

New York leads the nation

OMH recognized for its work in strengthening system of care

Recognized as the [national leader in mental health care](#) this past fall, New York State is continuing to work in this new year to increase patient capacity and address the mental health needs of the state's residents.

[The State of Mental Health in America](#) rated New York number one nationally when analyzing data from 17 common mental health measures gathered in 2022 and 2023 – the year Governor **Kathy Hochul** launched her multi-billion-dollar investment to strengthen the state's system of care.

"The *Mental Health in America* report reflects the bold commitment Governor Hochul has made into mental health and the fantastic work that our state and provider workforce have undertaken to dramatically expand access to high-quality care," said OMH Commissioner **Dr. Ann Sullivan**.

The measures that had the largest effect on New York's overall ranking were the state's percentage of youth with serious thoughts of suicide; youth with a major depressive episode in the past year; and uninsured adults living with mental illness. New York also topped all other states in the report's adult rankings, which include eight measures gauging the prevalence of mental illness and access to care among individuals over the age of 18.

Result of planning and commitment

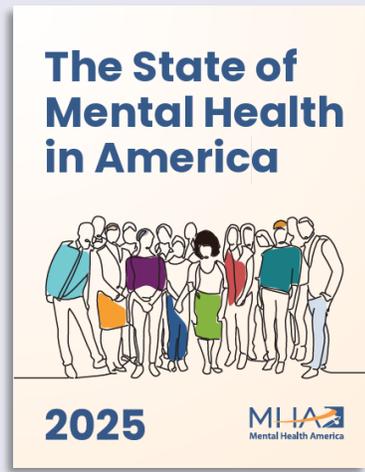
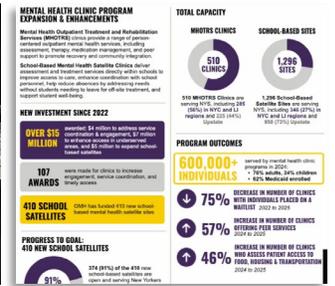
From adding inpatient capacity to dramatically expanding outpatient programs to creating thousands of new units of specialized housing and more, the state has taken bold measures to ensure all residents have access to critical services.

- Since Governor Hochul took office, New York State has added **1,000 psychiatric beds**. This includes **642 beds** at article 28 hospitals – 610 reopened and 32 new ones – and **358 beds** at state-operated psychiatric centers.
- New York State now funds **39 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics**, which make it easier for individuals to get into treatment and avoid unnecessary hospital visits. These clinics collectively provide walk-in, immediate, integrated mental health and substance use disorder services for an estimated 187,000 individuals annually.
- OMH established **50 Critical Time Intervention teams** in all areas of the state to support individuals during transitions in care. These teams will have the capacity to serve **3,630** individuals.
- The state is also expanding Intensive and Sustained Engagement or 'INSET' teams, a voluntary, peer-led engagement approach to support individuals in their recovery. OMH now funds **five teams** – including one focusing on the forensic population – operating in New York City, Rochester, and Westchester, and on Long Island, with the capacity to collectively serve **more than 300 individuals**.



Discussing issues with the public at OMH town hall

Commissioner **Dr. Ann Sullivan** (top photo, speaking) and OMH leadership had an opportunity to hear from the public at the agency's annual town hall in December. Speakers discussed federal budget cuts, access to services, insurance, staffing, training, and support for community programs. The event was also [streamed online](#).



'The State of Mental Health in America' report is available on [MHA's website](#).

- The state has also aggressively expanded the Safe Options Support program, which has now helped **permanently house 1,407 individuals**, including nearly 180 in OMH-licensed housing.

With the first teams launched in Spring 2022, the SOS program now has **31 teams**, including ones canvassing all five boroughs of New York City, both counties on Long Island, and 19 additional counties throughout the state.

- New York State has adopted new **hospital admission and discharge regulations** to ensure quality of behavioral care and connect those leaving emergency and inpatient care with community-based support. The state also adopted new **network adequacy regulations** to ensure New Yorkers with qualifying health insurance plans are provided timely access to critical behavioral health care.
- OMH has also aggressively expanded specialized housing, including **1,276 new units** associated with Governor Hochul’s mental health initiative, with an **additional 2,224 housing units** that are under development (see page 6).
- OMH has expanded its **Assertive Community Treatment or ‘ACT’ program**, which now operates **112 teams** with 30 additional ones in development, and has the capacity to provide services to **9,584 individuals** living with mental illness. These teams are now operating **statewide**.



Commissioner Sullivan meeting in 2023 with members of a New York City SOS team, who are reaching out to homeless individuals in subway stations.

Commitment to youth

Governor Hochul also made nation-leading commitments to protect youth mental health and promote student success in the digital age.

- As part of the 2026 State Budget, she secured a landmark agreement to create a statewide standard for distraction-free schools and **eliminate smartphone use in all K-12 classrooms**.
- The Governor signed into law the **Safe for Kids Act** in 2024, requiring social media companies to **restrict addictive feeds** on their platforms for users under 18.
- She also signed the **New York Child Data Protection Act**, prohibiting online sites and connected devices from **collecting, using, sharing, or selling personal data of anyone under the age of 18**, unless they receive informed consent or unless doing so is strictly necessary.
- [Ten new Youth Assertive Community Treatment teams](#) are supporting young people with serious emotional disturbances who are either at risk of entering, or are returning home from high intensity services, such as inpatient settings or residential services. **Youth ACT teams now total 23 – with 19 in development – and will operate in 31 counties.**
- Governor Hochul also expanded school-based mental health clinics, which help students get a licensed mental health care provider in a familiar stigma-free setting on their school campus. Since funding this expansion in 2024, the state has added **255 new clinic satellites** – including 84 in high-needs districts – to **1,300** that now exist statewide.

Expanding the Clubhouse program

In December, OMH announced [the availability of \\$6.6 million](#) to establish up to eight new Clubhouses in areas of the state outside of New York City.

Clubhouses are community-based, voluntary programs that offer individuals social support, employment resources, and life skills training in a safe environment. Programs provide structure for participants by focusing on choice and self-determination. Clubhouses must operate at least five days a week, plus offer routine recreational activities during evenings and weekends, and operate out of their own physical space.

The 2026 State Budget included \$8 million to establish new clubhouses and Youth Safe Spaces - [part of \\$196 million](#) in additional investments in strengthening the continuum of care statewide.

Milestone: 1,000 new beds

New Bronx facility increases access for youth services

OMH celebrated the opening this fall of a new state-funded inpatient psychiatric facility to serve youth at the New York City Children's Center campus in the Bronx.

Operated by Montefiore Medical Center with funding from the state, the 18,300-square-foot facility represents a unique collaboration to serve young people experiencing serious behavioral health issues and brings the total inpatient capacity brought online by Governor Hochul to 1,000 beds statewide.

The new unit includes 21 beds to serve youth between the ages of 5 and 17. The new center will provide intensive treatment for youth with serious behavioral health conditions, including severe depression, anxiety, trauma, suicidal thoughts, psychosis, and other acute psychiatric conditions.

Governor Hochul and Commissioner Sullivan joined Montefiore Einstein President and Chief Executive Officer **Philip O. Ozuah**, MD, PhD; State Assemblymember **Michael Benedetto**; and other local elected officials on a walkthrough of the new facility, including its classrooms and other treatment spaces. The Governor then met with **Joziah**, a 12-year-old from Manhattan, who attended this short ribbon cutting ceremony with his mother, **Courtney**, to share their experiences with the mental health system.

Overall, there are 89 beds serving children in the Bronx, with the new capacity at Montefiore Einstein representing a nearly 31 percent increase in children's inpatient beds for the borough.

[The new center resulted from a \\$3.1 million capital grant from OMH](#), \$7 million from New York State's Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence Fund, and a \$6 million capital appropriation from Assembly Speaker **Carl Heastie** and Assemblymember Benedetto. The project also received support from a private donation received by Montefiore Einstein and additional funding from state Attorney General **Letitia James**.

The center was developed with direct input from young patients and located in the borough specifically due to community need. An estimated 21 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 17 living in the Bronx have a diagnosed behavioral health disorder.

The new center will improve continuity of care for Bronx patients and outpatient treatment, develop a workforce pipeline for multidisciplinary staff to include social workers, nurses, psychologists, and psychiatrists, and offer enriched training for medical students and other health professionals.



Above: Governor Hochul cutting the ribbon on the new youth mental health facility on the NYCCC Bronx Campus. **Below:** Touring the facility.



Maternal mental health

First-ever report addresses challenges during and after pregnancy

In November, New York State released its first-ever [maternal mental health report](#) detailing the challenges pregnant women are facing and recommendations for improvements statewide.

Drafted by the Maternal Mental Health Workgroup led by OMH, the report provides a detailed pathway to improve the mental health of pregnant women statewide, including training to help providers identify specific conditions and improved mental health screening procedures for pregnant women. The report also advocates for the use of doulas and peer support programs, calls for specialized training for 988 crisis counselors and recommends expanding the Collaborative Care Medicaid Program.

Psychiatric collaborative support

In addition to the report, OMH made [\\$850,000](#) available to help OBGYN and family medicine practices provide **behavioral health support** to their patients — a recommendation included in the maternal mental health report.

Secured by Governor Hochul as part of the 2026 State Budget, the funding will provide up to 17 awards statewide to expand the psychiatric collaborative care model at these practices, helping them to increase perinatal depression screening and treatment to decrease racial disparities in this care.

OMH also held two virtual roundtable discussions focused on reducing the stigma around maternal mental health. Hosted in collaboration with *Behavioral Health News*, the roundtable discussions explored the stigma around maternal mental health and covered the support programs and solutions available to help pregnant women.

Workgroup recommendations

As part of a 2024 State Budget initiative, OMH convened the workgroup and developed recommendations for addressing perinatal and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders. The workgroup gathered information from subject matter experts and individuals with lived experience to explore the complex issues faced by the vulnerable and underrepresented during pregnancy.

Under Governor Hochul's leadership, New York State is taking steps to improve maternal mental health and correct inequities. The state is developing specialized training for counselors staffing the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**, so they can better provide compassionate care, support, and necessary resources to birthing parents who experience mental health distress.

The state also expanded [Project TEACH](#) so that a wider range of front-line practitioners — including therapists, lactation consultants, WIC staff, home visiting nurses and others — can provide mental health support to pregnant and postpartum New Yorkers.

OMH has also expanded **HealthySteps**, an evidence-based prevention program that integrates behavioral health specialists in pediatric practices to address the social and emotional well-being of young children and their families, to incorporate 125 sites statewide.

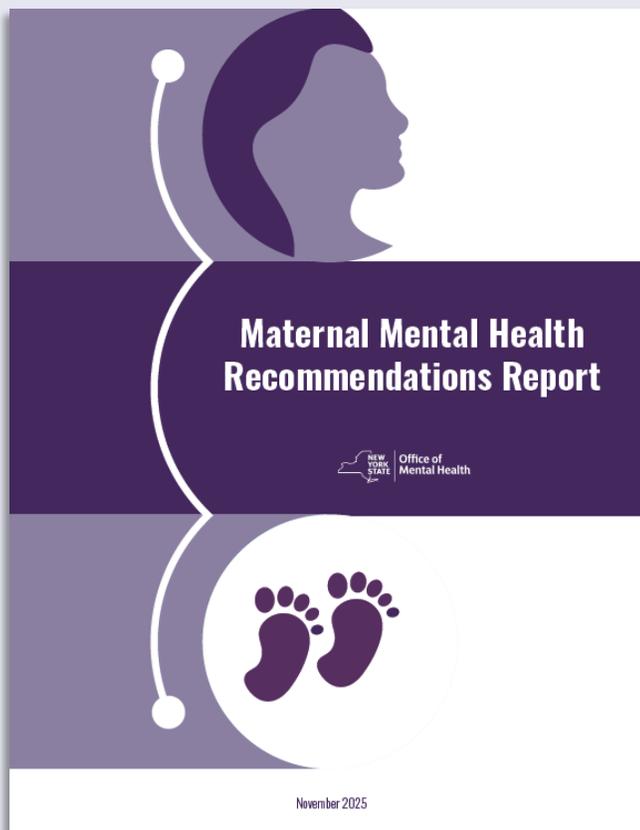


TABLE 4—UNDERREPRESENTED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE WORKGROUP

BIPOC Birthing Persons	Low-income Birthing Persons
Undocumented Birthing Persons	LGBTQIA+ Birthing Persons
HIV Positive Birthing Persons	Military Birthing Persons
Adolescent Birthing Persons	Rural Birthing Persons

FIGURE 4—RISK FACTORS THAT IMPACT PMADS IDENTIFIED BY THE WORKGROUP

Psychological	Socioeconomic	Sociocultural	Behavioral
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Childhood and adulthood relationshipsSocial environments like school or workTraumaCoping mechanismsAttitudes and beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Low incomeLow educational attainmentFood and housing insecuritySocial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GenderAccess to healthcareCultural valuesPopulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Substance useSleep hygieneTrust and culturePhysical activityDietary habits

‘Be Well’

Public awareness campaign seeks to help people manage stress

January is Mental Wellness Month. And no matter what you're experiencing, there are things you can do to improve your mental wellness – it doesn't have to be complicated.

This is the essential message of ‘Be Well,’ a public awareness campaign by OMH and the Office of General Services.

The campaign is designed to help people understand the importance of mental wellness and the impact of stress and trauma. OMH's Prevention and Public Information offices, along with other internal partners, created informational and educational materials related to wellness, trauma and its impact, and services that are available to help. Working with the Office of General Services' Digital and Media Services Center, OMH developed a dissemination plan.

Awareness, information, and strategies

Campaign goals include:

- Increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of mental health, wellness, and resilience.
- Increasing public awareness and understanding of the impact of stress, toxic stress, and traumatic events.
- Providing information on strategies to support mental wellness and cope with stress and trauma.
- Sustaining the impact of New York Project Hope messaging and educational materials.
- Linking to resources such as NY Connects, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, OMH's Find-a-Mental Health Program, and the Trauma-Informed Network and Resource Center.
- Presenting materials that are diverse and culturally competent.

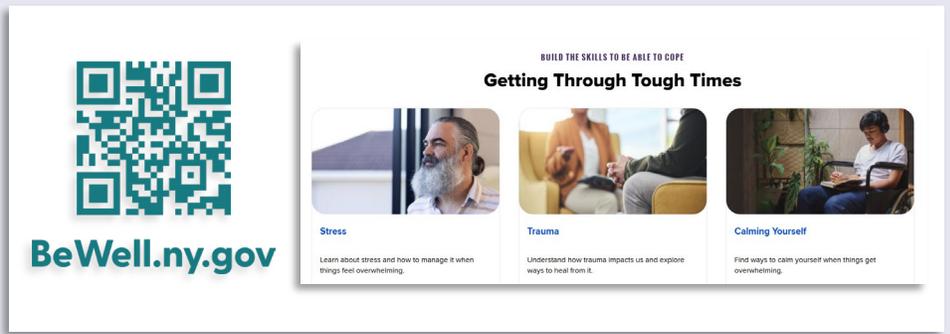
Be Well ads are running in English and Spanish on social media, digital platforms, public transit, billboards, geofencing, radio, and on cable television and streaming services. At right are some of the campaign's materials on social media.

Be Well website

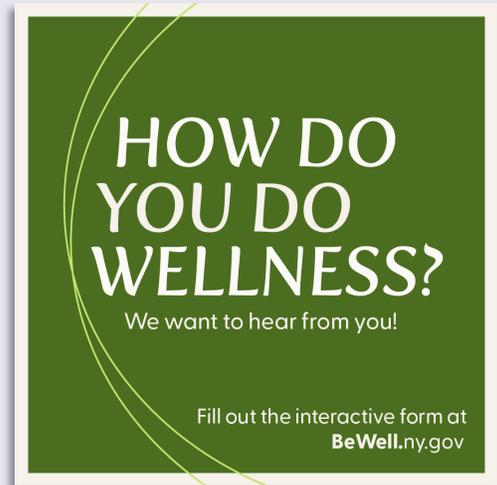
Central to the campaign is the [Be Well website](https://www.be-well.ny.gov), which offers tips and free ways for users to improve their well-being, including:

- Using breathing to calm one's mind and reset.
- Practicing mindfulness and gratitude.
- Building resilience.
- Finding strategies to cope.
- Understanding how stress affects one's body.
- Learning about the impact of trauma.

The site is user-friendly, available in multiple languages, and provides direct links to immediate crisis supports. It's also inclusive of all populations throughout New York State, regardless of age, background, or specific mental health needs.



Screenshot from the Be Well campaign website, with the campaign's logo and QR code.



The campaign is asking participants [to share the things they do](#) for their own mental wellness. OMH will, in turn, share these practices with other New Yorkers. [Selected responses](#) are being highlighted on the Be Well website and on OMH social media posts.



Housing

Expanding options, creating opportunities throughout the state

Stable and dignified housing is vital toward successful recovery for those living with mental illness and substance use challenges.

In December, New York State dedicated \$45.9 million to 200 programs that will help New Yorkers experiencing homelessness move from crisis to long-term stability and independence, enabling them to rebuild their lives.

Funding is through the [Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative](#) or 'ESSHI.'

The awards will fund services and operating expenses for up to 8,389 additional units of supportive housing to serve older adults, survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, veterans and chronically homeless families, and individuals with a mental illness or substance use disorder.

Research has shown that permanent supportive housing reduces the demand for shelters, hospital beds, emergency rooms, prisons, and jails, in addition to having a positive effect on employment, school attendance, and mental and physical wellbeing. Supportive housing projects can also positively impact neighborhoods through new construction or by rehabilitating existing buildings.

"Expanding supportive housing options for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness is a key step in helping vulnerable residents in their recovery," Governor Hochul said. "Continued investments in the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative allows more New Yorkers to get and maintain stable housing within communities of their choice."

"This program helps reduce demand on emergency services while providing at-risk New Yorkers better access to needed support," added Commissioner Sullivan. "This round of awards demonstrates ongoing need and interest in providing access to stable housing in communities statewide."

[The 2025 awards](#) include 54 projects in New York City, 21 projects on Long Island, and 125 projects in locations north of the metropolitan area. These conditional awards – the most issued in a single round of the program – came after Governor Hochul secured a 53 percent



Creedmoor Mixed-Use Project

In November, the New York City Public Authorities Control Board approved plans for the Creedmoor Mixed-Use Project, an initiative to transform 46.5 acres of vacant, state-owned land in eastern Queens into a vibrant mixed-use community featuring new housing, open space, and community amenities such as retail, childcare, and senior services.

This portion of the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center campus sat largely vacant and underutilized for decades as the state modernized and consolidated mental health operations.

The plan calls for creating 2,022 new homes, including more than 950 affordable rental units and more than 1,000 affordable and market-rate homeownership units, along with over ten acres of open space, new community facilities, and neighborhood retail space that will serve both new and existing residents.

The community open space plan includes a public school, senior centers, a childcare center, and neighborhood retail to support local businesses and serve residents' daily needs. The project will also deliver critical infrastructure improvements and enhanced pedestrian access.

The plan is the result of years of dialogue and collaboration among Empire State Development, local elected officials, civic neighborhood associations, Queens Community Board 13, the Creedmoor Community Advisory Committee, and residents of eastern Queens. It builds on the Creedmoor Community Master Plan, completed in 2023, that identified local priorities and set the framework for the site's redevelopment through a public engagement process — including listening sessions, open houses, and planning workshops.

This partnership-driven approach reflects Empire State Development's commitment to redevelop underutilized land in alignment with community input.

increase in annual funding for the program as part of the State Budget for the 2026 fiscal year.

Funding may be used for rental assistance and services to eligible target populations to find stable housing. Permissible uses include rental subsidies and other occupancy costs; services or staff to identify and locate eligible individuals that need housing; primary and behavioral health services; employment and vocational training; educational assistance, parenting skills development and support; child care assistance counseling and crisis intervention; children's services, including educational advocacy, support and counseling; and costs associated with services that help individuals and families remain stably housed.

ESSHI has provided funding to nearly 10,300 units of supportive housing since the program was established in 2016. The state Office of Mental Health serves as the lead procurement agency for the funding, which is dispersed by an interagency workgroup of eight state agencies serving vulnerable New Yorkers.

Awards are conditional and are contingent on a project securing capital funding for new construction, the adaptive reuse of non-residential property, or the rehabilitation of unregulated residential property to create integrated affordable supportive housing.

A comprehensive plan

As part of her work to address New York's housing crisis and making the state more affordable and more livable, Governor Hochul secured a landmark agreement in the 2025 State Budget to increase New York's housing supply through new tax incentives, capital funding, and new protections for renters and homeowners.

This includes the NY-RUSH initiative, created to build new homes on state-owned property. The 2026 State Budget includes more than \$1.5 billion in new state funding for housing, a Housing Access Voucher pilot program, and new policies to improve affordability for tenants and homebuyers.

These measures complement the Governor's five-year, \$25 billion Housing Plan, included in the 2023 State Budget, to create or preserve 100,000 affordable homes statewide, including 10,000 with support services for vulnerable populations, plus the electrification of an additional 50,000 homes. More than 70,000 homes have been created or preserved to date.

The 2025 and 2026 budgets also strengthened the Governor's Pro-Housing Community Program — which allows certified localities exclusive access to up to \$750 million in discretionary state funding. More than 350 communities have received Pro Housing certification, including New York City.



Alafia Phase 1

In December, OMH took part in the ribbon cutting for Alafia Phase 1, a mixed-use development that will create 576 affordable homes in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn. This is the first of a six-phase plan to redevelop the former Brooklyn Developmental Center campus into more than 2,400 affordable homes.

Alafia Phase 1 was built on the site of the Brooklyn Developmental Center, a former state institution for individuals with disabilities. As part of the Vital Brooklyn Initiative, it integrates housing, health, and economic benefits for the surrounding community.

The development expands access to preventative health care with a 15,000-square-foot One Brooklyn Health outpatient clinic providing primary and specialty care, blood-drawing and infusion services, an on-site laboratory, and a pharmacy. The clinic's design and programming were shaped through extensive community engagement to ensure that services meet the specific needs of local residents.



Pan-American Square Apartments

Last fall, OMH celebrated the opening of the Pan-American Square Apartments, a 150-unit affordable housing development in Buffalo. The development consists of three newly-constructed buildings located on the city's westside near the site of the 1901 World's Fair. Apartments are available to households earning up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income. There are 100 supportive apartments for vulnerable residents and those struggling with homelessness, as well as seniors ages 55 and older in need of support services.

On-site support services are provided by DePaul Community Services including case management, healthcare coordination, transportation, community integration, and independent living skills education. Joining OMH in providing support for the project were DOH, HCR, NYSERDA, and OTDA.

Conferences

Suicide prevention: Focusing on the needs of uniformed personnel

Cumulative stress and trauma are common among uniformed personnel and research has indicated that individuals in such careers are at greater risk for considering suicide.

Documented need

The inaugural New York State First Responder Mental Health Needs Assessment, released in 2025, highlighted the challenges facing these professions.

The survey of roughly 6,000 individuals found that 53 percent experienced symptoms associated with depression, 38 percent experienced symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, and 16 percent had thoughts of suicide.

Veterans in New York also disproportionately experience mental health issues and have a suicide rate nearly two times higher than civilians. Veterans under the age of 55 consistently experience the highest rates of suicide in New York.

As part of its effort to address this issue, OMH's Suicide Prevention Center of New York dedicated the 2025 Suicide Prevention Conference to the needs of military veterans and uniformed personnel, including law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical service workers, corrections officers, and 911 dispatchers.

The 2025 conference featured nearly two dozen speakers, including nationally recognized subject-matter experts, mental health professionals, veterans, and leaders from the first responder community.

Building resilience

The conference's objective to build resilience is parallel to OMH's [CARES UP](#) initiative, which provides \$3 million annually to uniformed personnel agencies and veterans' organizations to increase suicide prevention efforts and wellness programming.

CARES UP fosters an open dialogue about mental health to reduce stigma and encourage uniformed personnel to seek help when they need it. The initiative uses a public health approach to integrate mental health and suicide prevention training with various wellness initiatives designed to enhance overall health.

This initiative has provided funding to 36 first responder agencies and eight veteran-serving organizations via Onward Ops.



One of the conference's panel discussions.



"Cultural and organizational barriers can sometime pose a barrier to seeking help among our first responders and uniformed personnel," said Suicide Prevention Center of New York Director Jay Carruthers, MD. "This conference offered the expertise to foster an environment that prioritizes their mental health and wellbeing."



The conference drew more than 300 participants, representing 172 agencies throughout the state.



Commissioner Sullivan presented the conference's Wellness Leadership Awards.

2025 Health Equity Summit

On November 17 and 18, OMH joined the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc., in presenting “Addressing Mental Health Inequities in Rural Communities,” the 2025 Health Equity Summit. The event brought together leaders, practitioners, and advocates to discuss how social determinants of health and socio-economic factors shape access to care, quality of services, and treatment outcomes.

That month, DOH submitted New York’s [Rural Health Transformation Plan](#) with the goal of improving access to care to these areas. This plan laid out initiatives leveraging local providers, regional partnerships, and statewide infrastructure to advance the state’s continued commitment to advancing high-quality affordable health care in rural communities.



The Mental Health Equity Journey awards recognized outstanding achievement.

Participants shared strategies, built connections, and strengthened their commitment to advancing mental health equity.



Recovery matters!

In November, OMH conducted its first-ever Recovery Conference, offering participants an opportunity to collaborate on ways to bring recovery-focused care to OMH programs throughout the state. The event featured discussions of some of the innovative recovery efforts and projects that are being conducted at State-Operated facilities, some of which are detailed on the posters below. Photos of all the posters are available on [OMH’s Flickr site](#).



On the road

Listening to students on their mental health needs

OMH took part in a panel presentation this fall at the New York State School Boards Association Annual Convention on students' mental health needs. Speakers pointed out that students are facing challenges in their daily school lives while resources like therapy and guidance can be late or not available at all.



The session highlighted student voices and introduced the School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System as a tool for improving school mental health systems. From left are OMH Mental Health Program Specialist **Jessica Stanis**; Youth Mental Health Advisory Board Members **Dannalee Arias** and **Blake Rabinowitz**; Monroe-Orleans BOCES II Regional Community Schools Coordinator **Joseph Fantigrossi**; and Assistant Director of the Mental Health Association in New York State's School Mental Health Resource and Training Center **Matthew Shapiro**.



Public Health Champion

Commissioner Sullivan was recognized by VIP Community Services in New York City this past fall for her contributions to the health care community, receiving that organization's Public Health Champion Award. With the Commissioner are fellow awardees, Community Builder Award recipient **George Hulse** (left), Vice President and Special Advisor to the CEO of Emblem Health; and Special Honoree **Neil S. Calman**, MD, President, CEO Emeritus, and Co-Founder of the Institute for Family Health.

Children's behavioral health policy forum

Commissioner Sullivan gave the opening address this past fall at the New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health 2025 Policy Forum. She spoke about the importance of mental health services in the overall health continuum for children and families and about the continued need to partner with community-based organizations, youth peers, and families to provide mental health services for New York's children and youth.



Opening a new crisis center on Long Island

In December, Commissioner Sullivan took part in the opening of the new CN Guidance and Counseling Community Crisis Center in Hicksville. Developed with \$9.6 million in state funding and licensed in partnership with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports, the center will provide urgent behavioral health care services in Nassau and Suffolk counties to help stabilize individuals and connect them to other community-based services and supports.



Supportive Housing Network

Julie Duncan (third from the right), Director of the OMH Bureau of Housing Development and Support, was presented an Unsung Hero Award by the Supportive Housing Network of New York at its 2025 gala last fall.

With her are fellow honorees (from left) **Craig Retchless**, Deputy Commissioner, New York City Human Resources Administration's Office of Supportive Housing and Specialized Services; **Jamie Neckles**, Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Mental Health, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; **Brett Hebner**, Vice President of Multifamily Finance and Development,

state Homes and Renewal; **Rick Umholtz**, Deputy Commissioner of Housing and Refugee Services, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; **Kim Darga**, Deputy Commissioner for Development, New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development; and **Dana Greenberg**, Director, Bureau of Housing and Support Services, OTDA.



Visiting licensed programs in Queens

At left: Commissioner Sullivan and New York City Field Office staff touring the facility this past fall at St. John's Episcopal Health Center in Far Rockaway. **At right:** The Commissioner meets with staff from Catholic Charities, also in Far Rockaway.

Honoring Fr. Capodanno

In December, OMH unveiled the statue of **Fr. Vincent R. Capodanno**, a U.S. Navy chaplain who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, at the South Beach Psychiatric Center campus. An Elm Park native, Capodanno participated in seven combat operations during the Vietnam War before he lost his life while administering last rites to mortally wounded Marines.

Sculpted by the late artist and philanthropist **Gregory Perillo** and funded through donations collected by the Rolling Thunder and NAM Knights motorcycle clubs, the statue now stands at the intersection of Seaview Avenue and Capodanno Boulevard – the thoroughfare named after the heroic veteran several years after his death in 1967.



Research

NKI researchers named recipients of BBRF awards



Daniel C. Javitt, MD, PhD



Antigona Martinez, PhD



Joseph LeDoux, PhD

Three researchers from OMH's **Nathan S. Kline** Institute for Psychiatric Research in Orangeburg were named recipients of the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation's 2025 Outstanding Achievement Prizes in Mental Health.

Recipients presented their cutting-edge work at the BBRF International Mental Health Research Symposium this fall in New York City.

Daniel C. Javitt, MD, PhD, Director of Schizophrenia Research, received the Lieber Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Schizophrenia Research for his work in "Listening to Schizophrenia: How Modern Neuroscience Explains the Subjective Experience of Schizophrenia and Points to New Treatment and Remediation Approaches."

Antigona Martinez, PhD, received the Maltz Prize for Innovative and Promising Schizophrenia Research for her work in "Targeting Brain Circuits to Improve Emotion Recognition in Schizophrenia."

In addition, **Joseph LeDoux**, PhD, founding director (now retired) of the NKI/NYU Emotional Brain Institute, was named recipient of the Goldman-Rakic Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Cognitive Neuroscience Research.

BBRF awards research grants to develop improved treatments, cures, and methods of prevention for mental illness. Recipients are selected annually by committees of the foundation's Scientific Council, a volunteer group of 194 leading experts across brain and behavior disciplines.

"The Outstanding Achievement Prizes honor scientists whose groundbreaking research is transforming our understanding of the brain and fueling the development of new treatments, cures, and prevention strategies for mental illness," said **Jeffrey Borenstein**, MD, BBRF President and CEO. "We applaud these leaders in the field and extend our gratitude to our philanthropic supporters whose generosity allows us to support pioneering work in neuropsychiatry."