



## **MENTAL HEALTH POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2012**

The Mental Health Association of New York City supports the incremental development of a comprehensive, community-based mental health service system in New York State. **Fighting against cuts and advocating for an accessible, integrated reformed behavioral health system will be our major priorities for 2012.** In addition, we will call on NYS to appropriately enforce and implement the federal parity law.

1. **Funding for Community Mental Health Services:** Preserve funding for:
  - Programs funded by Medicaid and those funded by other state and local dollars
  - Clinic restructuring so that it results in increased service capacity and viability of clinics
  - Housing programs with priority for adult home residents pursuant to the recent Federal Court ruling
  - Child and adolescent mental health services
  - Geriatric mental health demonstration programs
  - Centers of excellence in cultural competence
  - Suicide prevention programs
2. **NYS Medicaid Redesign and Federal Health Reform Implementation:**
  - a. **Ensure Medicaid behavioral health redesign efforts and health care reform implementation, including the transition to Medicaid managed care and health homes, effectively meets the multiple and complex needs of people with serious mental illness**
  - b. **Promote successful integration of mental health and primary, specialty, and long-term health care**
  - c. **Reinvest savings** from reduced high cost care into community based services
3. **Housing:** Implement the recommendations of the Medicaid Redesign Team's workgroup on housing
4. **Health Information Technology for Mental Health Community:** Ensure inclusion of mental health providers as eligible entities for health information technology funding
5. **Children and Families:** Continue the expansion and improvement of community-based mental health services for children and adolescents
6. **Older Adults:** Improve geriatric mental health policy and practice via continued and increased funding for, and sustainability of, demonstration programs
7. **Veterans:** Address the mental health needs of veterans, service members, and their families through enhanced planning, service delivery, and outreach and education
8. **Suicide Prevention:** Maintain and/or enhance funding that promotes access to crisis intervention, continuing care and supports for persons at highest risk of suicide, such as persons who have survived suicide attempts or who are experiencing suicidal thoughts.
9. **Workforce Development:** Fund and facilitate the development of a strong and qualified workforce to support the growth, innovation, and sustainability of the community mental health system especially as the system moves towards more integrated care.