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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

## ***Updated Statement on Mayor Adams' Plan to Address New York City's Mental Health Crisis***

**(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society** released the following updated statement on Mayor Eric Adams' plan to address New York City's mental health crisis:

“Earlier this week, we issued a statement that did not adequately convey our outrage at the Mayor’s plan to address the local mental health crisis.

“Let us be abundantly clear now: forcibly removing and involuntarily condemning anyone to a hospital is not only illegal, but immoral and another form of incarceration.

“As the citywide defender organization serving vulnerable New Yorkers, we unequivocally reject the Mayor’s plan and his continued insistence on using law enforcement to intervene in incidents that require compassionate medical care. The Mayor’s plan criminalizes mental health.

“Investing in communities, prioritizing supportive housing and advancing needed statewide measures that provide alternatives to incarceration is the path forward, and the Mayor’s plan will only perpetuate a vicious cycle resulting in more suffering.

“We call on City Hall to rescind this plan, and work with us on common sense, forward-thinking measures to secure our clients the outcomes that they need and deserve.”

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*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. [www.legalaidnyc.org](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*