

1 **2006 FALL CONFERENCE**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health & Mental Health**
3 **Resolution #04**

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5 **RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN**
6 **STATE AGENCIES TO UPDATE AND REINSTITUTE THEIR STATEWIDE**
7 **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ON DUALY DIAGNOSED CLIENTS**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, county mental hygiene departments across the state report that
10 dually diagnosed mentally disabled clients (clients with both mental retardation/
11 developmental disability and with mental illness) are in need of the assumption of
12 primary responsibility by either the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and
13 Developmental Disabilities (“OMRDD”) or the New York State Office of Mental Health
14 (“OMH”); and
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16 **WHEREAS**, county mental hygiene departments across the state report that,
17 absent such assumption of primary responsibility and the availability of a related
18 county/borough plan to provide services, such clients are less likely to be served by
19 responsive programs and thus may be unnecessarily retained in clinically and
20 economically inappropriate settings including inpatient hospital units, or may by default
21 intersect with the criminal justice system and become incarcerated; and
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23 **WHEREAS**, in 1988, OMRDD and OMH became signatories to a revised
24 cooperative agreement which assured that such clients would be formally accepted by
25 one of those offices as its primary responsibility through determinations by three-member
26 regional panels of practitioners which are to include one member appointed by the county
27 director, and provide for a county/borough plan of services for dually diagnosed clients
28 developed by OMRDD, OMH, and the county mental hygiene department; and
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30 **WHEREAS**, such a statewide agreement is now no longer consistently in effect,
31 and attendant regional or county arrangements are now infrequently in force despite
32 efforts by concerned parties to implement them in several parts of the state:
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34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State
35 Association of Counties urges the Governor of the State of New York to instruct the New
36 York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and the New
37 York State Office of Mental Health to develop and implement an updated statewide
38 agreement and that such agreement continue to provide for county involvement and
39 decision-making through the appointment of dispute panel practitioners, county/borough
40 service plans for dually diagnosed clients in the community, and facilitate services
41 models that mitigate unnecessary client hospitalizations or incarcerations; and
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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
44 Counties shall forward copies of this Resolution to the Governor, the New York State
45 Legislature, and others deemed necessary and proper.