**ADVOCACY DAY**

**TALKING POINTS**

**General Budget Priorities**:

* Emphasize the need for a 3.2% cost of living adjustment and a $500 million investment to address the workforce crisis in the mental health and substance use disorder sector.
* Support the Governor’s proposed Medicaid managed care procurement process for improved service provider payments.
* Advocate for increased commercial insurance rates to ensure fair compensation for outpatient services and compliance with parity laws.
* Push for reforms to the OMIG audit process to protect providers from unfair penalties and to enhance transparency.
* Back the Executive’s workforce initiatives, including job marketing and credentialing programs to help recruit and retain qualified staff.
* Ensure ongoing funding for the 988 crisis hotline to provide a clinical response instead of engaging with law enforcement.

**Substance Use Disorder Specific**:

* Urge the use of Opioid Settlement funds to enhance addiction services and support overdose prevention centers as per the Advisory Board's recommendations. Funds should be used to supplement, not supplant, existing funding.
* Call for making the Opioid Stewardship Fund permanent for stable OASAS funding.
* Endorse the proposal for substance use disorder service providers to offer a 3-day buprenorphine supply during treatment transitions.

**Mental Health Specific**:

* Advocate for the "Children’s Outpatient Behavioral Health Rate Reform Proposal" to secure $195 million for increasing clinic rates and improving children's mental health services access.
* Oppose the proposed $125 million cut to Health Home and Care Management agencies to maintain service access and reduce ER visits.
* Support the $20.5 million proposal to enhance crisis stabilization services by raising provider rates.

*Remember to personalize these points with local data and personal stories to help make your case.*