

## 2020 Advocacy Leadership Awards

### *Award for Organizational Achievement in Advocacy*



#### **ABOUT NJAMHAA**

The [New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. \(NJAMHAA\)](#) is a statewide trade association representing 144 organizations that serve New Jersey residents with mental illness and/or substance use disorders, and their families. They serve more than 500,000 children and adults each year and contribute to the economy through 61,000 direct and indirect jobs. NJAMHAA's mission is to promote the value of its members as the highest quality behavioral health care providers for the residents of New Jersey through advocacy and professional development.

#### **MAKING A MARK**

NJAMHAA has a strong base of expertise in-house and in its membership to bring issues to the public, legislature and/or administration, and has inordinate access to the state's leadership, including: Commissioners at the Departments of Health, Human Services and Children & Families; other Division leadership, including at Medicaid; the Governor's Office; and other key Administration officials. Here are a few examples of how they used these relationships to make a mark:

- *Medication-assisted Treatment:* Last fall, many NJAMHAA outpatient substance use treatment members were faced with cease-and-desist orders for providing new patients with MAT. New interpretations of regulations caused this tragic circumstance. NJAMHAA's persistence in making its case to the highest levels of the Department of Health was successful, resulting in three waivers being issued in March, which opened up access to MAT for clients.
- *Reimbursement Rates:* Most recently, NJAMHAA secured a higher reimbursement rate for long-term residential SUD treatment. This is the latest in a series of victories, including increased rates and other fixes to New Jersey's fee-for-service reimbursement system that increase provider sustainability and maintain access to care. Previous successes include an increased psychiatric evaluation rate and permissions for various combinations of same-day billing.

- *Advocacy during COVID-19:* NJAMHAA’s advocacy led to several big “wins,” beginning with emergency funding from the New Jersey Department of Human Services; legislation for expanded telehealth; and subsequent guidance reducing partial care/partial hospitalization service requirements to simply “meet the needs of clients” versus required one-hour sessions – all directly impacting access to care.

*Thank you, NJAMHAA, for making a difference in and beyond your community. And a special thanks to our generous sponsor, [Sunovion Pharmaceuticals](#), for their ongoing support.*