



Immediate Release:

October 6, 2023

Media Contact:

Leanne Politi, lpoliti@martingroupmarketing.com

InUnity Alliance Strengthens Advocacy and Support for Service Providers on Frontlines of Addiction and Mental Health Crisis

New powerful alliance created by the successful merger of The Coalition for Behavioral Health and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State

ALBANY, N.Y. – InUnity Alliance, the new organization formed by the merger of The Coalition for Behavioral Health and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State, will be a catalyst for strengthening mental health and addiction services in New York State as escalating rates of overdose and suicide and barriers to accessing services signal a worsening public health crisis. InUnity Alliance will create a stronger, more effective advocacy voice to address underfunding and systemic inequities and work to ensure that services are available where and when they are needed. Recognizing the innovation and profound changes that will be a by-product of InUnity Alliance’s work, the New York Community Trust and the New York Health Foundation are providing vital support for the successful launch of InUnity Alliance and its work as the collective voice for addiction and mental health in New York.

Through a lens of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging, InUnity Alliance will work collaboratively with a diverse range of stakeholders to prevent and alleviate the profound personal, social, and economic consequences of both mental health and addiction disorders.

“The mental health and addiction service sectors are treading water. By creating a stronger alliance to ensure that service providers have the foundation and stability they need, we will help to reduce inequity and health disparities, transform lives, facilitate recovery, and help individuals successfully live in the community,” **said Amy Dorin, Co-Director of InUnity Alliance and former President of The Coalition for Behavioral Health.**

“Both sectors are at a tipping point. InUnity Alliance will serve as a catalyst for the policy and funding changes needed to strengthen addiction and mental health services at a time when they are needed most. The magnitude of increasing suicide and overdose must be met with a public health response of equal or greater magnitude.” **said John Coppola, Co-Director of InUnity Alliance, who previously served as Executive Director of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State.**

Central to InUnity Alliance's work will be creation of a Policy Center, which will provide independent, non-partisan, and trusted guidance to help ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the mental health and addiction services they need. A grant by the Altman Foundation will provide resources for the design of the Policy Center and for work associated with the launch of two major policy initiatives. The Policy Center will be a vital resource as service providers seek solutions for an escalating workforce crisis caused by inadequate funding. The Policy Center will work collaboratively with stakeholders and policymakers to create long-term solutions to the current workforce crisis and to a range of policy and regulatory issues related to mental health and addiction.

InUnity Alliance will provide a range of services that strengthen the business and program infrastructure for addiction and mental health service providers. A strategic partnership has already been established with *OPEN MINDS*, a national market intelligence, management consulting, and marketing services firm specializing exclusively in work with health and human service organizations that serve consumers with chronic conditions and complex support needs. This partnership will result in creation of initiatives focused on business and service sustainability, workforce supports, and innovations to meet changing needs. To strengthen service and workforce capacity, InUnity Alliance will continue to work closely with expert staff and consultants affiliated with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and will create a Center for Workforce Solutions, building on its current Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery, New York Certification Board, and consultation/technical assistance service array.

InUnity Alliance will work to increase awareness about the value of addiction and mental health services with emphasis on the work needed to improve the health and quality of life in New York communities while addressing inequity and disparities in health status. InUnity Alliance will have a profound impact on communities across the state and beyond, helping to improve the health and quality of life of tens of thousands of New Yorkers.

John J. Coppola
Co-CEO
InUnity Alliance
194 Washington Ave. Suite 300
Albany, NY 12210
(518) 426-3122 x 106 (w)
(518) 441-0985 (c)
Pronouns: he/him/his