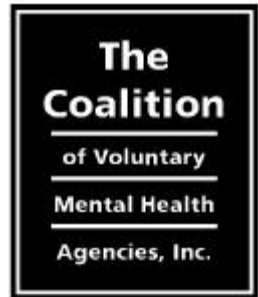


# Briefs Coalition

January 16, 1998



A SEMI-MONTHLY UPDATE ON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

## Lobby Day

The Coalition's 1998 Annual Lobby Day will be held on February 10. This year, for the first time, we will be joining forces with the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. Members and agency consumers and staff will make the annual trek to Albany for visits with legislators and key legislative staff. Mental Health policy issues and budget concerns will be the focus of the effort. Members who are interested in making the trip should contact Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555 or [jfrubin@cvmha.org](mailto:jfrubin@cvmha.org).

## For(um) Clubhouses

*Accreditation and Credentialing for Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Self-Help Practitioners and Agencies* is the subject of a January 27 forum co-sponsored by The Coalition and held at The Postgraduate Center for Mental Health. The forum whose lead sponsors are the International Center for Clubhouse Development and the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Inc. will kick off at 10:00 a.m. Events for the day are free and include lunch. For further information contact Ray Schwartz at (718) 658-7201.

## Councilman Berman Champions Coalition Agencies

Thanks to Finance Chair Herbert Berman, the second ranking member of the City Council, The Coalition has received significant funding for a largely expanded technical assistance project. The grant will enable us to reach more agencies and provide more in depth managed care readiness training to program participants. Members should watch their mail for a program description.

## Lisa Parrish Promoted

Lisa Parrish, former Deputy Director of Health, Welfare and Intergovernmental programs at the Office of Management and Budget has been appointed Chief of Staff to Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro, who is widely expected to become the First Deputy Mayor in the final term of the Giuliani administration. In her former position, Lisa had oversight over the budget of the Department of Mental Health.

No announcement of her successor at OMB has been announced.

## NYCDMHRAS and DOH to be Merged

Mayor Giuliani announced on Wednesday afternoon in his State of the City address the merger of the New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services and the Department of Health into a new public health agency. Dr. Neal Cohen, the current NYCDMHRAS Commissioner, will become the first Commissioner of the vastly expanded agency. With responsibility for Medicaid managed care, the Mayor's new anti violence programs and expanded City funding of substance abuse, the public health agency will have the potential to expand its programs in preventive health, wellness and behavioral health as well as to explore opportunities for integration of services, according to public officials.

It appears that the City Council must approve enacting legislation for the new agency as well as any budget implications that may be presented in the administration's January Plan.

January 19	Martin Luther King Day - Coalition Closed
January 21	Workshop on Retirement Planning at The Institute for Community Living
January 27	Managed Care Technical Assistance Seminar at NYANA <i>Accreditation and Credentialing for Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Self-Help Practitioners and Agencies</i> at PCMH
January 29	Membership Meeting at Puerto Rican Family Institute
February 4	Task Force on Children and Families
February 6	<i>Expanding Child Health Insurance in New York State</i>
February 10	Albany Lobby Day
February 12	Finance Committee Board of Directors

# Coalition Briefs

## SUNY Stony Brook to Train Parolee Providers

State Office of Mental Health Bureau of Forensic Services and the Provider Advisory Committee recently selected SUNY Stony Brook as the contractor to develop training for providing mental health services to parolees with psychiatric disabilities. Over the next few months, SOMH will develop training content and pilot training curriculum. Completion and delivery of training products is projected for June 1998. Questions should be addressed to Terry McCormick, New York State Office of Mental Health Bureau of Forensic Services at

## Help for non-English Speakers

On January 7, 1998 an amendment of NYCRR Part 527 became effective. The amendment establishes standards that ensure access to mental health services for non-English speaking persons. A copy of the amendment is available by contacting Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555 or [jfrubin@cvmha.org](mailto:jfrubin@cvmha.org).

## Picnic for Parity

The annual Picnic for Parity has been scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1998 in New York City's Central Park. The picnic, which is in its fifth year, is a large gathering of mental health consumers and professionals. Mark the date on your calendar and watch this space for more information. □

## City Budget Modification

The City Council modified the mid-year budget in December. It included Food Stamp benefits for immigrants and disabled persons. Over \$26 million in funding was provided to cover the elderly and disabled who lost benefits due to recent federal welfare legislation. DMH received nearly \$1.5 million, part of the Mayor's drug initiative, for a support center at Cumberland Hospital for high-end female drug users. □

## — Help Wanted —

Progressive innovative Rockaway based family services Preventive program seeks a MSW case planning supervisor, Spanish speaking helpful, familiar with ACS, computer literate, experienced and well organized. Comprehensive health/benefit plan, competitive salary. Resumes with cover letter to : Joan Bennett, **The Center for Children and Families**, 1931 Mott Avenue, Rockaway, NY 11691 Fax 718-337-2750 EOE, AA □

## Expanding Child Health Insurance in New York State

**A forum for providers of children's mental health services and parent and youth advocates**

Co-Sponsored by:

Citizen's Committee for Children of New York  
The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies  
Mental Health Association of New York City, Inc.

**Friday, February 6, 1998**

**1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**105 East 22nd Street, Fourth floor  
Manhattan**

### Learn About:

- ♦ What is Child Health Plus?  
Who qualifies for it?  
Are mental health benefits covered?
- ♦ How will New York State spend the new Federal funding for children's health insurance?
- ♦ What can we do to ensure that children with emotional disturbances are covered?

R.S.V.P. (212) 673-1800 ext. 10