



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 19, 2026

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**NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CARVE-OUT PROPOSAL**

Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President and CEO

“Carving behavioral health and substance use disorder services out of Medicaid managed care would neither save money for the state nor improve care for patients. The previous fee-for-service structure provided no oversight or accountability of services and little if any coordination of care for individuals with behavioral health challenges and acute or chronic conditions. Health plans take an integrated approach and are measured annually on multiple quality and outcome metrics, including those for behavioral health and member satisfaction with the care they receive. The Department of Health’s most recent report on managed care in New York stated that ‘managed care plans continue to surpass national benchmarks [for quality], especially in behavioral health.’ This proposal would be a significant step backwards to a system that failed patients and threaten the care for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers.”

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