

## **The 2025 Trailblazers in Health Care: Jessica Fear**



***New York's notable policymakers, providers and practitioners in the medical field***

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What makes a person healthy? There are countless factors at play: How easily can one access quality medical care? Are treatments available and affordable? How robust is the public health system? Then there are societal factors like poverty, homelessness and the cost of living; private sector trends, like the adoption of telehealth and improved coordination of care; and statutes and regulations set by public officials.

Despite political and policy disagreements – over issues like safety net benefits, rising patient costs and vaccine mandates – there's unanimous support behind the goal of making New York a healthier place. This list features advocates and innovators, executives and entrepreneurs, experts and analysts and a wide range of medical professionals who are committed to improving the health of New Yorkers. City & State's inaugural Trailblazers in Health Care puts a spotlight on scores of exceptional individuals who are improving patient outcomes in New York and beyond. (This list replaces the Health Care Power 100, which will return in 2026.) We're pleased to present the Trailblazers in Health Care.

### ***Jessica Fear- Senior Vice President, Behavioral Health, VNS Health***

Jessica Fear has spent almost 30 years delivering comprehensive behavioral health services at the community level. At VNS Health, she oversees more than 20 behavioral health programs, a 500-member team and a budget of \$50 million that provide comprehensive care to New Yorkers. Among Fear's innovative initiatives include a community-based behavioral health center in the South Bronx, programs to address bereavement and suicide prevention for adolescents as well as addressing care for patients with complex cases.

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