

1 **2024 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**
3 **Resolution #1**

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5 **Resolution Calling on Governor Hochul to Include a 20 Percent Increase to**
6 **State Aid for Local Government Units (LGUs) in the SFY 2025-26 Executive**
7 **Budget to Support County-Based Single Point of Access (SPOA) Programs**
8

9 **WHEREAS**, LGUs and Directors of Community Services (DCSs) have specific
10 responsibilities and authority under the Local Services provisions of Article 41 of the
11 NYS Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) for planning, development, implementation, and
12 oversight of services to adults and children in their counties affected by mental illness,
13 substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD); and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the LGUs/DCSs see first-hand how unmet mental health concerns are
16 crippling our communities with rising need for inpatient and outpatient treatment
17 services, increased calls to crisis services lines, rising incidents of overdose and overdose
18 deaths, addiction relapse, and suicide attempts and the impact of providers struggling to
19 adequately staff and maintain programs; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, children and families in New York State are in severe crisis and it is
22 imperative the state take notice and work to develop a well-rounded continuum of care
23 to meet these mental health needs; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and/or substance use
26 disorders (SUD) have complex needs requiring coordination across multiple systems to
27 identify and provide appropriate treatment; and
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29 **WHEREAS**, in SFY 2001, the Enacted Budget created the SPOA initiative under the
30 Office of Mental Health (OMH) to create a more streamlined process for linking and
31 providing timely access to intensive OMH services and supports based on the identified
32 service needs; and
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34 **WHEREAS**, SPOA coordinators are embedded under the authority of the LGU and
35 serve both Adults (A-SPOA) and Children (C-SPOA) to help achieve community-based
36 mental health systems that are cohesive and well-coordinated to serve those most in
37 need of services; and
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39 **WHEREAS**, all LGUs have an established C-SPOA (supported by both state aid and
40 the county tax levy) to support, prioritize, and effectively ensure access to children's
41 mental health services; and

1 **WHEREAS**, through the oversight of the LGUs, C-SPOAs provide appropriate access
2 to services, prioritize placement referrals, ensure accountability between systems and
3 providers, and maintain ongoing contact and linkages with a variety of locally-based
4 systems in order to obtain connections to programs that best serve the child/youth and
5 family; and
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7 **WHEREAS**, the state’s Medicaid redesign, changes and expansions to OMH programs,
8 and ever-increasing complexity of cases have continued to evolve the SPOA role and
9 have resulted in a significant increase in responsibilities for these SPOA coordinators;
10 and
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12 **WHEREAS**, state aid funding to support these coordinator positions has remained
13 stagnant, resulting in LGUs supplementing costs and adding to the financial burden on
14 counties; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, OMH has begun making significant investments in local programs to
17 support the cross-system services required to appropriately address the concerns of
18 these high-need children, especially those with co-occurring disorders.
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20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of
21 Counties (NYSAC), in partnership with the LGUs/DCSs, strongly urge OMH to include a
22 20 percent administrative set aside for the LGUs as part of the agency’s SFY 2025-26
23 budget requests to the NYS Division of Budget to support county-based single point of
24 access programs; and
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26 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the Governor, Division of Budget, and
27 Legislature to ensure these investments are included in the SFY 2025-26 enacted
28 budget; and
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30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
31 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and
32

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties shall
34 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the Office of Mental Health,
35 the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.