



**NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE**

**2026 JOINT BUDGET HEARING**

**February 4, 2026 – 9:30 AM**

**MENTAL HYGIENE**

1. New York State Office of Mental Health Dr. Ann Marie T. Sullivan, M.D.  
Commissioner

### Panel A:

2. New York State Office of Addiction Services and Support	Dr. Chinazo Cunningham Commissioner
3. New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities	Willow Baer Commissioner
4. New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs	Maria Lisi-Murray Executive Director

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**Panel B:**

5. NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors	Courtney David Executive Director
6. Mental Health Association in NYS (MHANYS)	Glenn Liebman CEO
7. National Alliance on Mental Illness	Nathan McLaughlin Executive Director

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Panel C:

8. Self-Advocacy Association of NYS	Shameka Andrews Community Outreach Coordinator
9. Fountain House	Ashley Miles Member
10. NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health	Kayleigh Zaloga President & CEO

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Panel D:

11. Coalition for Self-Direction	Jim Karpe Parent
12. Advocate	Dr. Natalie Ferguson Parent/ Assistant Director of Nursing
13. New York Disability Advocates	Mike Alvaro President
14. Advocate	Christopher J. Palega Parent

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Panel E:

15. Drug Policy Alliance	Toni Smith State Director
16. Alliance for Rights and Recovery	Harvey Rosenthal VP of Public Policy
17. New York County Defender Services	Stephanie Bazell Senior Policy Attorney
18. Local 372 - NYC Board of Education Employees	Donald Nesbit Executive VP
19. New York State Harm Reduction Association	Emma Fabian Executive Director

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Panel F:

20. Association for Community Living	Emil Slane Executive Director
21. The Arc New York	Erik Geizer CEO
22. NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare	Lauri Cole Executive Director
23. Families Together in New York State	Khadijah Abdul Aziz Youth Public Policy Coordinator

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Panel G:

24. Dwyer Coalition for Military Veterans & Families Inc.	Gavin T. Walters Executive Director
25. Friends of Recovery-New York	Dr. Angelia Smith-Wilson Executive Director
26. Truth Pharm, Inc.	Alexis Pleus Founder & Executive Director
27. InUnity Alliance	Jihoon Kim President & CEO
28. NYS Association of CASAC Professionals	A. Maria Mendez Founder/CEO