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New York Association of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers (ASAP) FY 2020-21 Budget Priorities

Strengthen Fiscal Viability of Substance Use Disorder and Behavioral Health Service Providers

State support for the business operations of community-based service providers has been stagnant, placing many programs and agencies in fiscal peril. ASAP stands with the “3for5” campaign, urging the Governor, Senate, and Assembly to:

- Invest 3% in the behavioral health and substance use disorder service delivery system for 5 years

Funding proposed by “3for5” will help avert service reductions for New Yorkers most in need of addiction and human services.

Utilize Settlement Funds from Opioid Crisis and New Revenues from Alcohol Taxes to Address Business Infrastructure and Workforce Issues

State funding to support the prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction service delivery system has barely kept pace with the rate of inflation over the past decade. Flat funding for community-based service providers is no way to respond to the overdose and addiction epidemic plaguing so many New York families and communities. More resources are essential.

The following sources of new revenue could pay the cost of strengthening the business and service delivery infrastructure for SUD services:

- Settlement funds from lawsuits associated with the opioid overdose and addiction epidemic
- At least 25% of any tax revenues from cannabis sales (if legalized for adult use)
- Revenues generated from proposed increase on alcohol tax (S.4648/A.6349-A)

With new, dedicated funding: 1) the prevention workforce, which has been reduced by a third over the last decade, could be restored to more adequately address the need for prevention services in schools and communities across New York State, 2) treatment programs could strengthen their workforce and business infrastructure so that a full continuum of treatment could be available across New York State, 3) recovery services could be expanded and made available in every county, and 4) harm reduction services could receive the support they need to become more widely available.

To help address staff recruitment issues in SUD programs, ASAP asks the Governor, Senate, and Assembly to:

- Add \$650,000 to the student loan forgiveness and scholarship program created in the FY2019/20 enacted state budget, raising the total in this fund to \$1 million.
- Add \$200,000 to support certification and recruitment efforts for recovery peer advocates

Strengthen Medicaid Rates for SUD Services

Medicaid rates do not cover the cost of delivering SUD services. Many programs are being reimbursed at rates that have not been adjusted in more than a decade.

- ASAP urges the Governor, Senate, and Assembly to establish a Medicaid workgroup to examine the current rate structure for SUD services and modify it to ensure that rates will, at a minimum, cover the cost of providing services.

The community-based substance use disorder and behavioral health service delivery system should be spared from any Medicaid cuts in this year's state budget.

Healthcare Transformation Fund

ASAP also requests that the Governor and Legislature include language in the FY2020/21 state budget that would require 25% of the funds collected in the Healthcare Transformation Fund to be designated to community-based service providers, including OASAS-certified programs.