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June 28, 2024

Ann Marie T. Sullivan, MD  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Mental Health  
44 Holland Avenue  
Albany, NY 12208

*Submitted electronically: [regs@omh.ny.gov](mailto:regs@omh.ny.gov)*

## Re: Amendments to Part 599 — flexibility in the provisions of both medical and mental health services

Dear Commissioner Sullivan:

The Healthcare Association of New York State, on behalf of our member nonprofit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies and other healthcare providers, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations to provide greater flexibility for the provision of both medical and mental health services.

HANYS believes in the goal of improving the overall quality and coordination of care by treating the whole person in an integrated manner, rather than treating each condition separately. HANYS strongly supports efforts to improve and increase integrated care within the healthcare system, as its benefits are well documented.

HANYS recently convened ten associations serving diverse healthcare providers to develop recommendations for addressing delays in access to care. We strongly urged the state to enhance and strengthen integrated care services.

The associations' recommendations are published in HANYS' February 2024 report, [No more waiting: Recommendations to begin addressing care delays for New Yorkers with complex needs](#).

HANYS strongly supports the proposals to:

- align the integrated care threshold for Article 31 and Article 28 programs at 30% and increase the ability for licensed Article 31 programs to provide needed medical services to individuals; and
- allow Article 31 programs to submit claims to Medicaid for up to three services per individual per day — which can be comprised of two health services and one mental health service per day.

However, HANYS continues to urge OMH and its other state partners to streamline and expand the Integrated Outpatient Services licensure process and explore the inclusion of the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposed regulations. If you have questions regarding our comments, contact me at 518.431.7889 or [vaufiero@hanys.org](mailto:vaufiero@hanys.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria Aufiero".

Victoria Aufiero, Esq.  
Vice President, Insurance, Managed Care and Behavioral Health