the advancement of the Peer and Community Health Worker workforce. This need has become increasingly evident as Peer and Community Health Workers complete dual certifications. However, there is currently no central point of access for all peer support workers (PSWs) to obtain information on training, continuing education units (CEU) and professional development opportunities, or general community resources of interest to the workforce.

While peer support workers are considered to be especially vulnerable to burnout and stress, many have noted that this stress is often in reaction to toxic workplace culture and is pervasive in organizations regardless of title. Since the onset of the pandemic, the workforce has been increasingly complex which has contributed to heightened levels of stress and burnout among many workers. Studies indicate that:

- 80% of workers reported that workplace stress affects their relationships with friends, family, and coworkers. Only 38% of those who knew about their organization's mental health services would feel comfortable using them.
- It is estimated that cost employers in the United States up to \$193.2 billion annually in lost earnings due to absenteeism and presenteeism. Anxiety and depression cost the global economy over \$1 trillion in lost productivity yearly.
- Workplace stress costs U.S. employers \$500 billion annually in lost productivity.

As NYC's workforce continues to adapt and evolve, there is an urgent need to increase access to resources and tools to support the well-being of the workforce. Many of these strategies are currently being used but will need to be built to scale such as:

- Assuring access and connection to culturally responsive resources and services that address traumatic stress and loss.
- Employing supports and resources that address underlying complex trauma due to historical or racial trauma and its disproportionate impact on historically underrepresented

workers- LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, differently abled, neurodivergent, etc.

- Increasing awareness of trauma-specific treatment modalities.

Ongoing development of tools to track the impact of COVID-19 associated collective trauma and the needs of frontline workers.

Concerning the I/DD workforce, recruitment and retention have been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals with I/DD and their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated a historic need to strengthen I/DD workforce recruitment and retention. While OPWDD has begun crucial work in this area, including dedicating 76% of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to workforce development grants and workforce incentives and bonuses, a variety of structural factors impact the DD workforce. These include high stress, low wages, a lack of professional development opportunities, a lack of retention incentives, and insufficient and/or ineffective marketing of DD workforce careers.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), both those employed directly by OPWDD as well as contracted providers through the nonprofit sector, remain the backbone of the I/DD workforce. These critical staff contribute to community habilitation programs, respite services, and congregate settings, among others, and essential to day-to-day programming. Chronic underfunding continues to create barriers to a sustainable, well-trained, and supported workforce.

Stakeholders, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) and the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies (IAC), have advocated for increased incentives for DSP training and professional development and have recommended that OPWDD promote opportunities for people to make their work a long-term career.

Addressing challenges with the DD workforce can have a cascading effect in improving other areas of unmet need impacted by staffing shortages, such as crisis services and service continuity for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Health Department will consider the merits of conducting a research study to better understand underlying I/DD workforce recruitment and retention concerns. Such a study would be conducted in collaboration with intergovernmental partners (OPWDD, etc.) and among contractors for services.

Harm Reduction Services to Combat Overdose Epidemic Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): New York City continues to experience high numbers of drug overdose deaths, disproportionately experienced by residents of the South Bronx, Central and East Harlem, and Central Brooklyn. Despite 2024 provisional data showing a decrease in fatal drug overdoses compared to previous years, there continues to be a need to strengthen and enhance the following services and initiatives, many of which exist but could be broadened/bolstered across the harm reduction service continuum:

- Identifying sustainable funding to support enhancement of low threshold wraparound services at SSPs, including mental health, primary care, SUD treatment, and meeting basic needs (e.g., food, showers, laundry), with a focus on neighborhoods with high overdose mortality rates

- Building greater capacity to address access to fentanyl test strips through various types of service providers
- Building greater capacity to distribute Naloxone kits.
- Expanding access to drug checking technology (e.g., tests drug sample for fentanyl and xylazine) so participants can make better informed decisions around their use
- Promoting safer syringe disposal

Racial Equity and Justice-Impacted Populations Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Communities of Color in the U.S. experience significant health inequities laid bare and exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic; these inequities severely impact persons with criminal legal system involvement.

The impact of long-standing systemic racism is evident in the US criminal legal system (CLS), with persons of color experiencing disproportionately high incarceration rates. Persons with criminal legal system involvement (CLSI) also face systemic racism and other barriers when re-entering the community, experiencing poorer health outcomes, higher rates of heart disease, trauma, hypertension, behavioral health conditions , and premature mortality. Housing insecurity is widespread, with persons with CLSI experiencing almost 10 times the rate of homelessness compared to the general population. Persons with CLSI also face numerous barriers to employment, with only 55% of individuals report having any income during the first year following release.

Emergency Preparedness in the Behavioral Health Service System Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Research and anecdotal evidence from previous disasters and public health emergencies highlighted the need for a better prepared behavioral health service system to address the impact of these events on their workforce and the population they serve. This need was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disaster planning and preparedness often neglects to adequately consider the unique event related needs of the service recipients of all three areas of the behavioral health service system. This can lead to inadequate response to their event-related behavioral health needs and contribute to adverse outcomes such as impaired coping, inability to access needed care, worsening of existing conditions, and diminished chance for recovery. Evidence also indicates lack of adequate readiness and failure to engage the staff of the Behavioral Health Service System in disaster planning and prerenders negatively affects their health and functioning during an event, with high rates of burnout and turn around. It also increases their risk for event related mental health illnesses, such as depression anxiety, and alcohol and substance use.

The NYC Health Department identified three main gaps in the Behavioral Health Service System planning, preparedness, response. Addressing these will be essential to improve future response outcomes. Activities need to focus on 1) Engaging staff in planning and preparedness and enhancing their resilience and supporting their emotional health and well-being to prevent burnout and costly high turn around. 2) providing adequate and timely behavioral health support services to individuals and communities most impacted by the incident. 3) planning to coordinate response among Behavioral Health Service providers

The Health Department requires support from city and state leadership to enhance its behavioral health care system's response readiness, most urgently to develop comprehensive, standardized, and scalable disasters and public health emergencies response plans with corresponding tools, protocols, and trainings, and to build and strengthen systems for collaboration among behavioral health care providers around resource sharing.

LGU Representative: Angeli Magdaraog

Submitted for: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Needs Assessment Form

2.1. Adverse Childhood Experiences

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Experiences/Adverse Community Environments (ACEs) have been shown to increase risk for a variety of medical, psychological, and behavioral conditions in adulthood.¹ ACEs research also sheds light on the importance of protective factors during childhood and adolescence that promote resiliency and the ability to cope with toxic stress, while also targeting structural risk factors for trauma exposure.² The NYC Health Department's 2023 NYC KIDS survey focusing on children aged 1-13 found that racial inequities persist in children's exposure to adverse events:

- 6% of Black children and 5% of Latinx children were reported by their caregiver to have experienced housing instability in their lifetime compared to 1% of White children.
- 10% of Black children were reported by their caregiver to have witnessed or been the targets of violence in their neighborhoods compared to 1% of White children.
- 17% of Black children and 23% of Latinx children were experiencing food insecurity in their lifetime, as reported by caregivers, compared to 6% of White children.

Furthermore, Latinx and Black children in NYC were less likely to live in supportive neighborhoods, defined as feeling that people in families' neighborhoods help each other out, than White children (61% and 72% vs. 84%).³ The 2021 Health Opinion Poll found that 68% of Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults in NYC reported feeling a lack of emotional support compared to 47% of White adults.⁴ This is particularly important given the recent spate of Anti-Asian hate crimes, both in NYC and nationally. Reducing children's exposure to adverse events and increasing their access to supportive environments requires us to address the long-standing economic and social ramifications of structural racism in addition to offering trauma-informed care.

2.2. Case Management/Care Coordination [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.3. Crisis Services

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Acute care is a critical component of our mental health care system and essential for supporting many people when they are in crisis. However, acute care is not a solution to homelessness or other social factors that worsen mental illness. The entry way to our serious mental illness (SMI) care systems is often

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/riskprotectivefactors.html> 5

² https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/reports/docs/adverse_childhood_experiences.pdf 6

³ <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/data/data-sets/child-chs.page> 7

⁴ <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief130.pdf> 12

through emergency response systems, the majority of which have been led by law enforcement. Law enforcement and mental health advocates agree this situation is not ideal, and would prefer a clinical, trauma informed, and health-led response to mental health crises. This recognition is also shared nationally, with the initiation of 988, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, as a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care for people experiencing emergency mental health needs.

Because community-based mental health care can be difficult and confusing to access, many people end up calling 911 and getting transported to care in emergency and inpatient settings. According to data from the New York Police Department (NYPD), there were an average of nearly 15,000 911 calls per month in 2022 that were related to a mental health emergency and responded to by NYPD. We must improve availability of and funding for health-led response options and reduce police involvement in behavioral crisis while also increasing access to intensive community treatment and support options.

2.4. Cross System Services

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Despite a significant number of ongoing initiatives aimed at improving behavioral health conditions among NYC residents, there continue to be disparities in behavioral health care access, utilization, and outcomes in NYC.

One in five New Yorkers experiences mental illness in a given year, and hundreds of thousands of these New Yorkers are not connected to care.⁵ Additionally, 13.6% of NYC public high school students and 9.9% of public middle school students have reported attempting suicide. Moreover, a 2018 study found that 8.3% of NYC adults had current symptomatic depression. Socioeconomic inequalities in mental health persist in NYC and highlight the need for better diagnosis and treatment.

Within the Medicaid funded behavioral health service system, the number of adult and youth Medicaid recipients with at least one mental health or substance use related primary diagnosis in 2022 was 526,137. Despite significant spending on behavioral health care, the current Medicaid funded system still struggles to offer comprehensive and equitable care to the highest-need individuals, and to effectively integrate behavioral health services with physical health care. Throughout the country, as well as in NYS, behavioral healthcare providers also lag behind their primary care counterparts in opportunities to increase their revenue streams including through value-based payment arrangements. During NYC's community feedback process for local services planning, a Community Services Board (CSB) member shared that "smaller organizations are providing mental health services but don't have a system to actually generate revenue, despite the fact that these organizations have been in the communities for decades and have public trust". Another member stated that "it is much easier for primary care professionals who have data and analysis departments to negotiate rates, etc. We have to think boldly and differently and outside the box if we are going to meet all of this unmet need" (December 2022).

Regarding the privately/commercially insured population, research shows that individuals with private insurance may be even more vulnerable to gaps in behavioral health coverage than those with Medicaid. NYC's Community Health Survey conducted in 2020 indicated that approximately 45% of NYC residents

⁵ [Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health | Data Dashboard \(cityofnewyork.us.\)](https://cityofnewyork.us/mayors-office-of-community-mental-health/data-dashboard)

are covered by private insurance plans, and a 2019 Kaiser Foundation study showed that 55% of adults with mental illness have private insurance. A 2015 study published in the journal of Psychiatric Services and the National Institute of Health (NIH) stated that U.S. adults with mental illness covered by Medicaid had over 2 to 3 times the odds, of receiving treatment compared to individuals with private insurance that had 1.5 times the odds. As there are currently no NYC specific studies on behavioral health care access by this population, in 2022, the Health Department conducted interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders (n=71) and surveys of insurance beneficiaries (n=194) and healthcare providers (n=88) to gather NYC specific data on this topic. Select results from the beneficiary survey showed that:

Service providers:

- 78% cited low reimbursement rates as the main challenge when working with commercial insurance companies
- 85% said a helpline, chat services, or insurance navigators designated for providers to assist in resolving insurance-related issues would be most helpful for their work.
- 61% said standardized administrative process across all insurers would be most helpful
- 50% cited difficulties with denials as a main challenge

Insurance beneficiaries:

- 80% have at some point had to seek behavioral health care outside of their insurance network.
- 65% have encountered incorrect insurance acceptance information from a directory, website, or third-party platform like ZocDoc.
- 69% have been denied coverage of BH services by their health insurance plan.

Furthermore, despite the increased attention to the enforcement of behavioral health parity laws, a 2019 report showed that most consumers in NYS regardless of insurance type, experienced denials of mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) coverage due to medical necessity criteria and pre-authorization of services. Most consumers surveyed for the report had little to no knowledge of MH/SUD visit and prior approval limitations and needed more information on how to challenge treatment denials. The most common insurance-related parity barrier cited by NYS providers was concerning financial requirements and pre-authorization. Most providers mentioned that they would be willing to file appeals on behalf of their patients but required more information on Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs) since claims denials was not their area of expertise. (Note: NQTLs include utilization review practices, preauthorization/medical necessity criteria, step therapy/fail-first policies, formulary design for prescription drugs, geographic/facility type/scope or duration of benefits limits and failure to complete treatment course exclusions etc.). In addition to research and survey data, a NYC CSB member shared that “parity between physical health and behavioral health is key to promoting access and engaging community members in treatment programs” (December 2022).

With regard to youth behavioral health, the Health Department has identified a number of barriers to accessing cross-system behavioral health services among NYC youth and families.

For the Family Pathways to Care project, Public Policy Lab used human-centered research and design methods to understand how families connect with and experience Administration for Children’s Services (ACS)- and Health Department-contracted mental health and prevention services. Regarding cross-system referrals, they noted that families struggle to find services that are accessible within their neighborhoods and don’t always know what they should be looking for. For example, when searching for services, they may not know what search terms to use or what clinical terms mean when reading program descriptions.

Families who are non-English speaking, undocumented, or without community networks face additional fears or barriers to accessing the services they need.

Service providers in child-serving systems also face challenges referring families to mental health services in that they frequently don't fully understand the range of services available in the mental health system. Strategies and tools for making referrals across agencies are inconsistent. High staff turnover at provider agencies means that institutional knowledge, which is infrequently documented, can be lost as staff come and go. Providers seek up-to-date, easy to access, and approachable information about programs, which they could ideally filter and search by eligibility rules. They need a centralized system for locating appropriate and available services for families. The Health Department in collaboration with the NYS Office of Mental Health has secured resources to design a new mental health resource website to support New Yorkers, including youth people and their family members, in identifying and accessing mental health supports/services based on mental health needs.

2.5. Employment/volunteer (client) [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.6. Forensics [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.7. Housing

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH, OASAS, and OPWDD
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department currently contracts for approximately 12,508 units of supportive housing. However, despite this investment in supportive housing, homelessness continues to increase and threatens to erase progress made, especially among New Yorkers with behavioral health concerns.⁶ Housing instability and homelessness are particularly important social determinants of health for people with behavioral health concerns; evidence shows that both housing instability and homelessness are linked to morbidity and premature mortality and worse mental and physical health outcomes.^{7 8 9} Housing insecurity can worsen symptoms of mental illness and increase the likelihood a person will encounter high-risk situations that lead to avoidable hospitalization or incarceration.

Since 2017, NYC has had more homeless individuals and families sleeping in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelters or rough on the streets than at any time since the Great Depression. Many homeless individuals are living with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUD), or other behavioral health concerns, further highlighting the importance of the supportive housing model, which

⁶ <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/office-of-the-mayor/2022/Housing-Blueprint.pdf> (pg. 63)

⁷ Taylor, L. (2018). "Housing and Health: An Overview of the Literature." Health Affairs. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hpb20180313.396577>.

⁸ Padgett, DK. (2020). Homelessness, housing instability and mental health: making the connections. BJPsych Bull. 44(5):197-201. doi: 10.1192/bjb.2020.49. PMID: 32538335; PMCID: PMC7525583.

⁹ Fazel S, Geddes JR, Kushel M. (2014). The health of homeless people in high-income countries: descriptive epidemiology, health consequences, and clinical and policy recommendations. The Lancet. 384(9953):1529-40. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61132-6.

provides subsidized permanent housing alongside wraparound care and social services for residents who need them.¹⁰ In 2020, approximately 13,000 people with SMI experienced homelessness in the NYC shelter system or on the street.¹¹

Some people with SMI will be able to maintain independent housing with financial supports and effective services. Others benefit from higher levels of care, including supportive housing, which offers permanent, affordable rental housing with support services.^{12 13 14} While many homeless individuals in NYC currently qualify for supportive housing due to SMI, SUD, or other behavioral health issues, there is currently only one available unit of supportive housing for every five eligible applicants. There remains a significant need in NYC for both additional funding for supportive housing and additional units of supportive housing.

Furthermore, stable housing is closely associated with a person's ability to protect and enhance their health and well-being and is associated with improved health and social outcomes for people who use drugs. Unstable housing status and contact with the criminal legal system are both risk factors for overdose and drug-related harms. Drug-related death is the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness in NYC.¹⁵ In addition, those who are involved in the criminal legal system are at increased risk of drug-related harms, including but not limited to overdose, HIV and hepatitis C virus infection.¹⁶

In order to recognize housing as a basic necessity and platform to improve an individual's health, supportive housing and other programs should take a "Housing First" approach, which does not restrict eligibility based on current or previous drug use and provides re/habilitation supports to increase the ability to remain safely housed.

People experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to criminal legal system involvement, unnecessary hospitalizations, and potential for increased exposure to law enforcement on the subway system.

¹⁰ US Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2015). The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, Part 2: Estimates of Homelessness in the United States. US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress Part 2 (huduser.gov)

¹¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations. Published December 15, 2020. Accessed February 17, 2023. https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_CoC_NY-600-2020_NY_2020.pdf

¹² Culhane DP, Metraux S, Hadley T. Public service reductions associated with placement of homeless persons with severe mental illness in supportive housing. *Hous Policy Debate*. 2022;13(1):107-163. doi:10.1080/10511482.2002.9521437

¹³ Lim S, Gao Q, Stazesky E, Singh TP, Harris TG, Levanon Seligson A. Impact of a New York City supportive housing program on Medicaid expenditure patterns among people with serious mental illness and chronic homelessness. *BMC Health Services Research*. 2018;18(1):1-3. doi:10.1186/s12913-017-2816-9

¹⁴ Gouse I, Walters S, Miller-Archie S, Singh T, Lim S. Evaluation of New York/New York III permanent supportive housing program. *Evaluation and Program Planning*. 2023;97:1-9. doi:10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2023.102245

¹⁵ NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and NYC Department of Homeless Services. Sixteenth annual report on deaths among persons experiencing homelessness. July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021. https://a860-gpp.nyc.gov/concern/parent/zg64tp214/file_sets/j9602313t

¹⁶ Freudenberg N, Heller D. A review of opportunities to improve the health of people involved in the criminal justice system in the United States. *Annu Rev Public Health*. 2016;37:313-333. doi:10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032315-021420

In addition, housing continues to be a major unmet need for individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities (I/DD) in NYC. For the past several years, adequate and accessible housing options for individuals with I/DD has been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals and their families. As in the past, this year, housing options was ranked among the top five areas of concern by NYC Health Department I/DD stakeholders.

More research may be needed to understand ways to expand least-restrictive housing options while maintaining high quality housing for individuals with I/DD. Many advocates, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYSS), believe enhanced regulatory flexibility is needed, and suggest further study of ways to improve regulatory flexibility in the housing arena. Finally, better prioritization of residential placements is needed. Specifically, stakeholders have expressed difficulty with finding placements for people with I/DD who live in the community but need housing as parents age and are no longer able to care for their children.

2.8. Inpatient Treatment

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Several hospital-based detoxification programs include their beds under Med-Surg during non-emergencies, which is needed in order to normalize substance use withdrawal as a routine medical need and to ensure that beds do not remain under-utilized. However, there is continued concern whether beds are made available equitably to those needing medically managed withdrawal when Med-Surg beds are in high demand.

Additionally, NYC's inpatient programs (especially non-hospital based) have continued need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials to support infection control.

2.9. Non-Clinical Supports

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH, OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

The onset of severe mental illness (SMI) often interrupts a person's relationships, education and employment in ways that substantially and negatively impact their quality of life — 45% of New Yorkers with SMI report having low social support, and 29% are at risk for social isolation.¹⁷ Social isolation, in turn, increases the risk of mental health crisis, due to things like falling out of care or off treatment, or even struggling to maintain housing. People with SMI are also more likely to be unemployed and have a lower household income and lower levels of educational attainment.¹⁸ Discrimination due to mental health diagnosis exacerbates the barriers to employment and social inclusion that people of color already face due to structural racism. People with SMI need more social infrastructure to connect with others and form community and relationships. Clubhouses are one-stop programs offering an array of services

¹⁷ Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023

¹⁸ Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023.

including, but not limited to, building strong support networks, socialization through joining a clubhouse community, supported employment, education support, skill building, case management including identifying supportive housing, advocacy, low or no-cost snacks and meals, and recreation in a recovery-oriented environment.

Research shows the clubhouse model reduces people's hospitalization and contact with the criminal legal system, and improves their health and wellness.^{19 20} In 2022, NYC clubhouses have enrolled more than 1,000 new members. This ongoing growth demonstrates a clear demand for these services. By expanding clubhouses, more New Yorkers with SMI will be welcomed into safe, supportive communities and engaged in efforts to advance their quality of life, including social, educational and employment activities, while reducing their risk of isolation and crisis and associated risks like homelessness and hospitalization.

Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, and clubhouse services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services. Considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Psychiatric rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and peer support services are important and often overlooked, complementary and/or alternative services to clinical services. After decades of flat enrollment, NYC successfully increased the number of people in clubhouses citywide by 30% with a \$4M investment and coordinated recruitment effort. This expansion demonstrated previously unacknowledged demand for this valuable service. Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation and occupational therapy services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, clubhouse and recovery services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists and Certified Peer Recovery Advocates are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services and considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

2.10. Outpatient Treatment

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

There is insufficient capacity to meet NYC's demand for specialty mental health care: 41% of people with severe mental illness (SMI) (around 100,000 New Yorkers) want treatment but are unable to get it.²¹ Many of the greatest mental health provider shortages are concentrated in neighborhoods with the highest proportion of people of color. The services available are complex, inequitable, and difficult to navigate.

¹⁹ Killaspy H, Harvey C, Brasier C, et al. Community-based social interventions for people with severe mental illness: A systematic review and narrative synthesis of recent evidence. *World Psychiatry*. 2022;21(1):96-123. doi:10.1002/wps.20940

²⁰ McKay C, Nugent KL, Johnsen M, et al. A systematic review of evidence for the clubhouse model of psychosocial rehabilitation. *Adm Policy Ment Health*. 2018;45:28-47. doi:10.1007/s10488-016-0760-3

²¹ Unpublished raw data from the 2012 Community Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2012. Accessed February 17, 2023.

These access issues are made worse by cost. One in eight (12.1%) New Yorkers are uninsured,²² and for people who do have insurance, finding affordable mental health services is challenging due to low reimbursement rates. These financial barriers are more significant for people of color, who face greater inequities in access to health insurance and fair wages. New Yorkers need equitable access to culturally responsive, race-conscious, and trauma-informed care to improve mental health outcomes.

A single system for people with SMI to engage in care is necessary to facilitate efficient, well-planned connections from hospitals, jails and shelters to outpatient mental health and social services that tailor support for people to successfully reenter communities. Additionally, expanding access to comprehensive primary and community mental health care is essential for people to be able to establish relationships with trusted providers who can support their whole health over time. Only providers who have continuous relationships with individuals can identify changes in their circumstances that might quickly bring on a crisis, intervene to prevent it, and make sure they have the resources necessary to stabilize and recover. Lastly, people with SMI also may use drugs and alcohol or have a co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD). A holistic approach for people with SMI must include access to evidence-based substance use treatment and harm reduction services.

Additionally, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducted 2023 the Family Mental Health Survey (FMHS), a research study that included a series of three surveys aimed to comprehensively assess the mental health landscape of families. The study included data collected from parents and guardians of children aged between 5-17 years old, teens aged 13 to 17 years old, and parent reporting on the mental health of their children aged 5 to 17 years old. In 2023, we found that 52% of caregivers in NYC told us that it was either difficult or somewhat difficult to get the mental health treatment or counseling that their child needed in the past 12 months. Additionally, 6% of caregivers in NYC told us their child needed to see a mental health professional in the past 12 months but they did not see one. The most common reasons for not seeing a professional were ‘I did not know who to contact or where to go’ (48%) and ‘something else’ (47%).

Significant investment is needed in order to expand access to outpatient mental healthcare for all New Yorkers who need it.

2.11. Prevention

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Despite investment in behavioral healthcare services in NYC, including investment specifically aimed at treatment of serious mental illness (SMI), serious psychological distress (SPD) and other behavioral health issues, there is “a considerable need to raise the priority given to the prevention of mental disorders and to the promotion of mental health through action on the social determinants of health.”²³

Prevention is a central tenet of public health practice and yet when it comes to SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues, prevention receives little attention or funding compared to treatment within the

²² Unpublished raw data from the 2021 Community Mental Health Survey. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; 2021. Accessed February 17, 2023.

²³ World Health Organization. (2014). Social Determinants of Mental Health. World Health Organization. https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/112828/9789241506809_eng.pdf

mental healthcare system. The current model in NYC relies on treating behavioral health problems when they arise rather than working to prevent them to begin with.

Prevention is complex and relies on a wide array of resources and stakeholders; it is not relegated to the hospital, the clinic or the physician's office but is diffused throughout the areas of society in which individuals are born, grow, live, work and age.²⁴ Prevention often operates at the population level and is driven by politics and policy choices, economics, and social and cultural factors—what are often collectively referred to as social determinants of health (SDoH).²⁵ Decades of research have indicated the outsized impact that these social determinants of health have on patterns of morbidity and mortality and the extent to which addressing upstream social determinants improves health and health outcomes and prevents disease at the population level.

A renewed focus on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is required to adequately address prevention of SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues in NYC. In line with the World Health Organization's report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health, we call for an approach that follows the concept of proportionate universalism—policies should be universal, across the whole of society and proportionate to need. In practice, such an approach will be grounded in social and economic rights—including the right to housing, healthcare, employment and education—and will rely on publicly run and funded programs to provide these rights to New Yorkers. It is by now well documented that access to stable and affordable housing, healthcare, a living wage and education are health protective in nature and that reducing inequalities in access to these health protective resources also works to reduce health inequalities more broadly.

The NYC Health Department's Family Mental Health Survey identified there are inequities observed surrounding parental resources and stress. We found that:

- When asked if parents/guardians had someone to turn to for day-to-day support with the stress of parenting in the past 12 months, a lower proportion of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED (45%) said yes compared to caregivers with a graduate or a professional degree (71%).
- When asked if they had enough financial resources to care for their children, 50% of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED said yes compared to 68% of caregivers with a graduate or a professional degree. A higher proportion of White caregivers also said they had enough financial resources (70%) compared to Black (36%), Latino (43%), Asian/Pacific Islander (64%), and other/multi-racial caregivers (55%).
- When asked if the food they bought did not last and that they did not have the money to buy more in the last 12 months, 88% of White caregivers said this was never an issue for them compared to Black (49%), Latino (54%), Asian/Pacific Islander (78%), and other/multi-racial caregivers (65%).

Additionally, when it came to housing:

- In the past 12 months, 4% of Latino caregivers and Black caregivers said they were living in emergency shelter/transitional housing compared to 1% of White caregivers.
- When asked if they were worried about losing their housing, 34% of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED said yes compared to 13% of caregivers with a graduate or a professional

²⁴ Rose, G. (2001). Sick individuals and sick populations. *Int J Epidemiol.* 30(3):427-34. doi: 10.1093/ije/30.3.427.

²⁵ BG, Phelan J. (1995). Social conditions as fundamental causes of disease. *J Health Soc Behav. Spec No:*80-94. PMID: 7560851.

degree. A lower proportion of White caregivers also said they were worried (11%) compared to Black (29%), Latino (34%), Asian/Pacific Islander (18%), and other/multi-racial (22%) caregivers.

- Overall, 24% of caregivers in NYC said they were worried about losing their housing in 2023.

When it comes to social conditions NYC ranks particularly poorly with high rates of homelessness, income and wealth inequality and poverty as well as unequal access to healthcare and higher education— New Yorkers of low socioeconomic status (SES) are less likely to have stable access to healthcare or access to higher education and are far more likely to experience substandard mental and physical health and worse health outcomes.^{26 27} Without meaningful intervention to address this, SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues will continue to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable New Yorkers and preventable health inequalities will continue to be commonplace.

New Yorkers of low SES are disproportionately represented among those with behavioral health issues, SPD and SMI. According to the 2020 NYC Community Health Survey:

- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who are unemployed (8.2%) or not in the labor force (8.9%) compared to those who are employed (4.1%).
- The prevalence of SPD among those with an annual household income lower than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) was significantly higher (8.8%) than it was among those with household incomes that are greater than 400% of the FPL (4.0%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those with less than a high school education (8.5%), high school graduates (6.6%), and some college (6.5%) compared with those who are college graduates (4.8%).
- The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who delayed paying or were unable to pay rent in the past 12 months (12.7%) compared to those who did not delay paying rent (4.9%).

Such data underscores the importance of an approach to prevention that is grounded in addressing the social conditions in which New Yorkers are born, grow, live, work and age. Concretely this means ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to the health protective benefits of stable housing, healthcare, education and a living wage, while also promoting policies like progressive taxation and wealth taxation that reduce income and wealth inequality and the health inequalities they result in.^{28 29} As the WHO report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health notes, “action [to address the social determinants of mental health] needs be universal: across the whole of society and proportionate to need in order to level the social gradient in health outcomes.”

Working to prevent behavioral health issues through action on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is also a racial justice issue. Race-based health inequalities are often the result of decades of

²⁶ US Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2021). The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, Part 1: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness in the United States. US Department of Housing and Urban Development. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

²⁷ Sommeiller, E. and Price, M. (2018). The New Gilded Age: Income Inequality in the US by State, Metropolitan Area, and County. Economic Policy Institute (EPI). <https://www.epi.org/publication/the-new-gilded-age-income-inequality-in-the-u-s-by-state-metropolitan-area-and-county/>

²⁸ Pickett KE, Wilkinson RG. (2015). Income inequality and health: A Causal Review. *Social Science & Medicine*. 128:316-26.

²⁹ Piketty, T., & Goldhammer, A. (2020). *Capital and Ideology*. Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press.

austerity and disinvestment in black and brown neighborhoods. Ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to housing, healthcare, higher education, and a living wage will disproportionately benefit black and brown New Yorkers and work to reduce racial health inequalities.

We recognize that many of the programs and policies outlined here fall outside of the purview of traditional public health discourse yet have an outsized impact on patterns of morbidity and mortality, mental and physical health outcomes, and health inequalities. For these reasons we believe that a population approach to prevention, grounded in addressing SDoMH, is urgently needed in NYC.

2.12. Problem Gambling

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Adults only

Our two contracted programs providing problem gambling treatment services reported experiencing an increase in demand for services and admissions to treatment for mobile gambling since the legalization of online sport betting in NYS in 2021. One program reported the average debt from mobile gambling upon admission is at least \$50,000, and that it's not uncommon for individuals to have debt into the hundreds of thousands. Another program reported that from January to December of 2022, 33% of patients admitted reported mobile gambling as the main type of gambling they engaged in compared to 57% patients reporting this for only the first half of 2023. This program also reports a waitlist due to this increased demand for treatment, thereby necessitating more staff. Given these reports, there is a need for more problem gambling programming in NYC.

2.13. Refugees and Immigrants

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

In NYC, reports of hate crimes against members of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in 2021 outpaced records of similar complaints in 2020.³⁰ In addition to being targeted for hate crimes, the prevalence of experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner among U.S.-born AANHPI adults is about three times that of AANHPI adults born outside of the U.S. (8% vs. 2%).³¹ AANHPI adults willing to report intimate partner violence may face barriers due to language accessibility in our health systems or lack of knowledge of resources. The NYC Health Department anticipates that the AANHPI community will require additional support and culturally competent services to ensure safety and wellness.

³⁰ [NYPD Hate Crimes Dashboard. \(n.d.\).](#)

³¹ NYC Health Department. (2021, September). Health of Asians and Pacific Islanders - New York City. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/episrv/asian-pacific-islander-health-2021-summary.pdf>

Furthermore, NYC has provided services to more than 180,000 asylum seekers arriving from the southern border of the United States since May 2022.³² NYC's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), and the NYC Office of Asylum Seeker Operations (OASO) in conjunction with NYC Emergency Management (NYEM) and other City agencies, tapped the Health Department to provide health insurance enrollment, mental health support, and referrals to pediatric care and immunizations. The Health Department is the lead agency providing emotional support services to incoming asylum seekers and staff at the Application Assistance Help Center and St. Bridgid's reticketing service site. Services include supporting those in distress to cope better with stressors while accessing services. Additional support services include crisis counseling and facilitating connections to case management services for ongoing support.

The NYC Department of Health anticipates that this unprecedented influx of asylum seekers and refugees will continue into the foreseeable future and will require additional resources and funding in 2025 and 2026 to meet mental health needs of the individuals and families currently experiencing crisis. The Health Department recognizes that the refugees arriving to New York are predominantly from Central and South America and will need to ensure that services provided are culturally sensitive and, to the extent possible, in-language to promote engagement.

2.14. Residential Treatment Services

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

Since the start of residential redesign in 2017, congregate care settings have experienced significant changes. The aim of this redesign is to enhance service flexibility based on resident needs, enhancing services that could be billed through Medicaid. It focuses on ensuring access to a variety of possible service combinations in one location including stabilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration services across the continuum. These changes provide residential treatment programs with greater flexibility to meet participant needs.

A significant update, effective January 9, 2024, is the removal of the Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) restrictions under a new federal waiver. This allows all Part 820 programs with the reintegration service element, which most closely aligns to Part 819 community residential programs, to receive Medicaid payments. Part 819 congregate care settings will cease operations after February 28, 2026. Operating certificates under Part 819 will expire on this date. Many small, community-based programs will require additional support for staffing and billing mechanisms.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted enrollment in congregate care settings. According to OASAS data, there has been a decline in enrollment in the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (NYS OASAS), especially in congregate programs.

2.15. Respite [No submission for 2024-2027]

³² [Mayor Adams Releases "The Road Forward," New Blueprint to Handle Asylum Seeker Crisis Moving Forward | City of New York \(nyc.gov\)](https://www.nyc.gov/newsroom/2022-05-10-mayor-adams-releases-the-road-forward-new-blueprint-to-handle-asylum-seeker-crisis-moving-forward)

2.16. Transition age services

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OASAS
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

The NYC Health Department is a partner organization in NYC’s plan to prevent and end Youth Homelessness (“Opportunity Starts with a Home”)³³ led by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The Health Department participated in DYCD’s community coordinated planning process to support the health and well-being of youth experiencing homelessness, called “Opportunity Starts with a Home.” The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) recommended that the city address the following needs for youth and young adults (YYA):

- Hire mental health professionals within DYCD shelters for more accessible mental health supports.
- Improve access to existing health-related resources that meet a broad array of YYA basic needs, provide ongoing support, and offer training for YYA to lead healthy lives.
- Ensure that YYA have a broad array of options to engage in social activities that help them build relationships, develop skills, relieve stress, contribute to the community, and enjoy themselves.
- Increase opportunities for YYA survivors of violence to build healthy relationships and support their wellbeing. Please enter needs assessment here. Please cite sources as comments.

Additionally, the Department has committed to working on following action steps to improve access to mental health and harm reduction/addiction supports and services for homeless youth and young adults (YYA):

- Work with DYCD and community-based organizations to increase awareness and accessibility of Crisis Respite/Residence Centers to support YYA experiencing mental or emotional health crises, including family conflict.
- Explore creating a connection between the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) drop-in centers.
- Strengthen partnerships with youth-serving community-based organizations to expand mental health knowledge, skills, and strategies among their staff in disproportionately burdened NYC communities.

2.17. Transportation [No submission for 2024-2027]

2.18. Workforce

- **Applies to the following state mental hygiene office(s):** OMH, OASAS, and OPWDD
- **Applies to the following age groups:** Both youth and adults

According to a recent report from the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) on Health Worker Recruitment and Retention in NYC, behavioral health providers are some of the most difficult health care occupations to recruit and retain. The report identifies psychiatrists in particular as one of the most difficult behavioral health occupations to recruit and retain. This aligns with observations made by the

³³ <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2022/NYC-Community-Plan-DIGITAL.pdf>

NYC Community Services Board (CSB), who have also raised concerns about a shortage of child psychiatrists in particular, as well as widespread workforce shortages in community-based settings.

The findings from the CHWS report on the reasons for difficulties in retention and recruitment generally align with those identified by NYC CSB members, including:

- **Demand outstripped supply:** The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated health workforce shortages in NYC, dramatically increasing the number of occupations in short supply as well as the magnitude of the shortages. This aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, who have stated that the demand for behavioral health services have grown exponentially, but staffing hasn't grown to meet the demand. The NYC CSB have continually advocated for the expansion of professional development pipelines that connect new behavioral health providers to community-based organizations (CBOs) in need of staff, particularly for social workers. Social workers face significant structural barriers that limit opportunities for career advancement. In The Mayor's Office for Community Mental Health recent report *Bridging the Gap: Challenges and Solutions for a Thriving Behavioral Health Workforce*, requirements to become a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) are costly and burdensome barriers to entering the profession. Notably, biases in the master's level licensing exam create unnecessary obstacles for otherwise qualified mental health professionals to enter the workforce and practice in the field. Data released by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) in August 2022 showed significant disparities in pass rates by race and ethnicity. Pass rates were also lower for older adults, individuals whose first language was not English, and other marginalized demographic groups, demonstrating that the exam presents additional barriers to diversifying the workforce.³⁴
- **Noncompetitive salaries:** This finding in the CHWS report aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, particularly regarding higher starting salaries for behavioral health occupations in private sectors that CBOs are unable to compete with. Noncompetitive salaries (and low entry level pay in particular), in combination with the high cost of living in NYC and limited affordable housing opportunities, may have driven workers out of the behavioral health sector and the city entirely. While the proposed FY24 NYS Budget recommends \$38 million to support minimum wage increases for existing staff at programs licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by OPWDD, OMH, and OASAS, continued funding and opportunities for permanent or long-term wage increases may need to be explored.
- **Lack of flexible scheduling:** In alignment with observations made by the NYC CSB about the behavioral health workforce in NYC, the CHWS report shows that there is a significant generational and workforce culture shift among health care occupations, indicating that the younger workforce is more concerned with work-life balance and opportunities for flexible scheduling, including remote telework. Similarly, the NYC CSB has elevated the need for new types of incentives to ensure retention, including innovative scheduling models that provide flexible hours, as well as opportunities to meet childcare, eldercare, and other needs to better prevent burnout. In Mayor Adams's newly released *Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for NYC*, the City committed to reduce burnout by increasing quality supervision and appropriate staffing ratios (which requires a sufficient workforce), supporting continuing education and advancement, and creating financial incentives to make sure mental health staff can meet their work-related needs.

Concerning the peer workforce in particular, community input continues to identify peer support workers as integral components of the behavioral health workforce in NYC. Their specialized training and

³⁴ New York City Mayor's Office for Community Mental Health.(2025). *Bridging the Gap: Challenges and Solutions for a Thriving Behavioral Health Workforce* Retrieved March 2025 from [https://mentalhealth.cityofnewyork.us//Downloads/2024-Bridging-the-Gap-Workforce-Paper%20\(1\).pdf](https://mentalhealth.cityofnewyork.us//Downloads/2024-Bridging-the-Gap-Workforce-Paper%20(1).pdf)

intentional use of lived experience has uniquely positioned them to engage and support clients burdened with a mental health concern(s), substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Despite the promise of the peer support workforce, challenges such as limited opportunities for career advancement and provider readiness continue to be identified as barriers to workforce integration. Moreover, as New York State considers expansion of the peer workforce through the 1115 Waiver by including Community Health Workers and other healthcare titles that prioritize lived experience, it will be critical to better understand their unique needs and develop strategies to ensure that are successfully integrated into the behavioral health workforce.

Telehealth and tele-support have become commonplace in the provision of behavioral health services, requiring peer support workers to adapt their services to virtual, digital, and telephonic platforms. Although the provision of in-person services have increased post-pandemic, there will be an ongoing need for peer support workers to successfully use technology in their practice. However, this segment of the workforce continues to experience barriers in accessing and using technology to provide telehealth peer support. Moreover, there is some concern that principles of peer support may not be easily translated through tele-support, which will require additional training for the peer workforce.

In 2021, NYC conducted a survey on the Effects of COVID-19 on Peer Support Workforce (n= 275). Findings included:

- 50% of Peer support workers said the in-ability to meet in-person was the biggest barrier to delivering services during the pandemic.
- 48% reported technology as the most critical new skill they learned, yet 45% felt they were not very well or only somewhat supported in learning how to use technology.

The New York State Office of Mental Health also conducted a survey that included peer support workers and managers/supervisors on competencies in peer telehealth during the COVID-19 (n=313, n=164)³⁵ found that competency-based training and performance-based training was needed to preserve the unique nature of peer support services in the provision of Peer Telehealth.

These findings suggest there is an area of ongoing need for peer support workers and their supervisors/managers to ensure that they are able to successfully integrate technology into their work. As New York State continues to build its digital telehealth structure, targeted resources are needed to study potential barriers to successful integration of the technology and develop strategies to increase workforce literacy as needed.

A centralized system for receiving workforce information and updates has also been identified as essential to the advancement of the Peer and Community Health Worker workforce. This need has become increasingly evident as Peer and Community Health Workers complete dual certifications. However, there is currently no central point of access for all peer support workers (PSWs) to obtain information on training, continuing education units (CEU) and professional development opportunities, or general community resources of interest to the workforce.

While peer support workers are considered to be especially vulnerable to burnout and stress, many have noted that this stress is often in reaction to toxic workplace culture and is pervasive in organizations

³⁵ Spagnolo, A. B., Pratt, C. W., Jia, Y., DeMasi, M., Cronise, R., & Gill, K. (2022) The Competencies of Telehealth Peer Support: Perceptions of Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Community mental health journal*, 58(7), 1386–1392.

regardless of title. Since the onset of the pandemic, the workforce has been increasingly complex which has contributed to heightened levels of stress and burnout among many workers. Studies indicate that:

- 80% of workers reported that workplace stress affects their relationships with friends, family, and coworkers. Only 38% of those who knew about their organization's mental health services would feel comfortable using them.³⁶
- It is estimated that cost employers in the United States up to \$193.2 billion annually in lost earnings due to absenteeism and presenteeism. Anxiety and depression cost the global economy over \$1 trillion in lost productivity yearly.³⁷
- Workplace stress costs U.S. employers \$500 billion annually in lost productivity.

As NYC's workforce continues to adapt and evolve, there is an urgent need to increase access to resources and tools to support the well-being of the workforce. Many of these strategies are currently being used but will need to be built to scale such as:

- Assuring access and connection to culturally responsive resources and services that address traumatic stress and loss.
- Employing supports and resources that address underlying complex trauma due to historical or racial trauma and its disproportionate impact on historically underrepresented workers- LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, differently abled, neurodivergent, etc.
- Increasing awareness of trauma-specific treatment modalities.

Ongoing development of tools to track the impact of COVID-19 associated collective trauma and the needs of frontline workers.³⁸

Concerning the I/DD workforce, recruitment and retention have been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals with I/DD and their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated a historic need to strengthen I/DD workforce recruitment and retention. While OPWDD has begun crucial work in this area, including dedicating 76% of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to workforce development grants and workforce incentives and bonuses, a variety of structural factors impact the DD workforce. These include high stress, low wages, a lack of professional development opportunities, a lack of retention incentives, and insufficient and/or ineffective marketing of DD workforce careers.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), both those employed directly by OPWDD as well as contracted providers through the nonprofit sector, remain the backbone of the I/DD workforce. These critical staff contribute to community habilitation programs, respite services, and congregate settings, among others, and essential to day-to-day programming. Chronic underfunding continues to create barriers to a sustainable, well-trained, and supported workforce.

Stakeholders, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) and the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies (IAC), have advocated for increased incentives for DSP training and professional development and have recommended that OPWDD promote opportunities for people to make their work a long-term career.

³⁶ Reinert, Nguyen, & Fritze. (2021) The State of Mental Health in America. Mental Health America, Alexandria VA.

³⁷ Adams & Nguyen. (2022) Mind the Workplace 2022 Report: Employer Responsibility to Employer Mental Health. Mental Health America, Alexandria VA.

³⁸ <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/statistics/2021-needs-of-frontline-workers-interim-report.pdf>

Addressing challenges with the DD workforce can have a cascading effect in improving other areas of unmet need impacted by staffing shortages, such as crisis services and service continuity for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Health Department will consider the merits of conducting a research study to better understand underlying I/DD workforce recruitment and retention concerns. Such a study would be conducted in collaboration with intergovernmental partners (OPWDD, etc.) and among contractors for services.

2.19. Other

Harm Reduction Services to Combat Overdose Epidemic

New York City continues to experience high numbers of drug overdose deaths, disproportionately experienced by residents of the South Bronx, Central and East Harlem, and Central Brooklyn. Despite 2024 provisional data showing a decrease in fatal drug overdoses compared to previous years, there continues to be a need to strengthen and enhance the following services and initiatives, many of which exist but could be broadened/bolstered across the harm reduction service continuum:

- Identifying sustainable funding to support enhancement of low threshold wraparound services at SSPs, including mental health, primary care, SUD treatment, and meeting basic needs (e.g., food, showers, laundry), with a focus on neighborhoods with high overdose mortality rates
- Building greater capacity to address access to fentanyl test strips through various types of service providers
- Building greater capacity to distribute Naloxone kits.
- Expanding access to drug checking technology (e.g., tests drug sample for fentanyl and xylazine) so participants can make better informed decisions around their use
- Promoting safer syringe disposal

Racial Equity and Justice-Impacted Populations

Communities of Color in the U.S. experience significant health inequities laid bare and exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic; these inequities severely impact persons with criminal legal system involvement.

The impact of long-standing systemic racism is evident in the US criminal legal system (CLS), with persons of color experiencing disproportionately high incarceration rates.³⁹ Persons with criminal legal system involvement (CLSI) also face systemic racism and other barriers when re-entering the community, experiencing poorer health outcomes, higher rates of heart disease, trauma, hypertension, behavioral health conditions⁴⁰, and premature mortality.⁴¹ Housing insecurity is widespread, with persons with CLSI experiencing almost 10 times the rate of homelessness compared to the general population.⁴² Persons with CLSI also face numerous barriers to employment, with only 55% of individuals report having any income during the first year following release.

³⁹ The Sentencing Project. Lifetime likelihood of imprisonment of US residents born in 2001.

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/criminal-justice-facts/> Accessed May 6, 2020

⁴⁰ Siegler A, Bersofsky M, Unangst J. Medical problems of state and prisoner and jail inmates. 2011-2012. US Department of Justice. 2015

⁴¹ Binswanger IA, Stern CF, Deyo RA, et al. Release from prison — a high risk of death for former inmates. *N Engl J Med.* 2007;356(5):157-165. doi:10.1056/NEJMs064115.

⁴² <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html>

Emergency Preparedness in the Behavioral Health Service System

Research and anecdotal evidence from previous disasters and public health emergencies highlighted the need for a better prepared behavioral health service system to address the impact of these events on their workforce and the population they serve. This need was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disaster planning and preparedness often neglects to adequately consider the unique event related needs of the service recipients of all three areas of the behavioral health service system. This can lead to inadequate response to their event-related behavioral health needs and contribute to adverse outcomes such as impaired coping, inability to access needed care, worsening of existing conditions, and diminished chance for recovery. Evidence also indicates lack of adequate readiness and failure to engage the staff of the Behavioral Health Service System in disaster planning and prerenders negatively affects their health and functioning during an event, with high rates of burnout and turn around. It also increases their risk for event related mental health illnesses, such as depression anxiety, and alcohol and substance use.

The NYC Health Department identified three main gaps in the Behavioral Health Service System planning, preparedness, response. Addressing these will be essential to improve future response outcomes. Activities need to focus on 1) Engaging staff in planning and preparedness and enhancing their resilience and supporting their emotional health and well-being to prevent burnout and costly high turn around. 2) providing adequate and timely behavioral health support services to individuals and communities most impacted by the incident. 3) planning to coordinate response among Behavioral Health Service providers

The Health Department requires support from city and state leadership to enhance its behavioral health care system's response readiness, most urgently to develop comprehensive, standardized, and scalable disasters and public health emergencies response plans with corresponding tools, protocols, and trainings, and to build and strengthen systems for collaboration among behavioral health care providers around resource sharing.



Office of Addiction
Services and Supports

Office of
Mental Health

Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

2027 Needs Assessment Form
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Adverse Childhood Experiences Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Experiences/Adverse Community Environments (ACEs) have been shown to increase risk for a variety of medical, psychological, and behavioral conditions in adulthood.¹ ACEs research also sheds light on the importance of protective factors during childhood and adolescence that promote resiliency and the ability to cope with toxic stress, while also targeting structural risk factors for trauma exposure.² The NYC Health Department's 2023 NYC KIDS survey focusing on children aged 1-13 found that racial inequities persist in children's exposure to adverse events:

6% of Black children and 5% of Latinx children were reported by their caregiver to have experienced housing instability in their lifetime compared to 1% of White children.

10% of Black children were reported by their caregiver to have witnessed or been the targets of violence in their neighborhoods compared to 1% of White children.

17% of Black children and 23% of Latinx children were experiencing food insecurity in their lifetime, as reported by caregivers, compared to 6% of White children.

Furthermore, Latinx and Black children in NYC were less likely to live in supportive neighborhoods, defined as feeling that people in families' neighborhoods help each other out, than White children (61% and 72% vs. 84%).³ The 2021 Health Opinion Poll found that 68% of Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults in NYC reported feeling a lack of emotional support compared to 47% of White adults.⁴ This is particularly important given the recent spate of Anti-Asian hate crimes, both in NYC and nationally. Reducing children's exposure to adverse events and increasing their access to supportive environments requires us to address the long-standing economic and social ramifications of structural racism in addition to offering trauma-informed care.

Crisis Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Acute care is a critical component of our mental health care system and essential for supporting many people when they are in crisis. However, acute care is not a solution to homelessness or other social factors that worsen mental illness. The entry way to our serious mental illness (SMI) care systems is often through emergency response systems, the majority of which have been led by law enforcement. Law enforcement and mental health advocates agree this situation is not ideal, and would prefer a clinical, trauma informed, and health-led response to mental health crises. This recognition is also shared nationally, with the initiation of 988, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, as a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care for people experiencing emergency mental health needs.

Because community-based mental health care can be difficult and confusing to access, many people end up calling 911 and getting transported to care in emergency and inpatient settings. According to data from the New York Police Department (NYPD), there were an average of nearly 12,840 911 calls per month in 2025 that were related to a mental health emergency and responded to by NYPD. We must improve availability of and funding for health-led response options and reduce police involvement in behavioral crisis while also increasing access to intensive community treatment and support options.

Cross System Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Despite a significant number of ongoing initiatives aimed at improving behavioral health conditions among NYC residents, there continue to be disparities in behavioral health care access, utilization, and outcomes in NYC.

One in five New Yorkers experiences mental illness in a given year, and hundreds of thousands of these New Yorkers are not connected to care.⁵ Additionally, 13.6% of NYC public high school students and 9.9% of public middle school students have reported attempting suicide. Moreover, a 2018 study found that 8.3% of NYC adults had current symptomatic depression. Socioeconomic inequalities in mental health persist in NYC and highlight the need for better diagnosis and treatment.

Within the Medicaid funded behavioral health service system, the number of adult and youth Medicaid recipients with at least one mental health or substance use related primary diagnosis in 2022 was 526,137. Despite significant spending on behavioral health care, the current Medicaid funded system still struggles to offer comprehensive and equitable care to the highest-need individuals, and to effectively integrate behavioral health services with physical health care. Throughout the country, as well as in NYS, behavioral healthcare providers also lag behind their primary care counterparts in opportunities to increase their revenue streams including through

value-based payment arrangements. During NYC's community feedback process for local services planning, a Community Services Board (CSB) member shared that "smaller organizations are providing mental health services but don't have a system to actually generate revenue, despite the fact that these organizations have been in the communities for decades and have public trust". Another member stated that "it is much easier for primary care professionals who have data and analysis departments to negotiate rates, etc. We have to think boldly and differently and outside the box if we are going to meet all of this unmet need" (December 2022).

Regarding the privately/commercially insured population, research shows that individuals with private insurance may be even more vulnerable to gaps in behavioral health coverage than those with Medicaid. NYC's Community Health Survey conducted in 2020 indicated that approximately 45% of NYC residents are covered by private insurance plans, and a 2019 Kaiser Foundation study showed that 55% of adults with mental illness have private insurance. A 2015 study published in the journal of Psychiatric Services and the National Institute of Health (NIH) stated that U.S. adults with mental illness covered by Medicaid had over 2 to 3 times the odds, of receiving treatment compared to individuals with private insurance that had 1.5 times the odds. As there are currently no NYC specific studies on behavioral health care access by this population, in 2022, the Health Department conducted interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders (n=71) and surveys of insurance beneficiaries (n=194) and healthcare providers (n=88) to gather NYC specific data on this topic. Select results from the beneficiary survey showed that:

Service providers:

78% cited low reimbursement rates as the main challenge when working with commercial insurance companies

85% said a helpline, chat services, or insurance navigators designated for providers to assist in resolving insurance-related issues would be most helpful for their work.

61% said standardized administrative process across all insurers would be most helpful

50% cited difficulties with denials as a main challenge

Insurance beneficiaries:

80% have at some point had to seek behavioral health care outside of their insurance network.

65% have encountered incorrect insurance acceptance information from a directory, website, or third-party platform like ZocDoc.

69% have been denied coverage of BH services by their health insurance plan.

Furthermore, despite the increased attention to the enforcement of behavioral health parity laws, a 2019 report showed that most consumers in NYS regardless of insurance type, experienced denials

of mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) coverage due to medical necessity criteria and pre-authorization of services. Most consumers surveyed for the report had little to no knowledge of MH/SUD visit and prior approval limitations and needed more information on how to challenge treatment denials. The most common insurance-related parity barrier cited by NYS providers was concerning financial requirements and pre-authorization. Most providers mentioned that they would be willing to file appeals on behalf of their patients but required more information on Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs) since claims denials was not their area of expertise. (Note: NQTLs include utilization review practices, preauthorization/medical necessity criteria, step therapy/fail-first policies, formulary design for prescription drugs, geographic/facility type/scope or duration of benefits limits and failure to complete treatment course exclusions etc.). In addition to research and survey data, a NYC CSB member shared that "parity between physical health and behavioral health is key to promoting access and engaging community members in treatment programs" (December 2022).

With regard to youth behavioral health, the Health Department has identified a number of barriers to accessing cross-system behavioral health services among NYC youth and families.

For the Family Pathways to Care project, Public Policy Lab used human-centered research and design methods to understand how families connect with and experience Administration for Children's Services (ACS)- and Health Department-contracted mental health and prevention services. Regarding cross-system referrals, they noted that families struggle to find services that are accessible within their neighborhoods and don't always know what they should be looking for. For example, when searching for services, they may not know what search terms to use or what clinical terms mean when reading program descriptions. Families who are non-English speaking, undocumented, or without community networks face additional fears or barriers to accessing the services they need.

Service providers in child-serving systems also face challenges referring families to mental health services in that they frequently don't fully understand the range of services available in the mental health system. Strategies and tools for making referrals across agencies are inconsistent. High staff turnover at provider agencies means that institutional knowledge, which is infrequently documented, can be lost as staff come and go. Providers seek up-to-date, easy to access, and approachable information about programs, which they could ideally filter and search by eligibility rules. They need a centralized system for locating appropriate and available services for families. The Health Department in collaboration with the NYS Office of Mental has secured resources to design a new mental health resource website to support New Yorkers, including youth people and their family members, in identifying and accessing mental health supports/services based on mental health needs.

Housing Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The Bureau of Mental Health at the NYC Health Department currently contracts for 13,000 units of supportive housing. However, despite this investment in supportive housing, homelessness continues to increase and threatens to erase progress made, especially among New Yorkers with behavioral health concerns.⁶ Housing instability and homelessness are particularly important social determinants of health for people with behavioral health concerns; evidence shows that both housing instability and homelessness are linked to morbidity and premature mortality and worse mental and physical health outcomes.^{7 8 9} Housing insecurity can worsen symptoms of mental illness and increase the likelihood a person will encounter high-risk situations that lead to avoidable hospitalization or incarceration.

Since 2017, NYC has had more homeless individuals and families sleeping in Department of Homeless Services (DHS) shelters or rough on the streets than at any time since the Great Depression. Many homeless individuals are living with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUD), or other behavioral health concerns, further highlighting the importance of the supportive housing model, which provides subsidized permanent housing alongside wraparound care and social services for residents who need them.¹⁰ In 2024, approximately 8,267 people with SMI experienced homelessness in the NYC shelter system or on the street.¹¹

Some people with SMI will be able to maintain independent housing with financial supports and effective services. Others benefit from higher levels of care, including supportive housing, which offers permanent, affordable rental housing with support services.^{12 13 14} While many homeless individuals in NYC currently qualify for supportive housing due to SMI, SUD, or other behavioral health issues, there is currently only one available unit of supportive housing for every five eligible applicants. There remains a significant need in NYC for both additional funding for supportive housing and additional units of supportive housing.

Furthermore, stable housing is closely associated with a person's ability to protect and enhance their health and well-being and is associated with improved health and social outcomes for people who use drugs. Unstable housing status and contact with the criminal legal system are both risk factors for overdose and drug-related harms. Drug-related death is the leading cause of death among people experiencing homelessness in NYC.¹⁵ In addition, those who are involved in the criminal legal system are at increased risk of drug-related harms, including but not limited to overdose, HIV and hepatitis C virus infection.¹⁶

In order to recognize housing as a basic necessity and platform to improve an individual's health, supportive housing and other programs should take a "Housing First" approach, which does not restrict eligibility based on current or previous drug use and provides re/habilitation supports to increase the ability to remain safely housed.

People experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to criminal legal system involvement, unnecessary hospitalizations, and potential for increased exposure to law enforcement on the subway system.

In addition, housing continues to be a major unmet need for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) in NYC. For the past several years, adequate and accessible housing options for individuals with I/DD has been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals and their families. As in the past, this year, housing options was ranked among the top five areas of concern by NYC Health Department I/DD stakeholders.

More research may be needed to understand ways to expand least-restrictive housing options while maintaining high quality housing for individuals with I/DD. Many advocates, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS), believe enhanced regulatory flexibility is needed, and suggest further study of ways to improve regulatory flexibility in the housing arena. Finally, better prioritization of residential placements is needed. Specifically, stakeholders have expressed difficulty with finding placements for people with I/DD who live in the community but need housing as parents age and are no longer able to care for their children.

Inpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Several hospital-based detoxification programs include their beds under Med-Surg during non-emergencies, which is needed in order to normalize substance use withdrawal as a routine medical need and to ensure that beds do not remain under-utilized.

However, there is continued concern whether beds are made available equitably to those needing medically managed withdrawal when Med-Surg beds are in high demand.

Additionally, NYC's inpatient programs (especially non-hospital based) have continued need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other materials to support infection control. While the immediate, shortages of 2020 have eased, the need for proactive procurement, inventory management, and infection control training is a permanent fixture of modern healthcare in NYC.

Non-Clinical Supports Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The onset of severe mental illness (SMI) often interrupts a person's relationships, education and employment in ways that substantially and negatively impact their quality of life -- 45% of New Yorkers with SMI report having low social support, and 29% are at risk for social isolation. Social isolation, in turn, increases the risk of mental health crisis, due to things like falling out of care or off treatment, or even struggling to maintain housing. People with SMI are also more likely to be unemployed and have a lower household income and lower levels of

educational attainment.¹⁸ Discrimination due to mental health diagnosis exacerbates the barriers to employment and social inclusion that people of color already face due to structural racism. People with SMI need more social infrastructure to connect with others and form community and relationships. Clubhouses are one-stop programs offering an array of services including, but not limited to, building strong support networks, socialization through joining a clubhouse community, supported employment, education support, skill building, case management including identifying supportive housing, advocacy, low or no-cost snacks and meals, and recreation in a recovery-oriented environment.

Research shows the clubhouse model reduces people's hospitalization and contact with the criminal legal system and improves their health and wellness.¹⁹ ²⁰ When it comes to clubhouse membership, there was an increase of nearly 800 active members between November 2024 and March 2026. This ongoing growth demonstrates a clear demand for these services. By expanding clubhouses, more New Yorkers with SMI will be welcomed into safe, supportive communities and engaged in efforts to advance their quality of life, including social, educational and employment activities, while reducing their risk of isolation and crisis and associated risks like homelessness and hospitalization.

Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, and clubhouse services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services. Considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Psychiatric rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and peer support services are important and often overlooked, complementary and/or alternative services to clinical services. After decades of flat enrollment, NYC successfully increased the number of people in clubhouses citywide by 30% with a \$4M investment and coordinated recruitment effort. This expansion demonstrated previously unacknowledged demand for this valuable service. Additional financial investment is needed to expand the capacity and quality of psychiatric rehabilitation and occupational therapy services available in NYC, and to promote broader awareness of these resources so that providers more routinely refer people to peer support, supported employment, education support, clubhouse and recovery services similar to referrals for clinical services. More Certified Peer Specialists and Certified Peer Recovery Advocates are needed to staff the expanding field of non-clinical behavioral health services and considerable investments are needed to grow and support this workforce.

Outpatient Treatment Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): There is insufficient capacity to meet NYC's demand for specialty mental health care: 41% of people with severe mental illness (SMI) (around 100,000 New Yorkers)

want treatment but are unable to get it.²¹ Many of the greatest mental health provider shortages are concentrated in neighborhoods with the highest proportion of people of color. The services available are complex, inequitable, and difficult to navigate. These access issues are made worse by cost. One in eight (12.1%) New Yorkers are uninsured,²² and for people who do have insurance, finding affordable mental health services is challenging due to low reimbursement rates. These financial barriers are more significant for people of color, who face greater inequities in access to health insurance and fair wages. New Yorkers need equitable access to culturally responsive, race-conscious, and trauma-informed care to improve mental health outcomes.

A single system for people with SMI to engage in care is necessary to facilitate efficient, well-planned connections from hospitals, jails and shelters to outpatient mental health and social services that tailor support for people to successfully reenter communities. Additionally, expanding access to comprehensive primary and community mental health care is essential for people to be able to establish relationships with trusted providers who can support their whole health over time. Only providers who have continuous relationships with individuals can identify changes in their circumstances that might quickly bring on a crisis, intervene to prevent it, and make sure they have the resources necessary to stabilize and recover. Lastly, people with SMI also may use drugs and alcohol or have a co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD). A holistic approach for people with SMI must include access to evidence-based substance use treatment and harm reduction services.

Additionally, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducted 2023 the Family Mental Health Survey (FMHS), a research study that included a series of three surveys aimed to comprehensively assess the mental health landscape of families. The study included data collected from parents and guardians of children aged between 5-17 years old, teens aged 13 to 17 years old, and parent reporting on the mental health of their children aged 5 to 17 years old. In 2023, we found that 52% of caregivers in NYC told us that it was either difficult or somewhat difficult to get the mental health treatment or counseling that their child needed in the past 12 months. Additionally, 6% of caregivers in NYC told us their child needed to see a mental health professional in the past 12 months but they did not see one. The most common reasons for not seeing a professional were 'I did not know who to contact or where to go' (48%) and 'something else' (47%).

Significant investment is needed in order to expand access to outpatient mental healthcare for all New Yorkers who need it.

Prevention Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Despite investment in behavioral healthcare services in NYC, including investment specifically aimed at treatment of serious mental illness (SMI), serious psychological distress (SPD) and other behavioral health issues, there is "a considerable need to

raise the priority given to the prevention of mental disorders and to the promotion of mental health through action on the social determinants of health."²³

Prevention is a central tenet of public health practice and yet when it comes to SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues, prevention receives little attention or funding compared to treatment within the mental healthcare system. The current model in NYC relies on treating behavioral health problems when they arise rather than working to prevent them to begin with.

Prevention is complex and relies on a wide array of resources and stakeholders; it is not relegated to the hospital, the clinic or the physician's office but is diffused throughout the areas of society in which individuals are born, grow, live, work and age.²⁴ Prevention often operates at the population level and is driven by politics and policy choices, economics, and social and cultural factors--what are often collectively referred to as social determinants of health (SDoH).²⁵ Decades of research have indicated the outsized impact that these social determinants of health have on patterns of morbidity and mortality and the extent to which addressing upstream social determinants improves health and health outcomes and prevents disease at the population level.

A renewed focus on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is required to adequately address prevention of SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues in NYC. In line with the World Health Organization's report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health, we call for an approach that follows the concept of proportionate universalism--policies should be universal, across the whole of society and proportionate to need. In practice, such an approach will be grounded in social and economic rights-- including the right to housing, healthcare, employment and education--and will rely on publicly run and funded programs to provide these rights to New Yorkers. It is by now well documented that access to stable and affordable housing, healthcare, a living wage and education are health protective in nature and that reducing inequalities in access to these health protective resources also works to reduce health inequalities more broadly.

The NYC Health Department's Family Mental Health Survey identified there are inequities observed surrounding parental resources and stress. We found that:

When asked if parents/guardians had someone to turn to for day-to-day support with the stress of parenting in the past 12 months, a lower proportion of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED (45%) said yes compared to caregivers with a graduate or a professional degree (71%).

When asked if they had enough financial resources to care for their children, 50% of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED said yes compared to 68% of caregivers with a graduate or a professional degree. A higher proportion of White caregivers also said they had enough financial resources (70%) compared to Black (36%), Latino (43%), Asian/Pacific Islander (64%), and other/multi-racial caregivers (55%).

When asked if the food they bought did not last and that they did not have the money to buy more in the last 12 months, 88% of White caregivers said this was never an issue for them compared to Black (49%), Latino (54%), Asian/Pacific Islander (78%), and other/multi-racial caregivers (65%).

Additionally, when it came to housing:

In the past 12 months, 4% of Latino caregivers and Black caregivers said they were living in emergency shelter/transitional housing compared to 1% of White caregivers.

When asked if they were worried about losing their housing, 34% of caregivers without a high school diploma or GED said yes compared to 13% of caregivers with a graduate or a professional degree. A lower proportion of White caregivers also said they were worried (11%) compared to Black (29%), Latino (34%), Asian/Pacific Islander (18%), and other/multi-racial (22%) caregivers.

Overall, 24% of caregivers in NYC said they were worried about losing their housing in 2023.

When it comes to social conditions NYC ranks particularly poorly with high rates of homelessness, income and wealth inequality and poverty as well as unequal access to healthcare and higher education-- New Yorkers of low socioeconomic status (SES) are less likely to have stable access to healthcare or access to higher education and are far more likely to experience substandard mental and physical health and worse health outcomes.^{26 27} Without meaningful intervention to address this, SMI, SPD and other behavioral health issues will continue to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable New Yorkers and preventable health inequalities will continue to be commonplace.

New Yorkers of low SES are disproportionately represented among those with behavioral health issues, SPD and SMI. According to the 2020 NYC Community Health Survey:

The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who are unemployed (8.2%) or not in the labor force (8.9%) compared to those who are employed (4.1%).

The prevalence of SPD among those with an annual household income lower than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) was significantly higher (8.8%) than it was among those with household incomes that are greater than 400% of the FPL (4.0%).

The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those with less than a high school education (8.5%), high school graduates (6.6%), and some college (6.5%) compared with those who are college graduates (4.8%).

The prevalence of SPD was significantly higher among those who delayed paying or were unable to pay rent in the past 12 months (12.7%) compared to those who did not delay paying rent (4.9%).

Such data underscores the importance of an approach to prevention that is grounded in addressing the social conditions in which New Yorkers are born, grow, live, work and age. Concretely this means ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to the health protective benefits of stable housing, healthcare, education and a living wage, while also promoting policies like progressive

taxation and wealth taxation that reduce income and wealth inequality and the health inequalities they result in.^{28 29} As the WHO report on the Social Determinants of Mental Health notes, "action [to address the social determinants of mental health] needs be universal: across the whole of society and proportionate to need in order to level the social gradient in health outcomes."

Working to prevent behavioral health issues through action on the social determinants of mental health (SDoMH) is also a racial justice issue. Race-based health inequalities are often the result of decades of austerity and disinvestment in black and brown neighborhoods. Ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to housing, healthcare, higher education, and a living wage will disproportionately benefit black and brown New Yorkers and work to reduce racial health inequalities.

We recognize that many of the programs and policies outlined here fall outside of the purview of traditional public health discourse yet have an outsized impact on patterns of morbidity and mortality, mental and physical health outcomes, and health inequalities. For these reasons we believe that a population approach to prevention, grounded in addressing SDoMH, is urgently needed in

Problem Gambling Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Adults Only

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): As the number of gambling sites--both online and in-person--continues to rise, the challenges related to problem gambling are becoming increasingly significant. It's essential for all substance use treatment programs to incorporate strategies that address these issues. We now have three specialized programs in our portfolio aimed at supporting individuals dealing with problem gambling, as well as their family members. However, it is important to note that some of these programs are currently experiencing waitlists, reflecting the growing demand for treatment services

Refugees and Immigrants Yes

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): In NYC, reports of hate crimes against members of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in 2021 outpaced records of similar complaints in 2020.³⁰ In addition to being targeted for hate crimes, the prevalence of experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner among U.S.-born AANHPI adults is about three times that of AANHPI adults born outside of the U.S. (8% vs. 2%).³¹ AANHPI adults willing to report intimate partner violence may face barriers due to language accessibility in our health systems or lack of knowledge of resources. The NYC Health Department anticipates that the AANHPI community will require additional support and culturally competent services to ensure

safety and wellness.

Furthermore, NYC has provided services to more than 180,000 asylum seekers arriving from the southern border of the United States since May 2022.³² NYC's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), and the NYC Office of Asylum Seeker Operations (OASO) in conjunction with NYC Emergency Management (NYEM) and other City agencies, tapped the Health Department to provide health insurance enrollment, mental health support, and referrals to pediatric care and immunizations. The Health Department is the lead agency providing emotional support services to incoming asylum seekers and staff at the Application Assistance Help Center and St. Bridgid's reticketing service site. Services include supporting those in distress to cope better with stressors while accessing services. Additional support services include crisis counseling and facilitating connections to case management services for ongoing support.

The NYC Department of Health anticipates that this unprecedented influx of asylum seekers and refugees will continue into the foreseeable future and will require additional resources and funding in 2025 and 2026 to meet mental health needs of the individuals and families currently experiencing crisis. The Health Department recognizes that the refugees arriving to New York are predominantly from Central and South America and will need to ensure that services provided are culturally sensitive and, to the extent possible, in-language to promote engagement.

Residential Treatment Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Part 820, adopted in 2015, restructured residential services into Part 820 with options for stabilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration elements, allowing programs to be approved under that part either separately or in combination. At the time, programs that wished to convert under reintegration elements were exempt from billing; however, with the discontinuation of the Institution of Mental Disease (IMD) restrictions in 2024, programs utilizing reintegration were now eligible to bill for their services. This allows all Part 820 programs with the reintegration service element, which most closely aligns to Part 819 community residential programs, to receive Medicaid payments. OASAS mandated that all Part 819 programs transition to Part 820, and by February 28, 2026, all residential programs that previously operated under the Part 819 congregate care model are no longer in effect under that model.

Transition Age Services Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): The NYC Health Department is a partner organization in NYC's plan to prevent and end Youth Homelessness ("Opportunity Starts with a Home")³³ led by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The Health Department participated in DYCD's

community coordinated planning process to support the health and well-being of youth experiencing homelessness, called "Opportunity Starts with a Home." The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) recommended that the city address the following needs for youth and young adults (YYA):

Hire mental health professionals within DYCD shelters for more accessible mental health supports.

Improve access to existing health-related resources that meet a broad array of YYA basic needs, provide ongoing support, and offer training for YYA to lead healthy lives.

Ensure that YYA have a broad array of options to engage in social activities that help them build relationships, develop skills, relieve stress, contribute to the community, and enjoy themselves.

Increase opportunities for YYA survivors of violence to build healthy relationships and support their wellbeing. Please enter needs assessment here. Please cite sources as comments.

Additionally, the Department has committed to working on following action steps to improve access to mental health and harm reduction/addiction supports and services for homeless youth and young adults (YYA):

Work with DYCD and community-based organizations to increase awareness and accessibility of Crisis Respite/Residence Centers to support YYA experiencing mental or emotional health crises, including family conflict.

Explore creating a connection between the Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) drop-in centers.

Strengthen partnerships with youth-serving community-based organizations to expand mental health knowledge, skills, and strategies among their staff in disproportionately burdened NYC communities.

Workforce Yes

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? Yes

Applies to OPWDD? Yes

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): According to a recent report from the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) on Health Worker Recruitment and Retention in NYC, behavioral health providers are some of the most difficult health care occupations to recruit and retain. The report identifies psychiatrists in particular as one of the most difficult behavioral health occupations to recruit and retain. This aligns with observations made by the NYC Community Services Board (CSB), who have also raised concerns about a shortage of child psychiatrists in particular, as well as widespread workforce shortages in community-based settings.

The findings from the CHWS report on the reasons for difficulties in retention and recruitment generally align with those identified by NYC CSB members, including:

Demand outstripped supply: The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated health workforce shortages in NYC, dramatically increasing the number of occupations in short supply as well as the magnitude of the shortages. This aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, who have stated that the demand for behavioral health services have grown exponentially, but staffing hasn't grown to meet the demand. The NYC CSB have continually advocated for the expansion of professional development pipelines that connect new behavioral health providers to community-based organizations (CBOs) in need of staff, particularly for social workers. Social workers face significant structural barriers that limit opportunities for career advancement. In The Mayor's Office for Community Mental Health recent report *Bridging the Gap: Challenges and Solutions for a Thriving Behavioral Health Workforce*, requirements to become a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) are costly and burdensome barriers to entering the profession. Notably, biases in the master's level licensing exam create unnecessary obstacles for otherwise qualified mental health professionals to enter the workforce and practice in the field. Data released by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) in August 2022 showed significant disparities in pass rates by race and ethnicity. Pass rates were also lower for older adults, individuals whose first language was not English, and other marginalized demographic groups, demonstrating that the exam presents additional barriers to diversifying the workforce.³⁴ The Social Work Workforce Act (S988-Brouk/A701-Gonzalez-Rojas), currently under consideration in the New York State legislature, would repeal the examination requirement for LMSW licensure under Education Law §7704(1)(d), replacing it with competency-based pathways to licensure.

Noncompetitive salaries: This finding in the CHWS report aligns with observations made by the NYC CSB, particularly regarding higher starting salaries for behavioral health occupations in private sectors that CBOs are unable to compete with. Noncompetitive salaries (and low entry level pay in particular), in combination with the high cost of living in NYC and limited affordable housing opportunities, may have driven workers out of the behavioral health sector and the city entirely. While the proposed FY24 NYS Budget recommends \$38 million to support minimum wage increases for existing staff at programs licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by OPWDD, OMH, and OASAS, continued funding and opportunities for permanent or long-term wage increases may need to be explored.

Lack of flexible scheduling: In alignment with observations made by the NYC CSB about the behavioral health workforce in NYC, the CHWS report shows that there is a significant generational and workforce culture shift among health care occupations, indicating that the younger workforce is more concerned with work-life balance and opportunities for flexible scheduling, including remote telework. Similarly, the NYC CSB has elevated the need for new types of incentives to ensure retention, including innovative scheduling models that provide flexible hours, as well as opportunities to meet childcare, eldercare, and other needs to better prevent burnout. In Mayor Adams's newly released *Care, Community, Action: A Mental Health Plan for NYC*, the City committed to reduce burnout by increasing quality supervision and appropriate staffing ratios (which requires a sufficient workforce), supporting continuing education and advancement, and creating financial incentives to make sure mental health staff can meet their work-related needs.

Concerning the peer workforce in particular, community input continues to identify peer support workers as integral components of the behavioral health workforce in NYC. Their specialized training and intentional use of lived experience has uniquely positioned them to engage and support clients burdened with a mental health concern(s), substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. Despite the promise of the peer support workforce, challenges such as limited opportunities for career advancement and provider readiness continue to be identified as barriers to workforce integration. Moreover, as New York State considers expansion of the peer workforce through the 1115 Waiver by including Community Health Workers and other healthcare titles that prioritize lived experience, it will be critical to better understand their unique needs and develop strategies to ensure that are successfully integrated into the behavioral health workforce.

A centralized system for receiving workforce information and updates has also been identified as essential to the advancement of the Peer and Community Health Worker workforce. This need has become increasingly evident as Peer and Community Health Workers complete dual certifications. However, there is currently no central point of access for all peer support workers (PSWs) to obtain information on training, continuing education units (CEU) and professional development opportunities, or general community resources of interest to the workforce.

While peer support workers are considered to be especially vulnerable to burnout and stress, many have noted that this stress is often in reaction to toxic workplace culture and is pervasive in organizations regardless of title. Since the onset of the pandemic, the workforce has been increasingly complex which has contributed to heightened levels of stress and burnout among many workers. Studies indicate that:

80% of workers reported that workplace stress affects their relationships with friends, family, and coworkers. Only 38% of those who knew about their organization's mental health services would feel comfortable using them.³⁵

It is estimated that cost employers in the United States up to \$193.2 billion annually in lost earnings due to absenteeism and presenteeism. Anxiety and depression cost the global economy over \$1 trillion in lost productivity yearly.³⁶

Workplace stress costs U.S. employers \$500 billion annually in lost productivity.

As NYC's workforce continues to adapt and evolve, there is an urgent need to increase access to resources and tools to support the well-being of the workforce. Many of these strategies are currently being used but will need to be built to scale such as:

Assuring access and connection to culturally responsive resources and services that address traumatic stress and loss.

Employing supports and resources that address underlying complex trauma due to historical or racial trauma and its disproportionate impact on historically underrepresented workers- LGBTQIA+,

BIPOC, differently abled, neurodivergent, etc.

Increasing awareness of trauma-specific treatment modalities.

Ongoing development of tools to track the impact of COVID-19 associated collective trauma and the needs of frontline workers.³⁷

Concerning the I/DD workforce, recruitment and retention have been repeatedly identified as a key barrier to appropriate, continuous care for individuals with I/DD and their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated a historic need to strengthen I/DD workforce recruitment and retention. While OPWDD has begun crucial work in this area, including dedicating 76% of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to workforce development grants and workforce incentives and bonuses, a variety of structural factors impact the DD workforce. These include high stress, low wages, a lack of professional development opportunities, a lack of retention incentives, and insufficient and/or ineffective marketing of DD workforce careers.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), both those employed directly by OPWDD as well as contracted providers through the nonprofit sector, remain the backbone of the I/DD workforce. These critical staff contribute to community habilitation programs, respite services, and congregate settings, among others, and essential to day-to-day programming. Chronic underfunding continues to create barriers to a sustainable, well-trained, and supported workforce.

Stakeholders, including Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) and the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies (IAC), have advocated for increased incentives for DSP training and professional development and have recommended that OPWDD promote opportunities for people to make their work a long-term career.

Addressing challenges with the DD workforce can have a cascading effect in improving other areas of unmet need impacted by staffing shortages, such as crisis services and service continuity for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Health Department will consider the merits of conducting a research study to better understand underlying I/DD workforce recruitment and retention concerns. Such a study would be conducted in collaboration with intergovernmental partners (OPWDD, etc.) and among contractors for services.

Harm Reduction Services to Combat Overdose Epidemic Harm Reduction Services to Combat Overdose Epidemic

Applies to OASAS? Yes

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): New York City continues to experience high numbers of drug overdose deaths, disproportionately experienced by residents of the South Bronx, Central and East Harlem,

and Central Brooklyn. Despite 2024 data showing a decrease in fatal drug overdoses compared to previous years, there continues to be a need to strengthen and enhance the following services and initiatives and continue to, many of which exist but could be broadened/bolstered across the harm reduction service continuum:

Identifying sustainable funding to support enhancement of low threshold wraparound services at SSPs, including mental health, primary care, SUD treatment, and meeting basic needs (e.g., food, showers, laundry), with a focus on neighborhoods with high overdose mortality rates

Building greater capacity to address access to fentanyl test strips through various types of service providers

Building greater capacity to distribute Naloxone kits.

Expanding access to drug checking technology (e.g., tests drug sample for fentanyl and xylazine) so participants can make better informed decisions around their use

Promoting safer syringe disposal

Racial Equity and Justice-Impacted Populations Racial Equity and Justice-Impacted Populations

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Communities of Color in the U.S. experience significant health inequities laid bare and exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic; these inequities severely impact persons with criminal legal system involvement.

The impact of long-standing systemic racism is evident in the US criminal legal system (CLS), with persons of color experiencing disproportionately high incarceration rates.³⁸ Persons with criminal legal system involvement (CLSI) also face systemic racism and other barriers when re-entering the community, experiencing poorer health outcomes, higher rates of heart disease, trauma, hypertension, behavioral health conditions ³⁹, and premature mortality.⁴⁰ Housing insecurity is widespread, with persons with CLSI experiencing almost 10 times the rate of homelessness compared to the general population.⁴¹ Persons with CLSI also face numerous barriers to employment, with only 55% of individuals report having any income during the first year following release.

Emergency Preparedness in the Behavioral Health Service System Emergency Preparedness in the Behavioral Health Service System

Applies to OASAS? No

Applies to OMH? No

Applies to OPWDD? No

Need Applies to: Both Youth and Adults

Do any of the Goals on the Goals and Objectives Form address this need? No

Need description (Optional): Research and anecdotal evidence from previous disasters and public health emergencies highlighted the need for a better prepared behavioral health service system to address the impact of these events on their workforce and the population they serve. This need was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disaster planning and preparedness often neglects to adequately consider the unique event related needs of the service recipients of all three areas of the behavioral health service system. This can lead to inadequate response to their event-related behavioral health needs and contribute to adverse outcomes such as impaired coping, inability to access needed care, worsening of existing conditions, and diminished chance for recovery. Evidence also indicates lack of adequate readiness and failure to engage the staff of the Behavioral Health Service System in disaster planning and preparedness negatively affects their health and functioning during an event, with high rates of burnout and turn around. It also increases their risk for event related mental health illnesses, such as depression anxiety, and alcohol and substance use.

The NYC Health Department identified three main gaps in the Behavioral Health Service System planning, preparedness, response. Addressing these will be essential to improve future response outcomes. Activities need to focus on 1) Engaging staff in planning and preparedness and enhancing their resilience and supporting their emotional health and well-being to prevent burnout and costly high turn around. 2) providing adequate and timely behavioral health support services to individuals and communities most impacted by the incident. 3) planning to coordinate response among Behavioral Health Service providers.

The Health Department requires support from city and state leadership to enhance its behavioral health care system's response readiness, most urgently to develop comprehensive, standardized, and scalable disasters and public health emergencies response plans with corresponding tools, protocols, and training resources, and to build and strengthen systems for collaboration among behavioral health care providers around resource sharing.

LGU Representative: Naomi Legros

Submitted for: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene - Providers and Programs for the Bureau of Mental Health

Agency Name	Program Name	Program Type Name
ACMH, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Manhattan (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
ACMH, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
ACMH, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
ACMH, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
ACMH, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
African American Planning Commission, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
African American Planning Commission, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Bailey House, Inc.	Bailey House at East Harlem	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
Bailey House, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Baltic Street AEH, Inc.	Baltic Street Peer Advocacy	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Baltic Street AEH, Inc.	Baltic Street Peer Bridger	2720-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination; (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH
Baltic Street AEH, Inc.	Recovery Center	2750-Recovery Center-OMH
Baltic Street AEH, Inc.	Baltic Street Self-Help	2770-Self-Help-OMH
Barrier Free Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Barrier Free Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Beth Israel Medical Center	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
Beth Israel Medical Center	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
Bowery Residents' Committee, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	3370-NY NY III Supported Housing-OASAS
Bowery Residents' Committee, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH

Bowery Residents' Committee, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Bowery Residents' Committee, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Bowery Residents' Committee, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Bowery Residents' Committee, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Breaking Ground Housing Development Fund Corporation	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	3370-NY NY III Supported Housing-OASAS
Breaking Ground Housing Development Fund Corporation	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Breaking Ground Housing Development Fund Corporation	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OASAS
Breaking Ground Housing Development Fund Corporation	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Bridging Access to Care, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Bridging Access to Care, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Bridging Access to Care, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
BronxCare Health System	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Bronx (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
BronxWorks, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
BronxWorks, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
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BronxWorks, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
BronxWorks, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
BronxWorks, Inc.	Living Room	5990-MICA Network-OMH
Brookdale Hospital Medical Center	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH

[illegible]

CAMBA, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
CAMBA, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
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CAMBA, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
CAMBA, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
CAMBA, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
CAMBA, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
CAMBA, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.	Peer Advocacy	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Brooklyn (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH

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Center for Urban Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
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Center for Urban Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Center for Urban Community Services, Inc.	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Clinton Housing Development Company, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Columba Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Community Access, Inc.	Crisis Respite Center (Manhattan)	0910-Crisis Residence-OMH
Community Access, Inc.	Assisted Competitive Employment	1380-Assisted Competitive Employment-OMH
Community Access, Inc.	Howie the Harp	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Community Access, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Community Access, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
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Community Access, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Community Access, Inc.	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Community Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Community Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Community Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Comunilife, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Comunilife, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Comunilife, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Concern for Independent Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Covenant House	Under 21, Inc. Support Congregate Program	0320-On-Site Rehabilitation-OMH
Covenant House	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
EAC, Inc.	Medication Grant Program	0860-Local Governmental Unit Administration-OMH

Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities Inc	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Encore Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Fountain House, Inc.	Clubhouse - 3 sites	0770-Psychosocial Club-OMH
Geel Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Geel Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
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Geel Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Geel Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Geel Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Goddard-Riverside Community Center	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
Goddard-Riverside Community Center	TOP Opportunities	1380-Assisted Competitive Employment-OMH
Goddard-Riverside Community Center	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Goddard-Riverside Community Center	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Goddard-Riverside Community Center	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Good Shepherd Services	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Good Shepherd Services	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Good Shepherd Services	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Goodwill Industries of Greater New York & Northern New Jersey, Inc.	Clubhouse - 2 sites	0770-Psychosocial Club-OMH
Goodwill Industries of Greater New York & Northern New Jersey, Inc.	Bronx Assisted Competitive Employment	1380-Assisted Competitive Employment-OMH

Goodwill Industries of Greater New York & Northern New Jersey, Inc.	PAL Queens Peer Advocacy	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Greenwich House, Inc.	Senior Citizens Health and Consultation Connect - Hamilton-Madison House	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
Hamilton Madison House, Inc.	Behavioral Health Services	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
Heights Hill Mental Health Service Community Advisory Board, Inc.	Rainbow Heights Club, Advocacy Services	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
HELP USA, Inc. (HELP Social Service Corporation)	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
HELP USA, Inc. (HELP Social Service Corporation)	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
HELP USA, Inc. (HELP Social Service Corporation)	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
HELP USA, Inc. (HELP Social Service Corporation)	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Henry Street Settlement	Connect - Henry Street Settlement Community Consultation Center	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
Henry Street Settlement	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Hour Children, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Housing and Services Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Housing Plus Solutions, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Housing Works, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Housing Works, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Brooklyn (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Bridger	2720-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination; (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH

Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	3370-NY NY III Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Institute for Community Living, Inc.	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Interborough Developmental and Consultation Center, Inc.	Connect - Interborough Crown Heights and Williamsburg Centers	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
Iris House: A Center for Women Living with HIV, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH

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Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Inc.	Peer Advocacy	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Long Island Jewish Medical Center	Assisted Competitive Employment - Staten Island	1380-Assisted Competitive Employment-OMH
Lower East Side Service Center, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Lower East Side Service Center, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Mental Health Providers of Western Queens, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Queens (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Mobilization for Justice, Inc.	Advocacy	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
National Alliance on Mental Illness of NYC (NAMI-NYC)	Advocacy Services	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
New Horizon	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	Adult Single Point of Access (SPOA)	Adult Single Point of Access (SPOA)
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	Assisted Outpatient Treatment	Assisted Outpatient Treatment
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	NYC Supportive Transition and Recovery Team (START)	NYC Supportive Transition and Recovery Team (START)
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	Health Justice Network (HJN)	Health Justice Network (HJN)

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	Co-Response Team (CRT)	Co-Response Team (CRT)
New York Disaster Interfaith Services	Clubhouse - 1 site	0770-Psychosocial Club-OMH
New York Presbyterian Hospital	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
NYC Department of Homeless Services	On Site Rehabilitation	0320-On-Site Rehabilitation-OMH
NYC Department of Homeless Services	Homeless Outreach (Non-Permanent Transitional Housing)	0690-Outreach-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals	Reinvestment and Medication Grant Program (MGP) (Non-Licensed Program).	0860-Local Governmental Unit Administration-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals	Peer Academy	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals	Peer Counseling	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals	Peer Academy	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals	Clinic Treatment	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals	MICA - Harlem	5990-Dual Diagnosis Coordinator-OASAS
NYC Health + Hospitals	MICA-Kings County	5990-Dual Diagnosis Coordinator-OASAS
NYC Health + Hospitals	MICA - Lincoln	5990-Dual Diagnosis Coordinator-OASAS
NYC Health + Hospitals Bellevue	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Bellevue	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Bellevue	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Coney Island	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Coney Island	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Coney Island	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals East NY	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Elmhurst	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Elmhurst	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH

NYC Health + Hospitals Elmhurst	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Harlem	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Harlem	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Jacobi	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Jacobi	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Kings County	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Lincoln	Mobile Crisis	2680-Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Metropolitan	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Metropolitan	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals North Central Bronx	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Queens	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Queens	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Queens	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Queens	Non Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Woodhull	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Woodhull	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
NYC Human Resources Administration	Visiting Psychiatric Services to Shelters and to NY/NY Housing Site	0690-Outreach-OMH
Odyssey House, Inc.	Outreach	0690-Outreach-OMH
Odyssey House, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Odyssey House, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Ohel Children's Home and Family Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH

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Postgraduate Center for Mental Health	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Postgraduate Center for Mental Health	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Postgraduate Center for Mental Health	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Pratt Area Community Council	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Praxis Housing Initiatives, Inc	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Praxis Housing Initiatives, Inc	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Praxis Housing Initiatives, Inc	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Project Hospitality, Inc.	CSS Mental Health Drop In	1770-Drop-In Centers-OMH
Project Hospitality, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Project Hospitality, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Project Renewal, Inc.	Fort Washington Shelter	0320-On-Site Rehabilitation-OMH
Project Renewal, Inc.	Next Step Assisted Competitive Employment	1380-Assisted Competitive Employment-OMH
Project Renewal, Inc.	Mobile Psychiatric Outreach	1960-Homeless Placement Services (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH
Project Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	3370-NY NY III Supported Housing-OASAS
Project Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Project Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Project Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Project Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Project Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH

Project Renewal, Inc.	Manhattan Public Health Support and Connection Center	09900990Special Demo -CTL
Promesa, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Promesa, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Promesa, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Promesa, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Promesa, Inc.	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Providence House, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Providence House, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Providence House, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Providence House, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc.	Peer Advocacy	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Citywide (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Puerto Rican Orgnz To Motivate Enlighten and Serve Addicts, Inc. (PROMESA)	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Research Foundation of the City University of New York	Behavioral Health Care Coordination - Training	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Research Foundation of the City University of New York	Mental Health Scholarship/One Year Residency	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Richmond Medical Center d/b/a Richmond University Medical Center	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
RiseBoro Community Partnership, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
RiseWell Community Services, Inc.	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH

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Services for the Underserved, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Services for the Underserved, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Services for the Underserved, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
St. Francis Friends of the Poor, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
St. Joseph's Hospital	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
St. Joseph's Hospital	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
St. Joseph's Hospital	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
St. Joseph's Hospital	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center	Mobile Crisis	1680-CPEP Crisis Outreach-OMH
St. Nicks Alliance Corp.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
St. Vincent's Services, Inc. d/b/a Heartshare	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
St. Vincent's Services	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
St. Vincent's Services, Inc. d/b/a Heartshare	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
St. Vincent's Services	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
St. Vincent's Services, Inc. d/b/a Heartshare	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Sun River Health Inc.	Connect - Inwood Health Center	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
Sun River Health Inc.	Connect - Sun River's The Hub Program	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
SUS-Mental Health Programs Inc	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
SUS-Mental Health Programs Inc	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
SUS-Mental Health Programs Inc	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH

The Bridge, Inc.	Forensic Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Queens (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	3370-NY NY III Supported Housing-OASAS
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
The Bridge, Inc.	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
The Child Center of NY, Inc.	Asian Outreach	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
The Child Center of NY, Inc.	Benefits Access	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
The Doe Fund, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	3370-NY NY III Supported Housing-OASAS
The Doe Fund, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH

The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Fortune Society, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Fortune Society, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Fortune Society, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
The Fortune Society, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
The Jericho Project	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
The Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc. d/b/a Vibrant Emotional Health	Geriatric Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
The Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc. d/b/a Vibrant Emotional Health	NYC 988	1720-988 Crisis Hotline Center

The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
The New York Foundling Hospital	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
The New York Foundling Hospital	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Transitional Services for New York, Inc.	Queens Mobile Outreach	0690-Outreach-OMH
Transitional Services for New York, Inc.	Crisis Respite Center (Queens)	0910-Crisis Residence-OMH
Transitional Services for New York, Inc.	Empowerment Center	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Transitional Services for New York, Inc.	Affirmative Business	2340-Affirmative Business/Industry-OMH
Transitional Services for New York, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Queens (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Transitional Services for New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Transitional Services for New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Unique People Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Unique People Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
United Jewish Council of the East Side, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
University Consultation and Treatment Center for Mental Hygiene, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Bronx (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center, Inc.	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Manhattan (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Urban Justice Center	Advocacy Services	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Assisted Competitive Employment	1380-Assisted Competitive Employment-OMH

Urban Pathways, Inc.	Bronx-Assisted Competitive Employment	1380-Assisted Competitive Employment-OMH
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	3370-NY NY III Supported Housing-OASAS
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Urban Pathways, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Venture House, Inc.	Clubhouse - 4 sites	0770-Psychosocial Club-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Manhattan (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Bronx (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Non-Medicaid Care Coordination - Manhattan (Adult)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Mobile Crisis (Bronx)	2680-Crisis Intervention-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Mobile Crisis (Brooklyn)	2680-Crisis Intervention-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Mobile Crisis (Queens)	2680-Crisis Intervention-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Care Geriatric Case Management	2720-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination; (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH

Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Intensive Mobile Treatment	IMT-Intensive Mobile Treatment
Vocational Instruction Project Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Vocational Instruction Project Community Services, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Charles Gay Shelter CSS	0320-On-Site Rehabilitation-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	3370-NY NY III Supported Housing-OASAS
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
WellLife Network Inc.	Assertive Community Treatment	0800-Assertive Community Treatment-OMH

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West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.	Transitional Living Community	0320-On-Site Rehabilitation-OMH
Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6050-Supported Housing-OMH
Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	6060-Supported Housing-OMH
Women in Need, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Women in Need, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH
Women in Need, Inc.	Program name not reported to protect the residence location	5070-Supported SRO-OMH

NYC Local Service Plan – Children's Mental Health Providers

Agency Name	Program Name	Program Type Name
ASSOCIATION TO BENEFIT CHILDREN	School Response Team Program	1510-School-OMH
ASSOCIATION TO BENEFIT CHILDREN	Early Childhood MH Network - Bronx Zone 1	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
ASSOCIATION TO BENEFIT CHILDREN	Children's Mobile Crisis Team	2680-Crisis Intervention-OMH
ASTOR SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES	School Response Team Program	1510-School-OMH
ASTOR SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES	Children's Non -Medicaid Care Coordination (Bronx)	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
ASTOR SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES	Transitions Case Management	2720-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination; (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH
ASTOR SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES	NYC High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) Demonstration Project	2720-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination; (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH
Astor Services for Children & Families	City Council - Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER & SERVICES FOR YOUTH	MICA Network	5990-MICA Network-OMH
BROOKLYN BUREAU OF COMMUNITY SERVICE	Youth Stand United	1320-Vocational Services-OMH
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.	City Council - Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services, Inc.	City Council - Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF PROGRESSIVE DOMINICANS, INC.	School Response Team Program	1510-School-OMH
COMMUNITY COUNSELING and MEDICAITON SERVICES, INC (C C M S)	FYPS Brooklyn Alliance	1650-Family Support Services-OMH
EAC, Inc.	City Council Court involved Youth Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
EPISCOPAL HEALTH SERVICES INC	Queens Children's Non Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
EPISCOPAL HEALTH SERVICES INC	HBCI (Kids)	3034- Home Based Crisis Intervention-OMH

Getting Out and Staying Out, Inc.	City Council Court Involved Youth	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Good Shepherd Services	City Council - Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Good Shepherd Services	City Council - Children Under Five Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Greenwich House, Inc.	Children Under Five	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Hetrick Martin Institute	Citywide LGBTQ Youth Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY LIVING, INC.	Children's Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
INTERBOROUGH DEVELOPMENTAL & CONSULTATION CENTER, INC.	School Response Team Program	1510-School-OMH
JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC	School Response Team Program	1510-School-OMH
JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC	Loss and Bereavement	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC	Early Childhood MH Network - Brooklyn Zone 1	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC	Early Childhood MH Network - Bronx Zone 2	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC	Staten Island Children's Non -Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC	Children's Mobile Crisis Team	2680-Crisis Intervention-OMH
JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC	Staten Island Home Based Crisis Intervention	3034- Home Based Crisis Intervention-OMH
JEWISH CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK	Brooklyn Children's Non -Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
Jewish Child Care Association of New York	City Council - Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Justice Innovation, Inc.	Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
LEXINGTON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES INC	Queens Children's Non -Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS OF WESTERN QUEENS INC Montefiore Medical Center	Queens Children's Non Medicaid Care Coordination City Council Children Under 5 Initiative	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH- OMH 099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
New Alternatives for Children, Inc.	City Council Court involved Youth Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
New Alternatives for Children, Inc.	City Council Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
New Alternatives for Children, Inc.	Children Under Five	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
NEW YORK CITY HEALTH AND HOSPITAL	Bellevue Hosptial Center -- ACS Preplacement Program	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
NEW YORK CITY HEALTH AND HOSPITAL	Harlem Hospital -- Family and Youth Program	1760-Advocacy Services-OMH
NEW YORK CITY HEALTH AND HOSPITAL - Queens Hospital Center	On Site School Services	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
NEW YORK FOUNDLING	School Response Team Program	1510-School-OMH
NEW YORK FOUNDLING	School Response Team Program - Queens	1510-School-OMH
NEW YORK FOUNDLING	Family Strengthening Training and Advisory Center (FSTAC)	1650-Family Support Services-OMH
NORTHSIDE CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT INC	Early Childhood MH Network - Manhattan	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
NORTHSIDE CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT INC	Home Based Crisis Intervention I	3034- Home Based Crisis Intervention-OMH
Northside Center for Child Development, Inc.	City Council - Court Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Northside Center for Child Development, Inc.	City Council - Children Under Five Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	CHILDREN'S SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS (CSPOA)	Children's Single Point of Access (CSPOA)
NYC Health + Hospitals	Caring Transitions Program	MOA-Intra-City Agreement-Intracity
NYC Health + Hospitals Bellevue Hospital Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Bellevue	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Coney Island Hospital	Children's Crisis Intervention - Coney Island	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH

NYC Health + Hospitals Elmhurst Hospital Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Elmhurst	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Harlem Hospital Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Harlem	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Jacobi Medical Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Jacobi	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Kings County Hospital Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Kings County	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Lincoln	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Metropolitan Hospital Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Metropolitan	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals North Central Bronx Hospital	Children's Crisis Intervention - NCB	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Queens Hospital Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Queens	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
NYC Health + Hospitals Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center	Children's Crisis Intervention - Woodhull	3130-CPEP Crisis Intervention-OMH
OHEL CHILDREN'S HOME AND FAMILY SERVICES INC.	Early Childhood MH Network - Brooklyn Zone 2	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
POSTGRADUATE CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH	Manhattan Children's Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
PUERTO RICAN FAMILY INSTITUTE INC	Brooklyn Children's Non -Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
PUERTO RICAN FAMILY INSTITUTE INC	Home Based Crisis Intervention 3	3034- Home Based Crisis Intervention-OMH
RICHMOND MEDICAL CENTER	Youth Achieving Independence	1320-Vocational Services-OMH
RICHMOND MEDICAL CENTER	Early Childhood MH Network - Staten Island	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
Richmond Medical Center d/b/a Richmond University Medical Center	City Council Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Rising Ground, Inc.	City Council - Children Under Five Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Safe Horizon, Inc.	City Council Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH

Safe Horizon, Inc.	City Council Under 5 Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
SCO FAMILY OF LIFE SERVICES	Brooklyn Children's Non -Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
SCO FAMILY OF SERVICES	NYC High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) Demonstration Project	2720-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination; (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH
SCO FAMILY OF SERVICES	Queens HFW (SAMHSA)	2720-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination; (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH
ST DOMINICS FAMILY SERVICES	Bronx Children's Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
ST LUKE'S-ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL CENTER	Manhattan Children's Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
TALKSPACE MEDICAL SERVICES NY PC	NYC Teenspace (Youth Virtual Mental Health Services)	OTHER
THE CHILD CENTER OF NY INC	Job Net 3	1320-Vocational Services-OMH
THE CHILD CENTER OF NY INC	Early Childhood MH Network - Queens	2100-Clinic Treatment-OMH
THE CHILD CENTER OF NY INC	Queens Children's Non -Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH-OMH
THE CHILD CENTER OF NY INC	Step-Down Case Management	2720-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination; (Non-Licensed Program)-OMH
THE CHILD CENTER OF NY INC	Home Based Crisis Intervention 1	3034- Home Based Crisis Intervention-OMH
The Child Center of NY, Inc.	City Council Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
The Children's Aid Society	City Council Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.	City Council Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
The Fortune Society, Inc.	City Council Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
The Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc. d/b/a Vibrant Emotional Health	YES Adolescent Skills Center	1320-Vocational Services-OMH
The Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc. d/b/a Vibrant Emotional Health	Adolescent Skills Center - South	1320-Vocational Services-OMH
The Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc. d/b/a Vibrant Emotional Health	Adolescent Skills Center	1320-Vocational Services-OMH

The Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc. d/b/a Vibrant Emotional Health	FYPS Queens Alliance	1650-Family Support Services-OMH
The Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc. d/b/a Vibrant Emotional Health	FYPS Bronx Alliance	1650-Family Support Services-OMH
The Mental Health Association of NYC, Inc. d/b/a Vibrant Emotional Health	FYPS Staten Island Alliance	1650-Family Support Services-OMH
UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK	FYPS Manhattan Alliance	1650-Family Support Services-OMH
UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK	Manhattan Children's Non-Medicaid Care Coordination	2620-Non-Medicaid Care Coordination OMH- OMH
UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK	Home Based Crisis Intervention	3034- Home Based Crisis Intervention-OMH
University Settlement Society of New York	Children Under 5 Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Urban Youth Alliance International, Inc.	City Council Court involved Youth Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Home Care II	Youth Suicide Prevention	MOA-Intra-City Agreement-Intracity
VISITING NURSE SERVICE OF NEW YORK HOMECARE II	Promise Zone Initiative	1510-School-OMH
VISITING NURSE SERVICE OF NEW YORK HOMECARE II	Children's Mobile Crisis Team	2680-Crisis Intervention-OMH
VISITING NURSE SERVICE OF NEW YORK HOMECARE II	VNSNY Home Care - Bronx HBCI - I	3034- Home Based Crisis Intervention-OMH
VISITING NURSE SERVICE OF NEW YORK HOMECARE II	Brooklyn HBCI	3034- Home Based Crisis Intervention-OMH
YM&YWA of Washington Heights & Inwood	City Council - Children Under Five Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH
Young New Yorkers, Inc.	City Council - Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative	099C-Special Demo - City Council-OMH