

Government Relations Office
Karin Carreau – Spencer / Carreau Consulting

Report on 2024 State of the State

On Tuesday, January 9, 2024, Governor Kathy Hochul delivered her State of the State address in a jam-packed Assembly Chamber filled with legislators, commissioners, Court of Appeals judges, and invited guests. The plan is centered, once again on making New York “more affordable, more livable and safer.” Governor Hochul’s oral remarks focused on tackling crime, serious mental illness and expanding affordable housing, which is accompanied by a 181-page book outlining 204 proposals that are part her State of the State. While the State of the State lays out the Governor’s policy vision and priorities for the Legislative Session, more details will come when the Executive budget is presented on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Below is a summary/excerpts from the State of the State Book outlining the major policy initiatives. Additional details available via the State of the State book (see link at the end of the report).

I. Mental Health-Related Provisions

- **Opening 200 New Psychiatric Inpatient Beds**
 - Includes a plan to provide funding for three additional 25-bed Transition to Home Units, which provide inpatient psychiatric care to individuals with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness.
 - Creating 100 new inpatient psychiatric beds in state psychiatric centers, 15 of which will serve children and adolescents who have specialized needs, including those in foster care or with other systems involvement.
 - Creating 25 new forensic psychiatric inpatient beds and repurposing 50 existing psychiatric inpatient beds to specifically serve individuals awaiting restoration to competency prior to trial.
- **Establishing a Law Enforcement and Mental Health Coordination Team** – A dedicated team will be established at OMH, which will “...be responsible for establishing and monitoring data shared by law enforcement, correctional entities, hospitals, and providers to facilitate connections to services, including housing, and will work through OMH regional field offices to collaborate with local mental health providers and resources.”
- **Improving Mental Health Admission and Discharge Decisions by Hospitals** – Last year, the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Department of Health (DOH) issued joint guidance advising hospitals with inpatient psychiatric services, their emergency rooms, and Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Programs (CPEPs) of their responsibilities regarding admitting and discharging patients that present with behavioral health conditions. The Governor is directing OMH and DOH to codify the regulations this year. Per the State of the State book, “To ensure New Yorkers do not fall through the cracks after hospital visits, hospitals will be required to screen patients with mental health conditions for risk of suicide, violence, substance use, and other complex needs; provide a hand-off to an aftercare provider for those with complex needs; and schedule a follow-up psychiatric appointment within seven days. In addition, funding will be provided to OMH to expand surveillance and regulatory compliance activities across its licensed and unlicensed program settings, including hospital inpatient programs and CPEPs.”

- **Creating New Mental Health Courts and Expand Existing Courts** – Providing for a dedicated funding stream to allow for establishment of additional mental health courts and allow existing courts to take on more cases.
- **Funding Court-Based Mental Health Navigators** – State to provide funding for mental health navigators. The navigators “... will be responsible for identifying defendants who have a history of mental health treatment, lack of engagement in treatment, or other mental health concerns. These specialists, embedded in the courts, will work with the Law Enforcement and Mental Health Coordination Team and local providers to refer individuals to treatment and services, including housing. Emphasis will be placed on recruiting navigators with lived experience of mental health challenges to facilitate greater trust and engagement.”
- **Increasing Transitional Housing for Individuals Referred Through Court System**
- **Funding New Community-Based Mental Health Teams** – Funding for Intensive FACT (Forensic Assertive Community Treatment) teams to deliver around-the-clock support to individuals with serious mental illness. “These teams will maintain lower caseloads and provide continuous, on-the-ground engagement to facilitate connections to care and housing, ensure adherence to medication and treatment plans, and support life skill development – all with the goal of helping individuals attain stability.”
- **Providing More Intensive Supervision of Individuals on Parole** – This includes the establishment of a specialized version of the Supervision Against Violent Engagement (SAVE) program for individuals who are under parole supervision and have mental health diagnoses. Funding will support individualized supervision plans and smaller caseloads in select counties.
- **Funding Specialized Housing for People with Serious Mental Illness and Criminal History** – New investments will include developing housing units with a designated team to provide both individual-level case support and crisis and de-escalation support for residential staff.
- **Providing Crisis Intervention Team Training for Law Enforcement** - Funding to be allocated to expand crisis intervention training.

II. Youth Mental Health

- **Establishing a School-Based Mental Health Clinic in Any School That Wants One** – This includes providing start up funding and provisions for reimbursement for school-based mental health services.
- **Expanding Peer-to-Peer Support Programs** – This includes increasing funding for Teen Mental Health First Aid programs.
- **Establishing New Youth ACT Teams Statewide**
- **Expanding Access to the Partial Hospitalization and Children’s Day Treatment Programs** – This includes expanding access to all-day programs like the Partial Hospitalization model and Children’s Day Treatment Programs in schools.
- **Funding Programming for High-Need Transition-Age Youth** – This includes dedicated funding to Children’s Community Residences, “with a particular focus on young New Yorkers with child welfare involvement, empowering reunification with families and the building of networks as youth age into early adulthood. Children’s Community Residences are community-based programs that allow students to go to community schools and continue to participate in extracurriculars, jobs, and community activities. Funding will be used to expand training and specialty services within these programs to ensure that these settings can best serve youth, including those transitioning to adulthood.”
- **Expanding Loan Repayment Program for Children’s Mental Health Practitioners** – This includes expanding the Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program, with slots specifically for clinicians who work in child-serving agencies and treat children and families, including both OMH and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) licensed settings.
- **Limiting Social Media Features Harmful to Youth Mental Health**
 - To address this problem, the Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation for Kids Act (SAFE for Kids Act) will require social media companies to restrict addictive features that harm young users the most. The legislation will allow users under 18 to receive a default chronological feed from users they already follow – the same way that social media feeds functioned before the advent of addictive feeds.

- Additionally, parents will be allowed to block access to social media platforms between certain hours, and similarly prohibit the social media companies from sending notifications to minors between certain hours without parental consent.
- The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) will be empowered to bring actions forward with civil penalties up to \$5,000 per violation.
- The New York Child Data Protection Act will prohibit online sites from collecting, using, sharing, or selling personal data of anyone under the age of 18, unless they receive informed consent or unless doing so is strictly necessary for the purpose of the website. For users under the age of 13, this informed consent must come from a parent.
- **Developing Social Media Resources for Youth and Caregivers** – New York will make a variety of educational resources available. These will include an evidence-based educational series around digital wellness tailored for caregivers, as well as resources for students that cover critical topics such as the risks of social media use, understanding privacy and protecting personal information, and reporting cyberbullying and online abuse and exploitation.
- **Convening Youth Mental Health Advisory Boards** – OMH will form a Youth Advisory Board to ensure that youth-informed best practices continue to be incorporated in developing behavioral health programs and policies.

III. Expanding Insurance Coverage and Holding Insurers Accountable

- **Strengthening Mental Health Parity Enforcement** – Governor Hochul proposes bringing the full weight of the State’s enforcement authority to bear, funding additional staff to bring enforcement actions and introducing legislation to double fines that insurers face for noncompliance with parity requirements.
- **Requiring Increased Commercial Insurance Reimbursement Rates for Mental Health Services**
 - Governor Hochul will pursue legislation to require adequate reimbursement of OMH- and OASAS-licensed outpatient services at least at the Medicaid rate for comparable services.
- **Increasing Access to Care Through Network Adequacy Regulations**
 - New York is promulgating network adequacy regulations for both commercial and Medicaid insurers that will set standards related to access to mental health and substance use disorder services, including appointment wait times. If insurers cannot provide appointments for behavioral health services within a specific number of days, they will have to provide out-of-network coverage at no additional cost. The regulations will also require plans to maintain transparent and accurate network provider directories.
- **Issuing Guidance on Free Mental Health Screenings**
 - While New York State law already requires comprehensive-type insurance policies to cover annual well care visits and preventive and primary care services, many residents may not know these are covered without cost to the insured, and many insurance companies may not advertise this fact to their members or network providers. Per the State of the State book, “New York State will issue guidance to ensure plans cover these screenings in mental health, primary care, substance use disorder, and integrated settings without cost.”
- **Increasing Medicaid Reimbursement for Mental Health Services in DOH Facilities and Private Practices**
 - Medicaid typically pays a higher rate for mental health services offered in an OMH- licensed “Article 31” facility than for services offered in a DOH-licensed “Article 28” facility or a private physician practice. To expand access to mental health care within DOH facilities and private practices, New York will increase support for mental health services in these facilities.

IV. Improving the Health of New Yorkers

Increasing the Resiliency of the Healthcare System

- **Launching a Healthcare Safety Net Transformation Program** – Governor Hochul is announcing the launch of the Healthcare Safety Net Transformation Program. According to the State of the State book, this “... will leverage New York’s world-leading clinical and operational expertise to support struggling

facilities. Through this program, New York will offer financial resources and regulatory flexibilities to encourage partnerships that improve the resilience of safety-net institutions. Second, New York is pursuing a waiver from the federal government to secure billions of dollars of multi-year funding to support New York’s safety-net hospitals and encourage them to transform in ways that will improve care and financial sustainability.” Governor Hochul and DOH announced approval of the 1115 waiver today. More details [here](#) and [here](#).

- **Streamlining and Modernizing New York’s Healthcare Approval Program** – Governor Hochul will instruct the DOH to make necessary updates to the State’s certificate of need (CON) program, such as raising the financial thresholds that qualify a project for more detailed review and streamlining the application and approval processes, including for now-routine services.
- **Strengthening Hospital Cyber Resilience** – DOH has promulgated proposed regulations for hospitals with respect to cyber security.
- **Modernizing Emergency Medical Services** – Governor Hochul will advance legislation to make EMS an essential service to ensure that emergency medical service providers are required to respond to emergencies. In addition, Governor Hochul will build upon the progress made in last year’s budget by directing the newly established EMS statewide taskforce to create five “EMS zones.” Each zone will maintain its own EMS workforce to augment local EMS agencies where the workforce is insufficient and can be deployed to respond to emergencies statewide.
- **Encouraging New Care Models Closer to Home** – Governor Hochul will introduce legislation to allow hospitals that meet certain requirements in New York to deliver care in patient homes as appropriate, and to permit emergency medical services providers to provide care in the community during non-emergent situations.
- **Improving Access and Transparency for Assisted Living Residences** – Governor Hochul will direct the Department of Health to establish quality reporting and accreditation requirements for all Assisted Living Residences in New York State. The Department of Health will publish these quality measures to ensure that consumers have the information they need to make the right choice of home. In addition, Governor Hochul will introduce legislation to make the State Special Needs Assisted Living Residence (SNALR) Voucher program permanent, enabling the Department of Health to expand the program to more recipients.

V. Strengthening the Healthcare Workforce

- **Sustaining and Retaining Healthcare Workers** – New York is pursuing a waiver from the federal government to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in multi-year funding to launch new initiatives that will support workforce recruitment and retention (approved on 1/9/24 as reported above). The state will fund new training and education programs that focus on both career advancement and recruiting new members of the workforce. These training programs will be overseen by three high-performing Workforce Investment Organizations to ensure that training and educational institutions, healthcare providers, and trainees establish necessary partnerships and are effectively coordinated. In addition, the state will launch a new loan repayment program for psychiatrists, primary care physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and pediatric clinical nurse specialists who make a 4-year commitment to serve the Medicaid population in New York.
- **Supporting New Yorkers Entering the Healthcare Workforce** – Center for Healthcare Workforce Innovation has awarded funding to support 28 facilities to prepare, mentor, and train a steady pipeline of high-quality healthcare professionals. This year, the office will accept applications to increase training opportunities for healthcare workers statewide. The Nurses Across New York program will continue providing debt forgiveness for those serving medically underserved areas for at least three years and will be expanded to target nurses working with specific populations, such as behavioral healthcare and people with developmental disabilities. Finally, the Department of Health will launch a grant program to fund wraparound services like transportation or childcare for students training in the healthcare field.
- **Allowing Healthcare Providers to Do More/Scope of Practice**
 - Advance legislation to enter New York into the Interstate Licensure Compact and Nurse Licensure Compact, which will make it easier for physicians, psychologists, and nurses licensed in other states to practice in New York, either physically or virtually.

- Advance legislation to expand scope of practice, to allow certified nurses with additional training to administer basic medications in long-term care settings; physicians’ assistants with sufficient training to practice independently in primary care and hospital settings; and medical assistants to administer immunizations, which will expand the number of practitioners available to do this critical work.
 - Propose legislation to allow pharmacists to administer vaccines, screen, and dispense medication for MPOX and PrEP, and expand the role of registered nurses to facilitate Hepatitis B testing.
 - Establish a first-in-the-nation Paramedic Telemedicine Urgent Care program, which will use paramedics in rural areas and a healthcare provider via telemedicine to deliver low-acuity emergency services in a fixed location to decrease demands on the EMS system *and* reduce unnecessary ER visits.
- **Improving Transparency of Home Care Services** – Direct DOH to provide publicly available data around home care services, which will include information about agencies providing home care, the populations they are serving, and the services these populations are accessing.

VI. Plans to Protect New Yorkers from Overdoses

- **Continuing to implement a ‘no-wrong door approach’** and promote service integration between behavioral health and primary healthcare, the Governor will continue her commitment to triple the number of Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs) statewide in 2024. Additional crisis stabilization centers – jointly licensed by OMH and OASAS – will also continue to come online in 2024.
- **Stopping the illegal distribution of deadly opioids** and additives, Governor Hochul will propose legislation to update the State’s controlled substances schedule to include new fentanyl analogs, xylazine, and other prescription medications. The Governor will also instruct the Department of Agriculture and Markets to launch a Veterinary Xylazine Diversion Education Program to prevent xylazine from being diverted from legitimate veterinary uses.
- **Launching a robust, multi-faceted anti-stigma campaign** to raise awareness about opioid use disorder and the services needed to support those in need.
- **Introducing legislation to permit health care providers in emergency rooms** to dispense up to a three-day supply of buprenorphine and increase funding for treatment in the State’s Essential Plan.
- **Reestablishing a pain management working group** that will inform best practices, guideline changes, and suggest non-pharmacological ways for patients to cope with pain management.
- **OASAS will convene the newly formed Lived Experience Advisory Panel.** This group will serve as an advisory body to the Commissioner on issues related to prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services for substance use disorder and problem gambling.
- **OASAS will launch additional Mobile Medication Units (MMUs) in 2024.** MMUs allow medication to be brought into communities that may not otherwise have access to brick-and-mortar services.
- **Directing DOH to synthesize data** across its multiple information systems and propose legislation to increase the retention period for data contained in the prescription drug monitoring program.

VII. Improving Maternal and Infant Maternal Health

- **Increasing Access to Pre-Natal Care**
 - **Establishing First-in-Nation Statewide Paid Pre-Natal Leave** – Governor Hochul will propose legislation to expand New York State’s Paid Family Leave program to cover 40 hours of additional paid leave for pre-natal medical appointments, establishing the nation’s first statewide paid pre-natal leave benefit.
 - **Requiring Informed Consent to Drug Test in Pregnancy or Postpartum** – Governor Hochul will propose legislation to require that providers obtain consent from individuals who are pregnant or recently gave birth prior to drug testing, as recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).
- **Creating Conditions for Better Outcomes**

- **Issuing a Standing Order to Increase Access to Doula Services** – Governor Hochul will propose legislation to enable the Commissioner of Health to issue a standing order allowing New Yorkers to access doula services without the current requirement of a recommendation from a physician.
- **Establishing New Oversight Mechanisms to Avoid Unnecessary C-Sections** – Department of Health will launch new initiatives to reduce the rate of unnecessary C-sections. The State of the State book states, “This will include new oversight measures to identify physicians whose behavior is out of line with clinical best practices, allowing the Department to hold providers – including those overutilizing C-sections – accountable. It also includes a new Medicaid financial incentive for hospitals to reduce the number of unnecessary C-sections.”
- **Reducing Barrier Costs for Pregnant Patients** – The State will eliminate cost sharing for most pre-natal and postpartum pregnancy-related care in both the Essential Plan and Qualified Health Plans. The Essential Plan will also add coverage for doula services.
- **Reducing the Risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID)** – Provide funding for the distribution of portable cribs for under- resourced New Yorkers at no cost. The cribs will be available to families via local departments of social services and other local organizations. Medical professionals at birthing hospitals will also facilitate referrals where a need for a crib is identified.
- **Developing Data-Driven Interventions to Improve Birth Equity** – Department of Health will establish new reporting requirements for Medicaid managed care plans to give the State better insight into patients’ utilization of critical pre-natal and postpartum services to better target interventions. Additionally, the Department of Health will work with birthing hospitals and centers, through the Perinatal Quality Collaborative, to develop racially sensitive and culturally- sensitive birth equity improvement plans based on the results and assessment of their Patient Reported Experience Measure (PREM) surveys. Finally, the Department of Health will convene regional stakeholder groups to develop recommendations to better target efforts to reduce infant mortality.
- **Improving Maternal Mental Health**
 - **Expanding Mental Health Screenings** -- Department of Health, in consultation with the Office of Mental Health, will increase access to comprehensive mental health screening tools.
 - **Strengthening 988 Counseling for Pregnant New Yorkers and New Parents**
 - **Training Providers to Recognize and Treat Mental Health Conditions** – Project TEACH Maternal Mental Health offers training to general psychiatrists who may not have expertise in maternal mental health to increase treatment efficacy. Funding will be provided to expand Project TEACH Maternal Mental Health to include therapists, lactation consultants, WIC staff, home visiting nurses, and other frontline practitioners working with pregnant and postpartum New Yorkers. This will provide a warmline for anyone working with a perinatal individual to access expert consultation and get mental health support.

VIII. Protecting Consumers

- **Increasing Paid Medical and Disability Leave Benefits** – Governor Hochul will propose an amendment to the disability law to increase the maximum weekly benefit and tie it to the Statewide Average Weekly Wage (SAWW). To match New York’s paid family leave benefit, for the first 12 weeks of medical leave, eligible employees will receive 67% of their average weekly wage, capped at 67% of the SAWW. This increase will be phased in over five years.
- **Eliminating Co-Pays for Insulin** – Governor Hochul will propose legislation to eliminate cost-sharing for insulin for all plans under the Department of Financial Services’ regulatory authority. Approximately 1.58 million New Yorkers have been diagnosed with diabetes.
- **Medical Debt** – Governor Hochul will propose legislation limiting hospitals’ ability to sue patients earning less than 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$120,000 for a family of four). The legislation would also expand hospital financial assistance programs for low-income New Yorkers, limit the size of monthly payments and interest charged for medical debt and implement other protections to improve access to financial assistance and mitigate the deleterious effects of medical debt on New Yorkers.

IX. Increasing Affordability and Accessibility

- **Expanding Coverage for Health-Related Social Needs** – New York is pursuing a waiver from the federal government to allow New York’s Medicaid program to significantly expand coverage for health-related social needs for Medicaid beneficiaries. ... These services will include housing supports (e.g. medical respite, medically necessary home modifications, and other tenancy sustaining services), food and nutrition (e.g. temporary support for nutrition counseling, home delivered meals, and fruit and vegetable deliveries), and transportation (e.g. reimbursement for transportation required to connect with social services).
- **Expanding Access to Quality Dental Care** – This includes addressing the dentistry workforce by expanding their scope of practice and launching a new loan repayment program, supported by a federal waiver, for dentists who make a four-year commitment to serve the Medicaid population in New York. Governor Hochul will also work to increase access to high quality dental care by expanding access to dental care in school-based health centers, incentivizing Medicaid managed care plans to contract with more dentists, increasing quality oversight of dental care within Medicaid, and implementing a provider education campaign.
- **Increasing Children's Access to Healthcare** – New York is submitting a waiver request to the federal government to provide continuous Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program coverage for any eligible child between the ages of 0 and 6 years old. Second, New York will increase funding for school-based health centers and provide an incremental rate increase for providers serving children through New York’s Patient-Centered Medical Home model. New York will provide for additional support for providers participating in the State’s Early Intervention program for children and toddlers with disabilities, and Department of Health-licensed providers and private practitioners treating children’s mental health needs. New York State will also create a new and streamlined designation process for Children and Family Treatment and Support Services to make it easier for more providers to provide these critical mental health services for children. The State will also provide grant funding to community-based organizations that are making investments in improving the quality of life for children with special needs.
 - To better help children manage asthma, New York will expand the efforts of the New York State Children’s Asthma Initiative to train the healthcare workforce in delivering multidisciplinary care across multiple settings.
 - Governor Hochul will amend the Reproductive Health Act to affirm minors’ right to receive contraceptive services and confidentially receive reproductive health care services.
- **Expanding Access to Primary Care** – New York will increase Medicaid rates for providers participating in New York’s innovative primary care model (Patient-Centered Medical Homes). Second, to better integrate and coordinate mental health services with primary care, New York will increase support for Department of Health-licensed facilities and private practices treating mental health conditions. New York will also expand coverage for Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening to all adults enrolled in Medicaid.
- **Increasing the Affordability of New York State of Health Insurance Options** -- Governor Hochul will take steps to address these barriers through changes to the New York State of Health’s Essential Plan and Qualified Health Plans.

#1 New York will offer new health insurance premium subsidies to New Yorkers enrolled in Qualified Health Plans to ensure more people have access to affordable insurance coverage.

#2 New York will eliminate cost-sharing in both the Essential Plan and Qualified Health Plans for office visits, laboratory work and testing, pharmaceuticals, and other supplies and services to promote better management of chronic conditions such as Type 2 Diabetes.

#3 the Essential Plan will expand coverage of services to mitigate public health risks due to the escalating threat of climate change, providing coverage for the purchase, delivery, and installation of air conditioners for members for whom persistent asthma poses a significant medical risk.

#4 to ensure that Essential Plan and Qualified Health Plan members have access to the healthcare providers they need, the Department of Health and the Department of Financial Services will establish a workgroup to revisit and update provider network adequacy standards.

- **Appointing a Director of Patient Advocacy** – Department of Health will appoint a Director of Patient Advocacy (DPA). According to the State of the State book, “The DPA will work across programs to help streamline and simplify information and processes for patients. The DPA will also work to uphold New York’s Hospital Patients’ Bill of Rights, which guarantees all New Yorkers the right to transparency, autonomy, and respect at all levels of their care.”

X. Children and Family Focus

- **Expanding Summer Meals Program to Reduce Hunger** – For many families with children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals by opting into the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children (Summer EBT). 2024 State of the State 139 As a result, more than \$200 million in federal benefits will be provided to an estimated two million children in New York State
- **Providing More Intensive Support to Families in Need** – New York will provide funding to local departments of social services to support hiring staff to provide wrap-around services and case management. These staff may provide in-depth clinical assessments, crisis intervention, and make referrals to mental health providers or other appropriate services or treatment, as needed.
- **Supporting Anti-Poverty Efforts in Upstate Cities** – Governor Hochul will fund selected anti-poverty initiatives proposed by upstate cities in the coming fiscal year.
- **Providing Grants to Sustain Child Care Programs**
- **Creating Pilot Family Child Care Networks** – To expand business and operational support for family child care programs, staffed by a majority-women workforce, New York will pilot staffed Family Child Care Networks (FCCNs) in regions around the state, with a focus on supporting and growing the capacity of family and group family child care providers.
- **Expanding Early Childhood Mental Health Consultations**

XI. Reducing Gun Violence Through a Public Health Approach

- Governor Hochul will direct the Department of Health’s Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) to implement a comprehensive set of strategies aimed at preventing gun violence. New York State will convene a Health Systems for Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, charged with focusing on data infrastructure, firearm injury risk assessment screening, and hospital violence intervention strategies.
- The State will provide technical assistance to community-based organizations and hospitals across the state to align their hospital violence intervention programs with the recently signed Medicaid Reimbursement for Violence Prevention Programs legislation, which allows Medicaid beneficiaries impacted by community violence to receive violence prevention services from qualified community health workers.
- New York State will also continue building public awareness to change the narrative on gun violence to discourage perpetuating stereotypes based on race and class that exacerbate racial injustice and health inequity.
- Building upon Governor Hochul’s expansion of the Red Flag Law in June 2022 that allowed healthcare providers to file an Extreme Risk Protection Order petition to prevent individuals who show signs of being a threat to themselves or others from accessing any kind of firearm, New York State will offer training and awareness for healthcare providers.
- New York State will continue to invest in community- led youth programs in historically under-resourced communities that experience the highest rates of gun violence.
- New York State will create a syndromic surveillance system for firearm-related injuries and a dashboard for the public.

XII. Veterans

- **Develop Pocket Card for Providers Serving Veterans** – The Department of Veterans’ Services – in partnership with New York’s delegation to the national Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Military Families – will develop a “pocket card” containing information that medical professionals should know when working with a veteran patient. This card can

then be shared with medical professionals around the state to help improve interactions with and health outcomes for veteran patients in New York.

Resources

State of the State Book: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/2024-SOTS-Book-Online.pdf>

Governor's Press Release: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochuls-2024-state-state-our-new-york-our-future>