

FROM THE DESK OF PAMELA MATTEL

A LETTER FROM CBC'S NEW PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear, CBC Network & Partners—

As New York continues to bounce back from the greatest health catastrophe of our lifetime, solving our mental health crisis will require fresh commitment to collaboration and alignment between providers, payors, employers and policymakers alike—and we certainly have a long road ahead. However, there are promising signals from national and state leadership. In December, the US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy [highlighted the urgent need to address the nation's youth mental health crisis](#). In January, Governor Kathy Hochul declared a \$10B plan to improve our health care systems, inclusive of a \$77M increase for community mental health. And President Joe Biden's State of the Union address laid out a vision for addressing the ailing American mental health care system. It was the first time I've heard any presidential administration make such a strong commitment to mental health and substance use disorder.

Coordinated Behavioral Care is at a moment in which individual and community drivers of health, equity and access are recognized as inextricably linked to whole health outcomes, in which New York State has communicated a commitment to fully integrating behavioral and social determinants of health care to the fabric of its Medicaid program and in which our workforce is recognized as essential to building more equitable and healthy communities. I know that CBC's success and impact is a result of everything we've done collectively. Being part of the CBC team requires vision, a pioneering spirit and mission-driven care. The CBC network will continue to lift its collective voice to promote whole-person care and deliver on the common goal of improved health, wellness and recovery. We will scale evidence-based solutions and advance innovation. We will skillfully navigate the present and create stronger organizations to meet future challenges. Characteristics—centered on “who we are,” “how we operate,” and “how we grow”—will unlock new and improved models that prioritize flexibility and speed, as well as connection, purpose and organizational culture. We will create meaningful change to save lives, advance economic prosperity and prioritize health for future generations.

We have a lot of exciting, life-changing work to do together. I look forward to jointly challenging assumptions about care, realizing and implementing models that reflect innovation and human-centered design thinking and supporting the workforce. Together, we can deliver on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's quadruple aim: greater quality, greater patient experience, greater financial models and greater joy in work.

Sincerely,
Pamela Mattel

