



Medicaid

Medicaid Matters New York

Matters

20th anniversary celebration!

November 28, 2023



THANK YOU!





Anniversary Reflection

“...this was a special time. ...there was a mood, a feeling, a unity in purpose that made the stars align and good people come together. In a state known for special interests and big money dictating health care decisions, MMNY stood out. We represented the people on Medicaid and the belief that Medicaid, does indeed, matter.”

- Laura Caruso, GMHC



Legislative Gazette ad, 2010



It's Medicaid Matters Week!



Medicaid matters *every day* to...

- Low-income working parents and their children,
- Low-income seniors,
- People with serious illnesses and disabilities, and
- Thousands of people employed in the health care industry.

Men, women and children rely on Medicaid coverage for essential prescription drugs, home care, prenatal care, primary health care, and mental health therapies. New York has done the right thing by covering many services that the Federal government labels “optional,” which are by no means optional to the people who need them.

It is incumbent upon the Legislature to make sure Medicaid works for the health, safety, independence and general well-being of the more than four million New Yorkers who are covered by it.

Medicaid also matters to our coalition members and supporters:

Access to Independence of Cortland County
Action for a Better Community, Rochester
AIDS Treatment Data Network
AIDS Day Services Association
Alianza Dominicana

Disabled in Action of Metropolitan New York
District Council 37/AFSCME
District Council 37/Local 1549
Empire Justice Center
Family Planning Advocates of New York State*

Mental Health Association of New York City*
Mental Health Association in New York State
Metro Justice
Metro New York Health Care for All
Campaign*

North Country Children's Clinic,
Watertown
Northern Queens Health Coalition
Northern Regional Center for Independent
Living, Watertown



THANK YOU!

Anonymous



ADA anniversary celebration at the Executive Mansion, 2023





THANK YOU!



manatt

Stories matter!

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**Medicaid matters to countless
New Yorkers, like Sharon Milliner**

“When I was diagnosed with a mental illness, my parents’ medical insurance did not cover what I needed. In came a social worker to help apply for Medicaid, and I was able to receive mental health services.”

www.medicaidmattersny.org



Anniversary Reflection

“Oh, those “good old days” when we hoped that attacks on Medicaid were a temporary phenomenon limited to George Pataki's administration!... Ultimately the Group was reborn as the premiere Medicaid advocates representing the consumer voice: Medicaid Matters NY. Happy Anniversary - thanks for the great work, and how I wish system changes were adopted so our advocacy was no longer needed.”

- Gail Myers, NYS Nurses Association and NY StateWide Senior Action Council



THANK YOU!



"Medicaid Matters to Me" profiles

MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME



Meet Denise, Loving Mother

I'm a 37 year-old social worker and I live in Brooklyn. My 13-year-old daughter has cerebral palsy—she's considered a paraplegic. She'll never be able to do the basic living things most of us take for granted. I have worked all of my life and for a while my private insurance took care of most of my daughter's health needs. Even with a private plan, my basic costs were about \$850 a month. I was also responsible for a special bathing chair (\$400); a special chair for her to sit in because she doesn't hold her head up, etc. I had to buy a wheel chair for her—almost \$5,000. As she grew, her wheel chair became too small for her, but I couldn't afford to replace it. Even when she was a baby I thought we'd be ok; I was working and I had coverage. I

didn't know that as she got older she'd need all this stuff and it wouldn't be covered by my insurance. Private insurance simply wasn't covering what my daughter needed to maintain her health. Medicaid is filling in the gaps where private insurance comes up short.

Finally I got Medicaid and now we have coverage for the services and equipment my daughter needs. Medicaid lets me take care of my kid and keep her healthy. Why policy makers want to keep me from doing this is beyond me. I think they want those of us who need Medicaid to be somebody else's problem. I want to say to the politicians who want to cut Medicaid that I'm doing all I can.

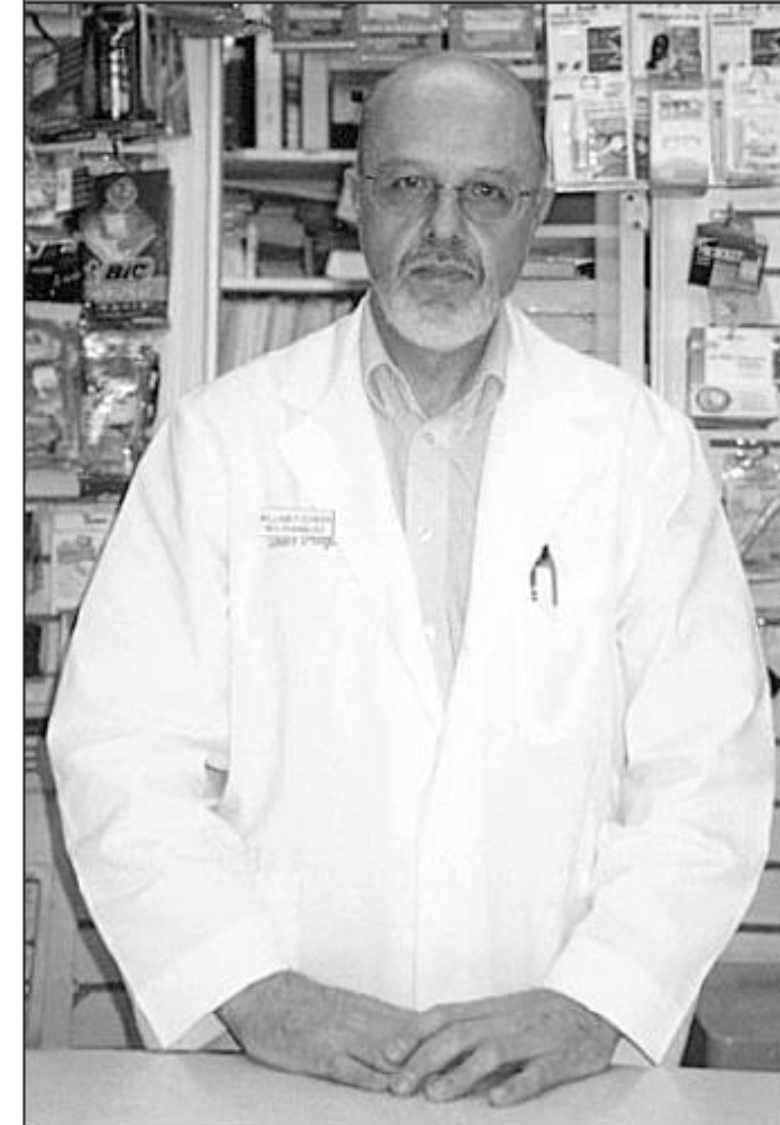
Medicaid Matters to New York. Keep our program whole and strong.

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Contact: Laura Caruso, 212/367-1228, laurac@gmhc.org

Designed by: Gay Men's Health Crisis

MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME



Meet Bill, Concerned Community Pharmacist

I've worked in New York City for 26 years—I've seen all parts of the city through many economic cycles and I am very concerned about what is happening now. I have quite a few customers on Medicaid. Many are elderly and have no pension, retirement plans or insurance benefits. The cost of their medication is so high that without Medicaid they would be forced to go without. Many of my patients can't even afford to pay their \$2.00 co-payments. However, my elderly customers are the ones who try to pay if they have it, because they realize the difference the Medicaid coverage makes in their ability to keep their health. They don't want to take anything for free. These people, many of whom were self-sufficient when their husbands were alive, for example, now have to decide, "do I eat today, or do I get medication." These are the people who, if Medicaid were not there would be added to the uninsured. Medicaid is an integral part of this neighborhood's survival. We've got to prevent my neighbors and customers from falling through the cracks.

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Featured in Crain's, 2008



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Tuesday, February 26, 2008

TODAY'S NEWS

OLM TAKEOVER

Montefiore Medical Center's purchase of Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center apparently is being held up by questions over graduated medical education payments. "It's been a difficult process because Montefiore has been super-cautious about finances," says a member of the Public Health Council, which on Jan. 25 approved Montefiore's plan to purchase bankrupt OLM's assets. The questions over graduate medical education may be arising from the fact that the two hospitals have affiliations with different medical schools: Montefiore with Albert Einstein and OLM with New York Medical College. A Montefiore spokesman says that while the process is taking longer

Drawing Medicaid battle lines

The executive budget is on the agenda at today's Medicaid summit, organized by Medicaid Matters, a coalition of some 125 advocacy groups for Medicaid beneficiaries. The coalition is lobbying to support the Spitzer administration's effort to reform the health system by emphasizing primary care and outpatient services.

Gov. Eliot Spitzer proposes changing the way Medicaid reimburses hospitals for inpatient services, with cuts for some institutions but increased payments for others.

"The hospital-centric nature of health care in New York is not a good thing, financially or in terms of health care,"

as you'll see anywhere in the country and can put New York in a leadership position on health care reform."

But hospitals don't view the executive budget that way. They argue that the reimbursement changes are too complicated and too sudden, and that the state has yet to provide data on the reforms' impact on specific hospitals.

Medicaid Matters says that hospitals already have been given millions in funding, such as HEAL and Berger money, to weather changes. The proposed budget revisions are entirely consistent with those earlier initiatives, Ms. Soffel said in a statement.

Stories matter!



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“Without Medicaid, I wouldn’t be able to have help in my home with home healthcare workers, and it also allows me to get coverage for the motorized wheelchair that I need to leave said home.”

— Michele Kaplan, New York City

www.medicaidmattersny.org

Advocacy day and press conference, 2018





THANK YOU!



BW

BROWN | WEINRAUB



Anniversary Reflection

“What stands out in my memory of the early days of MMNY is unshakeable sense of shared purpose.... And we believed that the story people who depended on Medicaid had to tell about it should be and ultimately would be more powerful than any other narrative.”

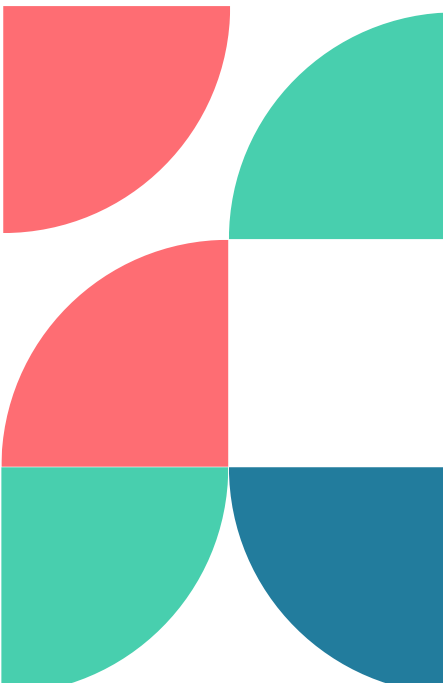
- Trilby de Jung, Empire Justice Center



THANK YOU!



Protect Medicaid press conference, 2020



Stories matter!

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Medicaid matters to countless New Yorkers, like Maggie Sanchez

“As an individual with disabilities, Medicaid has been part of my son's life since before birth. Medicaid has been critical for my son's Early Intervention services, CDPAP and OPWDD waiver services. Without Medicaid, my son would've certainly regressed. Thanks to Medicaid, my son has had access to services that otherwise would be inaccessible for our family. To families like mine, Medicaid is simply a lifeline.”

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THANK YOU!



Empire Justice Center

Making the law work for all New Yorkers



Anniversary Reflection

“When the letterhead and list of coalition members was presented to [a legislative staffer], he said something to the effect that this is just the usual cast of characters organized under a different name. "Refried beans" or not, clearly twenty years on MMNY has stood the test of time and the particular alchemy of the forces that came together on behalf of NY Medicaid consumers released a force to be reckoned with.”

- David Wunsch, GMHC and Center for Independence of the Disabled in NY





THANK YOU!



"Medicaid Matters to Me" profiles

MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME



Meet Luz Salgado, Fighting for Her Right To Live

"I am HIV positive. I was diagnosed in 1985. I got HIV from infected needles. If I didn't have Medicaid to help pay for my doctors' visits and medications, I think I would have to roll over and die." Luz has been on Medicaid since 1992. "I don't know what I would do without Medicaid. I guess I'd try to find work, but with my joint disease, some days I can't walk too well. I think legislators and other people think people on Medicaid are laying back – that they've got it made because someone else is paying for their health care. Right now in my situation, I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't had Medicaid. I've lived longer

because I've been able to take my medications. I can see the doctor and get the therapy I need. Sometimes, I can't even move, but while I can, I do volunteer work to at least pay society back for some of what they are giving me... **If you want someone working, if you want them to do for themselves, at least let them keep their health so they can work.** They want mothers to go back to work, to get off welfare: they've got to keep mothers and children healthy so the mothers can stay at their jobs. How can they cut Medicaid and forget about the families?" **How can they cut Medicaid and forget people like me?**

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Designed by: Gay Men's Health Crisis

MEDICAID MATTERS TO ME



Meet Lady J—A Life of Giving, A Difficult Disease

"Lady J" is a 54-year-old retired nurse with two grown children. When her children were young, she also worked as a pre-school teacher, which she says she loved. Lady J is HIV positive and has a bone condition caused by a childhood car accident. Between her HIV and the accident, Lady J's hips lack bone marrow and she can no longer retain her balance or walk for any period of time. She says, "I can get around the house pretty well, but when I'm outside of my home, I stay in the wheelchair—I don't want to fall again."

"My kids grew up with me being very active and independent. They don't like seeing me in my wheel chair—they don't like to know that I can't put on my own socks and shoes, that I can't braid my hair."

About 6 or 7 years ago, Lady J's health insurance "capped out" of benefits and she applied for Medicaid. Lady J says, "The services that Medicaid pays for allow me to live independently. I have a home attendant five days a week who can help me get dressed, bathed and fed. Medicaid will also pay transportation to my clinic for physical therapy, doctors' visits and other needs. With these supports, I was able to stay at home and continue to raise my son who is now an independent adult."

"I, and a lot of people I know, wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Medicaid. It's really frightening what would happen if they cut or got rid of Medicaid. It's very inhuman to cut the benefits for those of us who are sick."

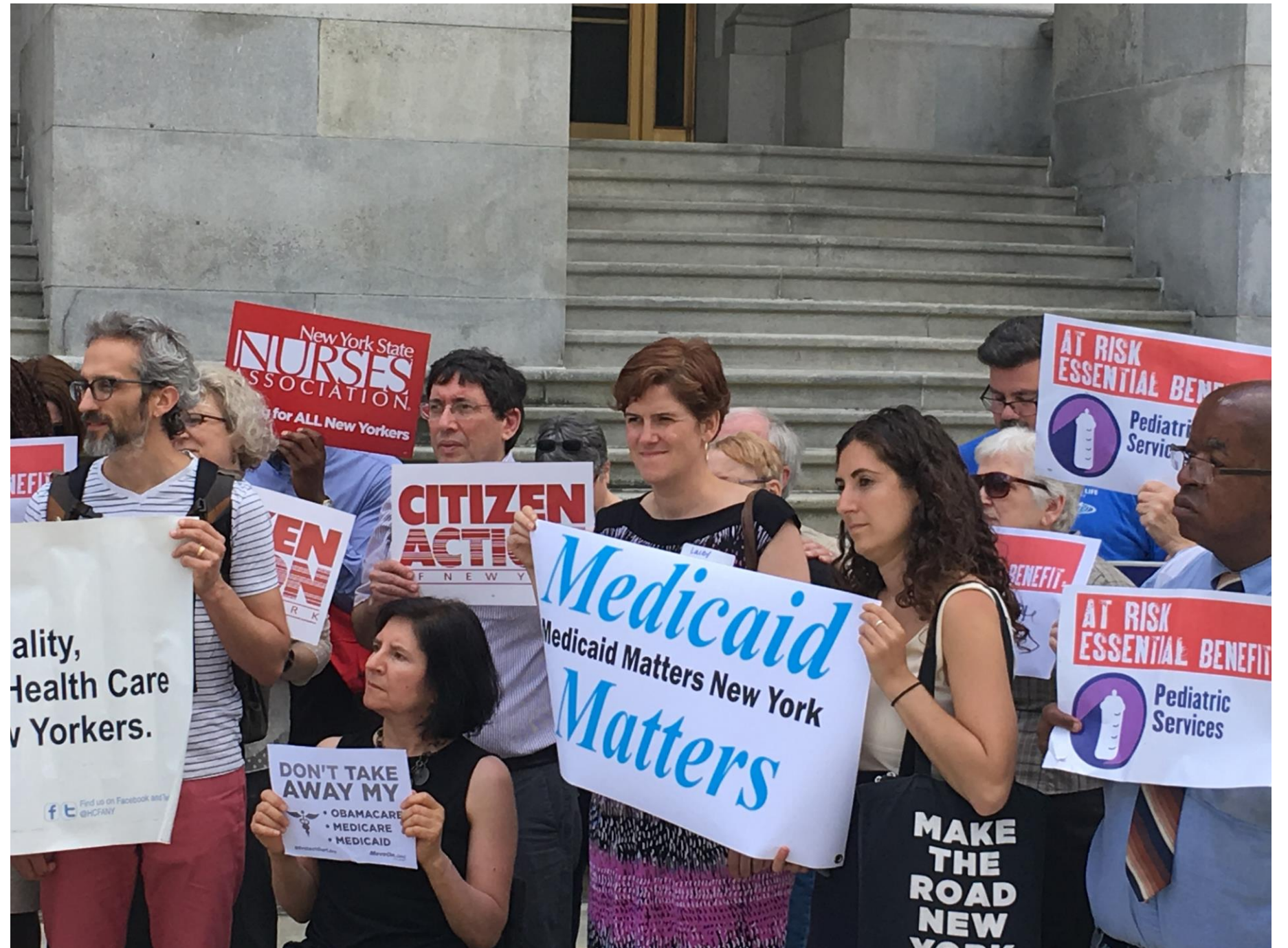
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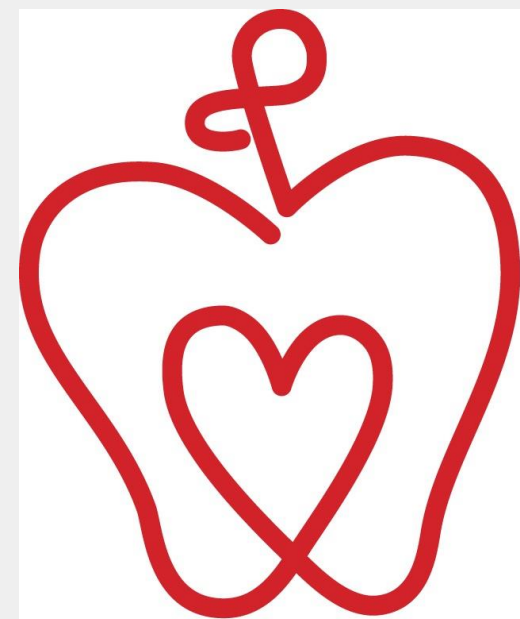
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Protect the ACA press conference, 2017



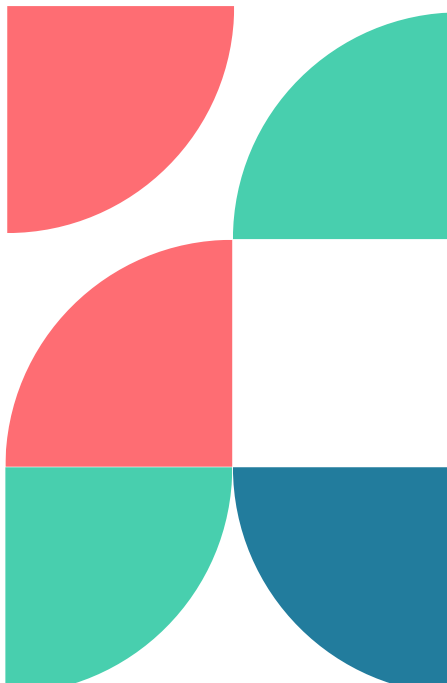
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**COMMUNITY
HEALTH CARE
ASSOCIATION**
of New York State

chcanys.org

Medicaid and kids webinar, 2022





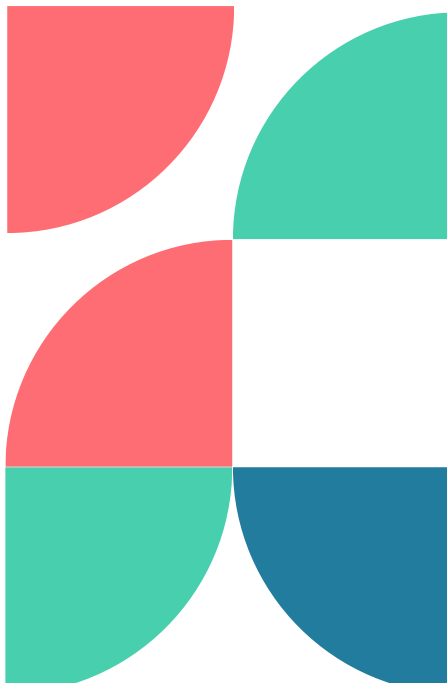
Anniversary Reflection

“Despite ... obstacles, Medicaid Matters helped brainstorm and advocate for the ombudsman program, and in 2014 it became a reality. Now called ICAN, the MLTC ombudsman has advocated for over 40,000 consumers over the last 9 years. It has provided a bulwark against disruptions in care or unnecessary institutional placement for older adults and people with disabilities.”

- David Silva, Independent Consumer Advocacy Network



Managed Care Workgroup Annual Summer Meeting, 2015





THANK YOU!

Independence
care system



Bringing the stories of New Yorkers to the conversation

Why Medicaid Matters to Me: Five New York Stories



Stories book, 2017



THANK YOU!



NEW YORK
**ALLIANCE FOR
INCLUSION & INNOVATION**



Anniversary Reflection

“We never stopped advocating for what we all fundamentally believed in and indeed, did impact how the eligibility process was better tailored to our clients, how health care was delivered and how public insurance was and remains a basic human right.”

- Alice Berger, Planned Parenthood of NYC





THANK YOU!



Empire Center health policy panel, 2019

