



December 5, 2013

Dear Stakeholder,

Attached is a Request for Information (RFI) regarding *"New York's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Behavioral Health Benefit Administration: Managed Care Organizations and Health and Recovery Plans."* This RFI is designed to solicit input concerning New York's draft proposal to manage Medicaid substance use and mental health benefits.

In October 2012, the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) and the MRT Behavioral Health Workgroup put forward a number of recommendations to support the careful and responsible transformation of the current fee-for-service system to Medicaid Managed Care for Medicaid enrolled individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Mental Health (MH) treatment needs. These recommendations informed and guided the design and development of the attached draft RFQ.

In order to ensure that the transformation of the behavioral health system has a positive and lasting impact on the behavioral health population, New York seeks input from all stakeholders on the draft service design through this RFI. Stakeholder feedback will help inform any revisions to the final RFQ as well as guide NYS in the provision of Plan and Provider readiness assistance. Please be advised that the criteria described in the RFQ are draft and subject to change based on stakeholder feedback through this RFI and negotiations with the federal government.

The RFI has three pieces including:

1. NYS Behavioral Health Managed Care RFI questions
2. Draft Behavioral Health Managed Care RFQ for Public Review
3. Data Book for Mainstream Plans and Health and Recovery Plans (HARPS)

The intent of the Data Book is to provide interested parties with historical cost and utilization data on Behavioral Health and non-Behavioral Health services from both the Medicaid managed care program and the State's fee-for-service program. The data in this Data Book is the first step toward creating the actual data that will be used for rate setting for the HARP premium group and the Behavioral Health component of the rates for mainstream Plans. It is informational only and should not be considered to be the final product as it will be subject to further review and financial and policy adjustments.

Draft rates for HARPs and the Behavioral Health component of the rates for mainstream Plans will be released subsequent to the RFI, but prior to the distribution of the final RFQ. Additionally, year one performance measures will be released for comment subsequent to the RFI, but prior to the distribution of the final RFQ.

Please read the draft RFQ prior to responding to the RFI questions. All responses should cite the section and question number listed in the RFI and/or the Draft RFQ. Please submit responses electronically to [bho@omh.ny.gov](mailto:bho@omh.ny.gov) by January 10, 2014. Major updates made to the draft RFQ will be posted on the OMH, OASAS and DOH websites.

Thank you for your efforts to assist NYS in transitioning Medicaid Behavioral Health services to an effective and efficient managed care system.

Sincerely,

Robert Myers, Senior Deputy Commissioner, NYS Office of Mental Health

Robert Kent, General Counsel, NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

Greg Allen, Director, Division of Financial Planning and Policy, NYS Department of Health