

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW YORK STATE HEALTH FOUNDATION LEADS EFFORT TO
TRANSFORM SYSTEM OF CARE FOR 1.4 MILLION NEW YORKERS
SUFFERING FROM MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDERS**

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*\$3.2 Million Grant will Establish First-of-Its-Kind Center of Excellence to Transform
Delivery of Care at Clinics Across New York*

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*Effort Seen as Key to Stemming Skyrocketing Health Care Costs Associated with Co-
Occurring Disorders*

(ALBANY, NY) – The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) today announced the award of a milestone grant to fund the first statewide Center of Excellence to transform the system of care for 1.4 million New Yorkers suffering from both mental health and substance use disorders. The \$3.2 million grant, awarded to National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. (NDRI), will directly benefit patients and in turn work to address billions of dollars in lost productivity, skyrocketing re-hospitalization rates, and massive health care costs that are burdening the State's health care system.

At a press conference in the State Capitol, top officials from the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) joined NYSHealth to announce the grant. The Foundation is taking on co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders at a time when OMH and OASAS have also made eliminating the barriers between mental health treatment and substance use treatment programs a priority. NYSHealth's initiative aims to achieve integration throughout all phases of the recovery process for patients at all of New York's 1,200 licensed mental health and substance use treatment centers.

“The poor outcomes associated with substance use and mental health disorders are unnecessary, especially with the existing advances in research and practice,” said **Jacqueline Martinez**, Senior Program Director at NYSHealth. “Access to an integrated system at all levels of care, across all agencies, and throughout all phases of the recovery process should be the expectation of all New Yorkers, not the exception. This initiative and the reduced number of in-patient care dollars that will result from it will make significant strides toward improving patient care, while simultaneously helping the State's bottom line during these challenging fiscal times.”

Today, more than 50% of New Yorkers suffering from either a mental health or substance use disorder do not receive treatment. Less than 10% of the population with co-occurring disorders receives evidence-based treatment for both conditions. Substance users with mental health conditions are:

- four times more likely to relapse; and
- five times more likely to be re-hospitalized.

With the State suffering from a devastating financial downturn, the Center of Excellence also will help save precious Medicaid dollars. According to a recent report, “Medicaid in 2007: Recent Research and Implications for Reform,” “high-need” patients, (i.e. those with physical, mental, and substance use disorders) account for roughly 70–80% of all Medicaid expenditures. The Center for Excellence will make significant strides toward addressing patient needs while simultaneously reducing ballooning Medicaid costs in New York.

Additionally, NYSHealth anticipates that the Center of Excellence will have a positive impact on other downstream societal problems that can result from untreated co-occurring disorders including homelessness, violence, social isolation, incarceration, and early death. According to the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 20–25% of homeless Americans have a serious mental illness, and one-half have an alcohol and/or drug problem.

“There’s no question that integrating services for co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions will provide a tremendous benefit to the individuals with psychiatric and addictive disorders who we are determined to help,” said OMH Commissioner **Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D.**, “With this statewide Center of Excellence, the New York State Health Foundation has provided a key asset in combating these co-occurring disorders, and together, we will help these more than 1.4 million New Yorkers lead productive, healthier lives.”

“The facts here are plain: co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders are a major cause of long-term disability and homelessness, cost the State more than \$100 billion every year in lost productivity, and lead to an increased cost of care due to high inpatient use,” said OASAS Commissioner **Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo**. “We *must* integrate mental health and substance use services in order to provide the gold standard of care to New Yorkers, and the creation of this Center of Excellence to adapt standard screening, assessment, and treatment services represents an important step in that direction.”

“We are extremely pleased that New York is joining 38 other states in taking steps to provide integrated care for people suffering from mental health and substance use disorders, and we are proud to be a part of it,” said **Dr. Stanley Sacks**, NDRI’s Director of the Center for the Integration of Research & Practice. “Working with NYSHealth, and building on the commitment of OMH and OASAS, we have a unique opportunity to transform the care patients receive in the most cost-efficient manner.”

For more information on NYSHealth’s Mental Health/Substance Use priority area, please visit http://www.nyshealthfoundation.org/section/priority_areas/integrating_mental_health_substance_use_services.

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The New York State Health Foundation is a private Foundation dedicated to improving the health of all New Yorkers. NYHealth has a three-part mission: expanding health insurance coverage, increasing access to high-quality health care services, and improving public and community health by educating New Yorkers about health issues and empowering communities to address them.

To support this mission, NYHealth established three priority areas where their work is dedicated. One of those areas is improving integrated care for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The Center of Excellence will be the Foundation's largest undertaking in this area.

Founded in 1967, NDRI is a nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to advancing scientific knowledge in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, treatment and recovery; HIV, AIDS and HCV; therapeutic communities; youth at risk; and related areas of public health, mental health, criminal justice, urban problems, prevention and epidemiology