

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors upon the occasion of celebrating the 40th Anniversary of its incorporation on May 18, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those organizations that work to serve the behavioral health care needs of citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors upon the occasion of celebrating the 40th Anniversary of its incorporation on May 18, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Inc. was statutorily incorporated under Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law on May 18, 1976; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Conference was created to promote the interests and protect the needs of persons, and their families, affected by mental illness, developmental disability and/or chemical dependency, to promote the concept that the needs and rights of these individuals are best served by a network of diverse services available within the community, and to aid and encourage cooperation among those providing mental hygiene services in New York State; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Conference is comprised of Directors of Community Services (DCSS) and Mental Health Commissioners in all of the 57 counties and the Department of Mental Hygiene for the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Conference advances state and local policies, practices, laws, regulation and funding for the purpose of ensuring comprehensive, integrated and cost-effective system of care to meet the needs of those persons, and their families, affected by mental illness, developmental disability and/or chemical dependency; and

WHEREAS, Directors and Commissioners advocate at the state and local level for services and resources needed to meet the Mental Hygiene Law mandate that the LGU assure that there is access to needed services; and

WHEREAS, Directors and Commissioners develop and oversee comprehensive, integrated and cost-effective systems of care locally while working in partnership with the New York State mental hygiene agencies, comprised of the Office of Mental Health (OMH), the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD); and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Mental Hygiene Law, Directors and Commissioners engage in annual local services planning, quality improvement and programmatic and fiscal oversight activities required to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, While the three disability agencies are separate at the state level, they are integrated at the local level through the LGU; and

WHEREAS, The LGU is embedded in the community and Directors and Commissioners have and maintain partnerships with a diverse group to connect the pieces of the local system including mental health, substance abuse and developmental disability service providers; peers, families and youth, State operated psychiatric centers (PCs) and addiction treatment centers (ATCs); Social Service (DSS) and Public Health Departments; Housing and shelter services; Criminal Justice (prisons, jails, probation/parole, police, sheriffs, family and criminal courts); Hospitals (Emergency Departments and CPEPs) and primary care and providers; and

WHEREAS, Directors and Commissioners fulfill their mission which is to advocate, plan, mentor and protect individuals and families dealing with

mental health, substance use, alcohol and/or development needs in their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the vital importance of the New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors in providing excellence in care through prevention, education and treatment, and its evident commitment to this mission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors upon the occasion of celebrating the 40th Anniversary of its incorporation on May 18, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Inc.