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

Legal Aid Statement on Medicaid Home Care Transition

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society responded to Governor Hochul’s flawed handling of the transition of New York’s Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) – a New York State Medicaid program that allows Medicaid members who are eligible for home care services to choose and hire their own personal caregiver – to a single statewide fiscal intermediary, the private equity-backed firm Public Partnerships, LLC:

“The Legal Aid Society is alarmed at the haphazard implementation of the transition to a statewide fiscal intermediary for the CDPAP program. This program sustains consumers’ lives in their communities and pays critical wages to the personal assistants whose work is essential to the consumers’ well-being.

“Legal Aid represents both consumers of these services and the workers who provide them – 88 percent of these workers are women and over half of them are people of color. Both consumers and personal assistants are threatened by the precipitous cut-off of support from their fiscal intermediaries without the state ensuring the substitution of services from PPL and with the state only offering retroactive pay to some personal assistants sometime in the future, a violation of the Labor Law.

“We are especially alarmed at the lack of language access in the enrollment process, where many consumers and workers face language barriers when navigating the process. We call on the Governor to delay implementation until it can be done in a way that guarantees no interruption of service or pay.”

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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 nearly 150 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