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April 8, 2021

Dear Members and Families,

I am thrilled to report the proposed 23% funding cut to Care Coordination Organization/Health Homes (CCO/HH) was restored in the NYS FY 2021 – 2022 final budget! I am very grateful to members and families for advocating and letting elected officials know about the critical work we do to assist individuals with intellectual and or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families live a quality life.

The ten-week advocacy campaign's success did not occur in a vacuum. All seven CCO/HHs under the Care Management Alliance of New York, Inc. (CMANY) were incredibly aligned. You rallied in one strong and consistent voice denouncing the proposed funding cut by OPWDD to significantly weaken the CCO/HHs.

An online advocacy action center made it easy for advocates to email their Assembly Member, Senator, and Governor Cuomo letting them know that the funding for I/DD care management services was in jeopardy. You helped to educate your elected officials on the essential role of Care Managers in connecting loved ones with I/DD to preventative and specialized healthcare, behavioral health, dental and community-based services so they can live well-rounded lives. Advocates, across New York State, told the Governor and legislators that it would be unconscionable and devastating to dismantle the CCO/HH model of care created in 2018 to protect the State's vulnerable I/DD population.

The Care Design NY Advisory Board was instrumental in overturning the proposed 23% funding cut through their outreach and advocacy. I would like to especially thank the members of the Advisory Board Legislative Committee chaired by Rachelle Kivanoski and the members of the Advisory Board Publicity Committee chaired by Bin Feng and all members of both committees.

The committees were phenomenal in developing strategies and communication to inspire people to call on State officials to restore CCO/HH funding and preserve the I/DD system. The published Op-Ed pieces by Rachelle Kivanoski and Bin Feng were especially poignant in elevating awareness of the looming I/DD funding cuts in the FY 2021 – 2022 budget. Both Rachelle and Bin have children with disabilities and their words in the Op-Ed pieces rang true and resonated with readers on the CCO/HH's critical role in protecting the health, safety, and quality of life for all individuals with disabilities.

We are grateful to the NYS legislators and administrative officials who met with us, our advisory boards, members, and families. I would like to especially thank the following individuals:

- Senator John Mannion, who was newly appointed to chair the State Senate Disabilities Committee. Although a freshman senator, he has proven himself to be a fierce champion for the disabled community and advocated strongly that the 23% rate reduction for CCO/HHs be rejected.
- Assemblyman Abinanti, Chair of the People with Disabilities Committee, deserves our gratitude for fighting to preserve the CCO/HH funding.
- Assemblywoman Miller, a member of the People with Disabilities Committee and a ranker on the new Disability Awareness Committee, was a key influencer. She strongly advocated for ensuring that disabled New Yorkers have the resources they need.
- We also had numerous meetings with officials in the Division of Budget and the Governor's Administration. We appreciate their extensive review of the facts and figures we provided to inform the final FY 2021 – 2022 budget and restore the CCO/HH funding.

Thank you for elevating awareness of the importance of care management services via print, social media, television, and radio with your heart-felt stories on how Care Managers help to save lives. It was the voices of the CCO/HH members and families that prevailed in calling upon the State's moral obligation to restore the CCO/HH funding.

In the weeks and months ahead, we look forward to continuing our conversations with stakeholders to further strengthen relationships. We will develop and deepen the channels of communication with OPWDD, the Division of the Budget, the Governor's Office, and key legislators to educate them on both the essential work CCO/HHs are doing and the key issues facing individuals with I/DD in New York State.

Please join us in celebrating this hard-fought victory to keep the CCO/HH model of care strong and vital for the 110,000+ individuals with I/DD in New York State! We are eternally grateful for your advocacy.

Sincerely,



James Moran
CEO