

CHAIRMAN
MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COMMITTEE MEMBER
CITIES
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES
AND COMMISSIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT February 24, 2015

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 815
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2024
FAX: (518) 426-6987

DISTRICT OFFICE:
175 WALNUT STREET, SUITE #6
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 434-0680
FAX: (716) 434-3297

Senator John A. DeFrancisco
Room 416 CAP
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Senator DeFrancisco,

The Western New York Delegation and I are very concerned about the proposed 2015-16 Executive Budget Office of Mental Health recommendations to decrease the number of State-operated psychiatric center inpatient beds by 137 in 2016. The proposal calls for the re-examination of the closure of the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center, and to relocate those beds to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, an adult facility. The Western New York Delegation and I strongly oppose this recommendation.

The children's psychiatric center was rated in the top 10 percent of hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission in the Nation in 2012, and treats seriously emotionally disturbed children between the ages of 4 and 18 from 19 counties across the State.

The Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center's current location in West Seneca is therapeutically designed for children and youth with severe emotional problems. Moving these youth patients to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center would be detrimental to their treatment. For their safety, the children and adolescents would be restricted to two floors of an 8-story institutional building housing adult psychiatric patients, including some Level 3 sex offenders. The proposal would also reduce the number of beds for youth patients from 46 to 36, even though there is currently a waiting list for treatment.

Children were moved out of adult psychiatric centers 50 years ago because it was found to not be beneficial or therapeutic to have youth patients, many of whom are victims of physical and sexual abuse, living among the adult patients.

I need to keep the best interest of these young patients in mind and keep the WNY Children's Psychiatric Center open. Should the plans move forward as stated in your executive budget proposal, the likelihood of these children being re-institutionalized would increase greatly and so would the costs to New York State. Therefore, we must continue to treat children and adults in all areas of mental health separately and differently.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Ortt". The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert G. Ortt
Senator 62nd District

CHAIRMAN
MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COMMITTEE MEMBER
CITIES
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES
AND COMMISSIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 815
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2024
FAX: (518) 426-6987
DISTRICT OFFICE:
175 WALNUT STREET, SUITE #6
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 434-0680
FAX: (716) 434-3297

February 24, 2015

Honorable Dean Skelos
Room 330 CAP
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Senator Skelos:

The Western New York Delegation and I are very concerned about the proposed 2015-16 Executive Budget Office of Mental Health recommendations to decrease the number of State-operated psychiatric center inpatient beds by 137 in 2016. The proposal calls for the re-examination of the closure of the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center, and to relocate those beds to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, an adult facility. The Western New York Delegation and I strongly oppose this recommendation.

The children's psychiatric center was rated in the top 10 percent of hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission in the Nation in 2012, and treats seriously emotionally disturbed children between the ages of 4 and 18 from 19 counties across the State.

The Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center's current location in West Seneca is therapeutically designed for children and youth with severe emotional problems. Moving these youth patients to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center will be detrimental to their treatment. For safety, children and adolescents would be restricted to two floors of an 8-story institutional building housing adult psychiatric patients, including some Level 3 sex offenders. The proposal would also reduce the number of beds for youth patients from 46 to 36, even though there is currently a waiting list for treatment.

Children were moved out of adult psychiatric centers 50 years ago because it was found to not be beneficial or therapeutic to have youth patients, many of whom are victims of physical and sexual abuse, living among the adult patients.

I need to keep the best interest of these young patients in mind and keep the WNY Children's Psychiatric Center open. Should the plans move forward as stated in your executive budget proposal, the likelihood of these children being re-institutionalized would increase greatly and so would the costs to New York State. Therefore, we must continue to treat children and adults in all areas of mental health separately and differently.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob-G. Ort". The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

Robert G. Ort
Senator 62nd District

CHAIRMAN
MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COMMITTEE MEMBER
CITIES
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES
AND COMMISSIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

February 24, 2015

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 815
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2024
FAX: (518) 426-6987

DISTRICT OFFICE:
175 WALNUT STREET, SUITE #6
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 434-0680
FAX: (716) 434-3297

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The Western New York Delegation and I are very concerned about the proposed 2015-16 Executive Budget Office of Mental Health recommendations to decrease the number of State-operated psychiatric center inpatient beds by 137 in 2016. The proposal calls for the re-examination of the closure of the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center, and to relocate those beds to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, an adult facility. The Western New York Delegation and I strongly oppose this recommendation.

The children's psychiatric center was rated in the top 10 percent of hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission in the Nation in 2012, and treats seriously emotionally disturbed children between the ages of 4 and 18 from 19 counties across the State.

The Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center's current location in West Seneca is therapeutically designed for children and youth with severe emotional problems. Moving these youth patients to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center would be detrimental to their treatment. For safety, children and adolescents will be restricted to two floors of an 8-story institutional building that houses adult psychiatric patients, including some Level 3 sex offenders. The proposal also reduces the number of beds for youth patients from 46 to 36, even though there is currently a waiting list for treatment.

Children were moved out of adult psychiatric centers 50 years ago because it was found to not be beneficial or therapeutic to have youth patients, many of whom are victims of physical and sexual abuse, living among the adult patients.

I need to keep the best interest of these young patients in mind and keep the WNY Children's Psychiatric Center open. Should the plans move forward as stated in your executive budget proposal, the likelihood of these children being re-institutionalized increases greatly and so do the costs to New York State. Therefore, we must continue to treat children and adults in all areas of mental health separately and differently.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert G. Ort'.

Robert G. Ort
Senator 62nd District

CHAIRMAN
MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COMMITTEE MEMBER
CITIES
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES
AND COMMISSIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

February 24, 2015

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 815
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2024
FAX: (518) 426-6987

DISTRICT OFFICE:
175 WALNUT STREET, SUITE #6
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 434-0680
FAX: (716) 434-3297

Dr. Ann Marie T. Sullivan
Commissioner of the Office of Mental Health
44 Holland Ave.
Albany, NY 12229

Dear Commissioner Sullivan,

The Western New York Delegation and I are very concerned about the proposed 2015-16 Executive Budget Office of Mental Health recommendations to decrease the number of State-operated psychiatric center inpatient beds by 137 in 2016. The proposal calls for the re-examination of the closure of the Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center, and to relocate those beds to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center, an adult facility. The Western New York Delegation and I strongly oppose this recommendation.

The children's psychiatric center was rated in the top 10 percent of hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission in the Nation in 2012, and treats seriously emotionally disturbed children between the ages of 4 and 18 from 19 counties across the State.

The Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center's current location in West Seneca is therapeutically designed for children and youth with severe emotional problems. Moving these youth patients to the Buffalo Psychiatric Center would be detrimental to their treatment. For safety, children and adolescents will be restricted to two floors of an 8-story institutional building housing adult psychiatric patients, including some Level 3 sex offenders. The proposal would also reduce the number of beds for youth patients from 46 to 36, even though there is currently a waiting list for treatment.

Children were moved out of adult psychiatric centers 50 years ago because it was found to not be beneficial or therapeutic to have youth patients, many of whom are victims of physical and sexual abuse, living among the adult patients.

We need to keep the best interest of these young patients in mind and keep the WNY Children's Psychiatric Center open. Should the plans move forward as stated in your executive budget proposal, the likelihood of these children being re-institutionalized would increase greatly and so would the costs to New York State. Therefore, we must continue to treat children and adults in all areas of mental health separately and differently.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Ort". The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert G. Ort
Senator 62nd District