NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF ADDICTION SERVICES AND PROFESSIONALS (ASAP) AND THE COALITION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (THE COALITION) ANNOUNCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

As one of the largest advocacy groups of its kind in NYS, new partnership has unmatched reach and expertise in behavioral health, including addiction services

NEW YORK – The New York Association of Addiction Services and Professionals (ASAP) and the Coalition for Behavioral Health (The Coalition) today jointly announced the formation of a strategic partnership to amplify statewide advocacy efforts and strengthen service to organizations serving communities across New York State. The formal partnership allows for a stronger, unified voice to advocate for financial resources, behavioral health services, and state policies to meaningfully address such alarming and challenging issues as addiction, suicide, and hardships experienced by organizations addressing these and other health and social problems.

With a combined membership totaling more than 250 service providers, programs, and organizations from Buffalo to Long Island – the agreement creates the foundation for one of the largest advocacy groups of its kind nationally. The formal partnership involves collaboration on public policy, conferences and training, technical assistance, workforce projects and other important work. The Boards of Directors have committed to a planning process that will explore the best ways to capitalize on our collective strengths.

“Health care today requires collaboration, partnership, sharing, and change,” said Jeremy Klemanski, ASAP Board President and President and C.E.O. of Helio Health, “Our organizations are leading by encouraging all of us to embrace new relationships.”

“This ground breaking strategic partnership between The Coalition and ASAP will create one strong voice that will be most effective at all levels of government as we fight for fully integrated care and adequate funding for our life-saving work,” said Mitchell Netburn, Chair of The Coalition for Behavioral Health and President & CEO of Samaritan Daytop Village. “This partnership will benefit the 250 members of our two organizations and – most importantly - improve the access to and quality of care collectively provided to countless New Yorkers every year.”

“In the midst of an unprecedented crisis of overdose and addiction that is stressing to its limits our ability to deliver prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction services,
it is an ideal time to join forces with The Coalition and explore better, more efficient ways of serving our members and the broader community,” said ASAP Executive Director John Coppola. “Our shared mission is to be a voice for organizations serving communities in need and a resource for policymakers, members of the media, and the public in trying to understand complex issues and implement needed reforms in how we approach behavioral health care — including addiction.”

“Coalitions must move their fields forward – this strategic partnership is a key step toward the full integration of substance use and mental health providers and services. This strategic partnership between The Coalition and ASAP will ensure providers and the clients they serve have unparalleled advocacy and training at a time of unprecedented change and challenges in the behavioral health field,” said Amy Dorin, President & CEO, The Coalition for Behavioral Health.

DEBBIE QUOTE:

Today's announcement was made at The Coalition’s annual conference in New York City.

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About ASAP: The New York Association of Addiction Services and Professionals (ASAP) supports organizations, groups and individuals that prevent and alleviate the profound personal, social and economic consequences of alcohol and substance use disorders in New York State. ASAP represents the interests of the largest substance use disorders prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction service delivery system in the country.

About The Coalition for Behavioral Health:
The Coalition for Behavioral Health serves New York’s behavioral health community by providing policy, advocacy, training and technical assistance to more than 100 community-based behavioral health providers. The Coalition trains about 4,000 behavioral health workers annually. Our membership serves over 600,000 individuals annually, providing mental health and substance use prevention, treatment and recovery services.