

Support the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (S. 1905/H.R. 3931)

Section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 established a federal definition and criteria for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). These entities, a new provider type in Medicaid, provide a comprehensive range of addiction and mental health services to vulnerable individuals while meeting additional requirements related to staffing, governance, data and quality reporting, and more. In return, CCBHCs receive a Medicaid reimbursement rate based on their anticipated costs of expanding services to meet the needs of these complex populations.

New York state's participation began in July 2017 and there are currently 13 CCBHCs across the state. The National Council for Behavioral Health surveyed all CCBHCs in November 2017 and preliminary findings from New York show CCBHCs are quickly becoming an answer to many of the state's mental health and substance use treatment challenges.

CCBHCs are addressing the Opioid Epidemic in New York

CCBHCs are, for many communities in New York, the first integrated mental health and substance use treatment facility.

- 100% of New York's CCBHCs have expanded access to opioid treatment by training staff and community partners in naloxone administration.
- 12 of the 13 CCBHCs have hired new staff with addiction specialty or trained existing staff in addiction-focused competencies.
- More than half of the CCBHCs began offering Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and a third of have expanded their MAT programs, the golden standard in addictions treatment.

CCBHCs are saving New York money by increasing access to care

- All CCBHCs have expanded their crisis care offerings including mobile crisis teams, and 92% have expanded outreach including engagement with high-risk individuals, to drive down needless hospitalization costs and increase treatment adherence.
- 100% reported they have seen an increase in the total number of patients served. Most new clients either have long-standing mental health or substance use needs and have never been enrolled in treatment or are receiving a diagnosis for the first time.
- 77% have been able to improve and/or expand care for veterans.

Future of CCBHCs in New York

CCBHCs are transforming New York state's ability to serve its residents. Unfortunately, without Congressional action, the state's 13 CCBHCs will be forced to stop in their tracks when the program ends in 2019. The Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (S. 1905/H.R. 3931) would extend the state's CCBHCs activities for an additional year and expand the program to 11 additional states that applied but were barred from participation by the eight-state limit in the current law.

We urge members of the New York Congressional delegation to sign on as cosponsors of the bill to extend this important program that in six months has already proven to be beneficial to New York.

We urge State Legislators to continue to follow legislation and support the expansion of this vital program that has created and will continue to create jobs and contribute to a healthier New York.