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For immediate release:

Hudson Valley Behavioral Health IPAs Merge

Two of the Hudson Valley's leading associations of behavioral health providers have announced they are merging. The resulting association will offer a rich array of behavioral health, substance use, case management and supportive services to residents throughout the region. Coordinated Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) and Comprehensive Care Network of the Hudson Valley (CCN) made the decision to merge following an assessment of their current networks and the fact that both organizations have deep community roots and are well known for offering innovative, patient centered care to those they serve. Together the members of CBHS and CCN now serve thousands of Hudson Valley residents.

This merger will enable the combined organization to continue their work in strongly supporting the full range of needs of those we serve. The providers in both organizations deliver high quality behavioral health and substance use services but their work does not end there. They also connect their patients with other community supports needed to achieve positive health outcomes. The merger also positions the two entities to pursue newly structured value based contracts with hospitals and managed care organizations. Value based contracts pay providers not based on the number of people they see but on the quality of the services they deliver.

Both CBHS and CCN are supported in part by a portion of the \$60 million in funding made available by the state's Office of Mental Health and Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. The combination will allow for a greater investment in infrastructure, including the development of a strong IT infrastructure,

When interviewed, leaders of both CBHS and CCN agreed that partnerships among behavioral health providers and between the specialty behavioral health community and the greater healthcare system were critical in delivering cost-effective quality care, and that adding value for primary care and hospital system providers will be essential to serving their community going forward.

CBHS Co-Chair Amy Anderson-Winchell, CEO of Access: Supports for Living, said about the merger: "We are thrilled to have CCN join us, and confident that together we will be able to improve the quality of care in the lower Hudson Valley, and offer our IPA, ACO and MCO partners an exceptionally robust network." Likewise, CCN Co-Chair Amy Gelles, CEO of The Guidance Center of Westchester, said that "We are looking forward to working with our new partners to develop new, integrated program models that help all of our agencies serve our community more effectively."

CBHS was made up of ten not-for-profit provider organizations, and one association (which is comprised of seven agencies) and covers seven counties. Shortly after the organization formed as a nonprofit in 2012, it established an Independent Practice Association (IPA). The IPA allowed CBHS to provide integrated care solutions for individuals with complex healthcare needs. Partnering allowed these organizations to improve quality outcomes while working with various other healthcare entities including, MCOs, FQHCs, and hospital systems. In addition, CBHS's BHCC has 47 affiliates, including the largest hospital, FQHC, and health home providers in the region.

CCN is a not-for-profit IPA comprised of thirteen behavioral health providers serving Medicaid beneficiaries in five counties in the Hudson River region. While their focus is primarily substance use services, CCN members also offer mental health services in Westchester and Rockland counties. CCN also partners with twenty-six health, housing, and prevention affiliates in an effort to provide social supports to its growing client base.