

1 **2021 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #4**

4 **Proposed Resolution Requesting the Governor Provide Full Restoration of**  
5 **OMH, OASAS and OPWDD State Aid**

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

12 **WHEREAS**, all LGUs provide oversight and statutory responsibility to assure access to  
13 not only clinic services but a comprehensive array of mental health, addiction and  
14 developmental disability services to those in need; and

15 **WHEREAS**, county governments are experiencing financial devastation as a result of  
16 the COVID-19 virus, which has severely impacted the ability of LGUs to meet their  
17 statutory responsibilities; and

18 **WHEREAS**, to offset State fiscal deficits due to the pandemic, the Division of Budget  
19 (DOB) initiated 20 percent funding withholds on essential State Aid funding to the Local  
20 Governmental Units (LGUs) and the FY 2022 Executive Budget proposal recommends  
21 permanent 5 percent cuts, along with hundreds of millions of dollars in additional state  
22 funding cuts, while requiring counties to expanded services mandated by the state with  
23 no additional fiscal support; and

24 **WHEREAS**, this reduction in funding has led to severe impacts on access,  
25 capacity, and the delivery of behavioral health services in the community at a time when  
26 mental health and addiction services needs have never been higher; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the LGUs/DCSs have reported increases to inpatient/outpatient needs,  
28 calls to crisis services lines, homelessness, overdose deaths, addiction relapse, and  
29 suicide attempts; and

30 **WHEREAS**, if these withholds were to become permanent cuts the local service  
31 system will face devastating consequences as adequate State Aid is linked to well-  
32 established and vetted needs identified by each county; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors is looking to the  
34 State for partnership and financial assistance to sustain the mental health care system in  
35 order to meet the growing needs of our communities in response to COVID-19 and the  
36 anticipated long-term mental health impact of the pandemic and corresponding  
37 stressors.

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
39 Counties calls on the Governor to restore the previously withheld State Aid to the LGUs

1 and commit to fully funding LGU State Aid going forward so that they may preserve  
2 their statutory responsibility to effectively plan for and facilitate essential safety-net  
3 programming that our most vulnerable residents, their families and the communities  
4 rely on each and every day; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
6 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of Counties shall  
8 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and the New York  
9 State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.