

Watertown Daily Times

Letters to the Editor

Friday, April 20, 2018

State has prioritized children's mental health

The recently enacted state budget is a statement of our values.

Where you put your money clearly defines what is important.

The fiscal year 2018-19 budget represented good investments and values by the state Legislature and Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

In spite of a serious budget deficit and unclear actions and impacts by the federal government, the final agreement responds to the mental health needs of children and their families in an innovative, efficient, fair and responsible way.

We are very pleased that the state Senate, Assembly and governor listened and recognized the importance of children's mental health services in the community and schools by adding funding for the state Medicaid Redesign Team's Children's Mental Health transformation programs and the provision of funding, for a first in the country School Mental Health Resource and Training Center.

These community and school-based investments will allow local providers, schools and government agencies to better address and meet critical children's mental health treatment needs and also continue our work to raising visibility of the new mental health in school's legislation.

Recent events in Florida further highlighted the need for effective intervention, stigma reduction and early identification.

Thank you to our elected officials for listening and investing scarce resources in children and families.

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