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Sandra Tharas, sandra@anatgerstein.com, 347-361-7068

Community Access Responds to Governor’s State of the State Address

(NEW YORK) – Community Access is one of New York’s leading providers of supportive housing, healing and recovery-focused services for people living with mental health concerns. Cal Hedigan, CEO, released the following statement in response to Governor Hochul’s mental health commentary in her State of the State address:

“ We applaud Governor Hochul's commitment to increase funding for the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program and supportive housing services. Adequately resourced supportive housing initiatives are key ingredients of an effective response to the crisis of homelessness in our state. We are grateful to Governor Hochul for making mental health a priority. We applaud her efforts to address the mental health concerns of New Yorkers by expanding INSET engagement teams and creating a peer bridger program in hospitals. We appreciate her support of community-driven, culturally responsive wellness programming in historically marginalized neighborhoods and her work to increase street medicine and psychiatry in existing Safe Options Support Teams. Holding health insurance companies accountable is crucial to protect those living with mental health concerns.

However, we wholeheartedly disagree with Hochul’s proposal to create stronger laws, including Kendra’s law, that will increase involuntary commitment. The correction that our mental health system needs is the expansion of voluntary, trauma and peer informed services that are part of the fabric of communities and available and accessible to people when they need them. Increasing the reach of involuntary services will only drive people living with mental health services further away from the care and support that they need. ”

About Community Access

Founded in 1974, Community Access is a provider of supportive housing and support services in New York City for people living with mental health concerns. Rooted in the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives, Community Access expands opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services.