

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 733 OF 2022

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS SEEBER, HOGAN, BRAYMER, LEGGETT AND DRISCOLL

RESOLUTION REQUESTING TARGETED STATE INVESTMENTS IN PROGRAMMING AND POLICIES TO DEVELOP AND FUND CORE LOCAL SERVICES TO DECREASE THE USE OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS (EDs) FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH COMPLEX BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS

WHEREAS, the Local Government Units (LGUs)/Directors of Community Services (DCSs) have specific responsibilities and authority under the Local Services provisions of Article 41 of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) for planning, development, implementation, and oversight of services to adults and children in their counties affected by mental illness, substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), and

WHEREAS, localities continue to struggle with an overwhelmed community-based system of care that is unable to adequately support children and youth with co-occurring disorders, and

WHEREAS, the Directors of Community Services (DCSs) are seeing firsthand and have growing concerns regarding the upward trend in children and youth with complex behavioral health needs ending up in EDs due to unmet needs, and

WHEREAS, State inpatient bed closures and a lack of available crisis services have significantly impacted counties' ability to provide this higher-level care and has resulted in various placements in last-resort settings, which are not appropriate and sometimes detrimental to the treatment goals, and

WHEREAS, some at-risk youth have been placed out of the State for residential services, reflecting the need to develop additional appropriate services within New York with a full spectrum of services available, and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, there has been a substantial rise in the numbers of children and youth languishing in EDs without the ability to be connected to appropriate care, and

WHEREAS, EDs are a suboptimal setting for children and youth, particularly if they are not at imminent risk of harm to themselves or others, and often offer overstimulating environments, exposure to other psychiatrically and medically ill individuals, and an absence of appropriate assessment and treatment, and

WHEREAS, according to a 2021 report by the Healthcare Association of NYS (HANYS), a 15-year-old youth was placed in an ED for over three months after a year long search for residential placement, which resulted in over \$195,000 in hospital costs and, after over 6 months in the ED, a 16-year-old patient decompensated so severely and required oversight by two public safety officers and three to five beds to minimize disruption to other patients, and

WHEREAS, a child in Franklin County with a significant trauma history and diagnosed conduct disorder was placed in a standard ED and languished for 8 weeks after being denied admission at a sister

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hospital within the same health system that contained a 9.39 unit, and

WHEREAS, the State must make appropriate targeted investments to include local resource streams for localities to initiate treatment models with proven success, such as expansion of intensive treatment programs and prevention and early intervention programs (including mobile crisis response and family and care giver supports), now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls on the Governor, Division of Budget, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Office of Addiction Services and Supports, Office of Mental Health, Department of Health, and Legislature to ensure these critical program and policy investments are met with the utmost urgency and addressed during the SFY 2024 budget cycle, and be it further

RESOLVED, New York State needs to address, develop, and fund core local services to address the use of EDs for the treatment of children and youth with complex behavioral health needs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.