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**Testimony of  
Greg Olsen, Acting Director  
New York State Office for the Aging**



**Joint Legislative Budget Hearing  
Conducted By  
Senate Finance Committee  
Assembly Ways & Means Committee**

**Monday, February 13, 2012  
Hearing Room B  
Legislative Office Building  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York**

Good morning Senator DeFrancisco, Assemblyman Farrell, distinguished members of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committees, Assemblymember Millman and Senator Valesky. My name is Greg Olsen and I am the Acting Director of the New York State Office for the Aging.

Governor Cuomo's second Executive Budget expands on the historic reforms enacted last year to continue building a *new* New York. As a result of the tough decisions and bipartisan cooperation of the past year, the State is able to close the current deficit without broad cuts, new taxes, fees or gimmicks. At the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), we are restructuring the way in which services are delivered so that they are person-centered and responsive to the needs of those we serve. The agency has developed new partnerships, and continues to strengthen existing partnerships within the community that serves and advocates for older adults, and I will continue to look to our diverse partners to help us carry out our core mission and achieve the goals established by the Governor.

The New York State Office for the Aging promotes and administers programs and services for the 3.7 million New Yorkers who are 60 years of age and older. NYSOFA's core mission is to help older adults remain independent for as long as possible through advocacy, the development and delivery of person-centered, consumer-oriented, and cost-effective policies, programs and services. In carrying out this mission, NYSOFA provides leadership and direction to 59 county based Area Agencies on Aging, and to a network of public and private organizations which serve and help empower older adults and their families.

Governor Cuomo's 2012-13 Executive Budget continues its commitment to our core programs and services, assuring that those we serve continue to receive cost-effective, high quality services that support their independence. As such, the Executive Budget preserves funding for key programs including the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), which provides non-medical in-home services, case management, respite and ancillary services to frail older adults, most of whom are low-income but not eligible for Medicaid; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is used primarily for home delivered meals to frail older adults who are unable to prepare meals for themselves; the Community Services for the Elderly Program (CSE), which is designed to improve the ability of communities to assist older adults who need help in order to remain in their homes and to participate in family and community life, and NY Connects: *Choices for Long Term Care*, a statewide, locally based no wrong door/point of entry system that provides one stop access to free, objective and comprehensive Information and Assistance (I&A) on long term care.

The Governor has also charged us, as he has his other agencies, to find smarter, more efficient ways to deliver our services, leverage other resources and facilitate partnerships to further our goals. We have, through a variety of strategic partnerships and with our county area agency on aging and other partners accomplished a lot in 2011 including:

- Training over 3,760 individuals with multiple chronic conditions at 387 sites throughout New York on how to manage their multiple chronic conditions saving almost \$3 million in health care costs. We also trained 88 Master Trainers, increasing our statewide capacity.