



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Susan Serino

STATE LEADERS COME TOGETHER TO TOUR STABILIZATION CENTER THEY HELPED FUND

SUSAN SERINO November 3, 2016

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POUGHKEEPSIE, NY—Senator Sue Serino and Assemblymember Didi Barrett joined Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro for a tour of the county’s new Stabilization Center being built in large part with nearly \$5 million in funds delivered by the two state leaders. The Stabilization Center aims to set the standard for quality mental health care by better serving community members in crisis, with substance abuse problems or other co-occurring issues.

The Hudson Valley has experienced multiple mental health facility closures over the past several years and Dutchess County has felt the pressure. By delivering these funds directly to the county, Senator Serino and Assemblymember Barrett are helping to ease the tax burden on local tax payers, while ensuring that some of the most vulnerable members of our community are receiving the services they need.

“As someone who has experienced first-hand the kind of tragedy that can strike when mental health help is no longer available to those who need it, I am encouraged by our local community’s commitment to improving these critical services,” said Senator Sue who lost her brother to suicide six years ago. “I am confident that the Stabilization Center will not only save lives, but foster a better understanding of mental health issues by empowering professionals in various fields, including law enforcement, educators and others, with the knowledge they need to better serve our community. I am incredibly proud to play such a direct role in making this Stabilization Center a reality.”

“The development of this crisis stabilization center is an important step in the community’s commitment to focusing much needed attention on mental and behavioral health issues,” said Assemblymember Didi Barrett. “We know that throwing individuals with substance abuse or mental health disorders in jail is not the answer. This innovative new center will offer a safe and welcoming place for those in crisis and the resources to help them on the road to recovery.”

Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro said, “Senator Serino and Assemblymember Barrett are helping us reshape mental health services by focusing on prevention, intervention and diversion. Our Stabilization Center will help those living with mental health illness and addressing issues of addiction get the help they need. Their help is making a difference and will help save lives - we are grateful to them and look forward to opening the Dutchess County Stabilization Center early next year.”

The Stabilization Center will function as a 24/7 voluntary walk-in facility and will be home to various nonprofit organizations that will help provide unique services for individuals of all ages and families struggling with emotional distress, conflict, substance abuse, depression and other co-occurring issues. The innovative center has the potential to serve as a model for improving mental health services throughout the state and well beyond.

