

Coalition Briefs

March 13, 1998

The
Coalition
of Voluntary
Mental Health
Agencies, Inc.



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

COLA - Depends on You!

The statewide COLA/trended increase campaign of human services workers continues its steady march. Thousands of human services workers and their allies mailed over 100,000 postcards with the message "For all the years of service...they deserve more!" to the Assembly members and Senators, as well as the Governor. Furthermore, a full-page ad with the same message appeared in the Albany Legislative Gazette this week and will run again on March 23. Watch for future Action Alerts! □

Albany budget battles

The Assembly one-house budget bill may be ready for a vote sometime next week, and the Senate sometime thereafter. We continue our work to include a COLA/trended increase in the Assembly budget bill. Thanks to Speaker Sheldon Silver for his continued support is crucial to ensure inclusion of a COLA/trended increase. Speaker Silver can be reached by phone at (518) 455-3791 or by email at <speaker@assembly.state.ny.us>. □

Mergers and money

The City Council Health Committee, under the auspices of the new Chair and Majority Whip Victor Robles, completed its preliminary budget hearings on Friday, March 6. Proposed funding for mental health services in the DMH budget is flat compared to last year's adopted budget. Dr. Neal Cohen testified as acting Commissioner for the Department of Health (DOH) and returned later in the afternoon as Commissioner for the Department of Mental Health.

Councilman Robles, before addressing budget matters, read letters into the record from Barbara DeBuono, State Commissioner of Health, and James Stone, Chair of the State Inter-Office Coordinating Committee (IOCC) of the State Department of Mental Hygiene. The DeBuono letter approved Dr. Cohen's appointment as City Commissioner of Health. The Stone letter approved a waiver of the requirement that the Director of Community Services (New York City Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services) be full-time. The IOCC approved the request so that Dr. Cohen may also assume responsibilities as the new Commissioner of Health pending the establishment of a new merged department. The IOCC suggested a structure for the mental hygiene sector of the new department that paralleled the Coalition position on the merger. □

Free stuff!

The Coalition is feeling a little bit of a space crunch. What's bad news for us though is good news for one of our member agencies. We have a beautiful Audio Visual Stand that we can no longer provide a good home for. It is black, 29" deep by 33" wide by 44" high and incorporates a surge protector strip. It is available for the first member agency that can pick it up. □

Kay S. Coltoff 1936-1998

The Coalition joins with New York City's academic, social work and breast cancer support communities to mourn the passing of Kay S. Coltoff. Mrs. Coltoff was a development counselor at Hunter College School of Social Work and had served on the faculty at Adelphi University School of Social Work. Prior to her career in the academy Mrs. Coltoff worked in mental health institutions, residential treatment programs for youth and community centers.

In the early 1980s, recovering from surgery for the breast cancer that would eventually take her life, she began to create a network of what would come to be known as breast cancer support groups throughout the region.

Mrs. Coltoff is survived by her husband Philip Coltoff, Executive Director of the Coalition member **Children's Aid Society**, a son, a daughter, two stepsons and a grandson.

Memorial contributions can be made to the **Children's Aid Society**, 105 E. 22nd Street, NYC 10010, or to Hunter College School of Social Work Scholarship Fund, 129 E. 79th Street, NYC 10021. □

**Hon. Herbert
Berman**
will receive
the Mental Health Award
at the
**14th Annual
Mental Health Awards
Ceremony on
June 4, 1998**
Don't miss it...

Coalition Briefs

— Help Wanted —

SOCIAL WORKER: CSW preferred but will accept Master's Degree in related field. At least one year counseling experience working with adults who are Deaf and Deaf-Blind in a social services, residential or mental health setting. Responsibilities include providing individual, group therapy, and case management services. Fluency in American Sign Language required. Excellent Benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. EOE. ▣

TANYA TOWERS COMMUNITY RESIDENCE PROGRAM SUPERVISOR: MA preferred but will accept BA in human services with two years experience in a mental health setting. Knowledge of the Office of Mental Health/Community Residence regulations. One year of supervisory experience. Knowledge of problem solving, crisis intervention, chemical dependency, DSIM IV, service planning, entitlements, A.D.A. regulations, advocacy, case management, independent living skills, and deaf culture. Position will provide direct supervision to staff working in a community residence for deaf students, maintain an individual case load; assure compliance with State and Federal regulations to ensure that all consumer's charts and related documentation are maintained. Fluency in American Sign Language required. Excellent Benefits. Salary Commensurate with experience. EOE. ▣

DIRECTOR OF JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES: MA in Business and/or Human Services preferred, but will accept BA with 3-5 years experience working with adults who are Deaf or Deaf-Blind. Responsibilities include but are not limited to supervision and training of departmental staff in the areas of job development, consumer job training, follow along services and job coaching. Manage all corporate relationships, actively recruit new business relationships and maintain relationships with Vocational Educational Services for individuals with Disabilities (V.E.S.I.D). Fluency in American Sign Lan-

guage required. Excellent Benefits. Salary Commensurate with experience. EOE. ▣

CASE MANAGERS: MA preferred but will accept BA in human services field. Candidate should have at least one year experience and possess expertise or knowledge in providing case management services to adults who are Deaf/Deaf Blind, HIV+ or living with AIDS, Substance Abuse, Developmentally Disabled and/or Mentally ill. Duties include but are not limited to: conducting Deafness Orientation workshops and in-service training, coordinating services, providing advocacy services, participating in service planning, documenting progress notes, networking with various community and advocacy organizations. Fluency in American Sign Language required. Excellent Benefits. Salary Commensurate with experience. EOE. ▣

IRA RESIDENCE COUNSELOR: BA degree in human services preferred, but will consider High School Diploma. Certification in First Aid, CPR and AMAP a plus. Residence Counselor will provide direct service to program participants in an OM-RDD certified residence. Duties include but are not limited to: instruction in daily living skills, administering and monitoring medication, recreation activities, escorting to medical and other appointments, participating in case planning and charting/documentation. Full time, part time and per diem available. Fluency in American Sign Language required. Excellent Benefits. Salary Commensurate with experience. EOE. ▣

RECEPTIONIST: At least one year experience in answering tty/telephones. Good communication skills required. This position requires an ability to respond confidentially to deaf, deaf-blind and hearing visitors who arrive for appointments and maintain organized records of those visits. Fluency in American Sign Language required. Excellent Benefits. Salary Commensurate with experience. EOE. ▣

TEACHER: MA preferred, but will consider BA. Minimum of one year teaching experience. Knowledge of I.E.P.'s, and teaching methods. Responsibilities: Conduct daily classroom assignments for Deaf/Deaf Blind adults ranging in a variety of academic levels which include English, Mathematics, ASL sign classes, drib living activities. Fluency in American Sign Language required. Excellent Benefits. Salary Commensurate with experience. EOE. ▣

STAFF INTERPRETER: Provide sign language interpreting related to rehabilitation/social services. Full-time, challenging position interpreting in a wide variety of settings in the community and in house. The primary function is to facilitate communication between persons who are deaf/deaf-blind and hearing NYSD staff or other persons. The position has a high level of accountability for dealing with confidential information and sensitive issues. Certification by the Registry of interpreters for the Deaf and two years of college course work or Associate of Arts, Bachelor's preferred. Interpreters must have strong interpersonal skills. Excellent Benefits. Salary Commensurate with experience. EOE. ▣

For all above positions send resume to:

New York Society for the Deaf

Attn: Personnel Dept.

817 Bwy - 7th Floor, NYC 10003.

Upcoming Dates

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| March 19 | SOMH Adult SNP Technical Assistance Day |
| March 20 | Insuring a Healthy Start for Children with Special Needs: A Working Conference on the State Child Health Insurance Program at Fordham University School of Law |
| March 24 | Managed Care Technical Assistance Program at NYANA |
| March 26 | Membership meeting
Children's Mental Health Alliance |
| April 9 | Board of Directors
Finance Committee |
| June 4 | 14th Annual Mental Health Awards |