

Coalition Briefs

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



State budget on a rapid slide to completion: COLA/trend is in

State legislators from both houses are working furiously to complete the budget--by mid-next week, according to some speculation. Mental Hygiene Sub-conferrees have met publicly and reported their work to the general Budget Conference Committee. While language has yet to be published, bills have yet to be passed and all results are subject to final negotiation, here is what is being presented to the full committee:

Mental Health is slated to receive \$24,170,500, a full 44% of the mental

hygiene spending of \$55 million.

Millions:

\$8.88	COLA/trend
\$5.7	Adult Residential
\$0.5	Employment slots
\$2.0	Home and Community Based Waivers
\$0.7	Children's Residential
\$0.646	Family Support
\$0.25	Children's Rural
\$0.6	State Staffing
\$1.0	Shared Services Initiative
\$1.66	Community Programming/ local initiatives
\$0.3	Southern Tier
\$0.35	HAI
\$0.65	Research

The Conference Subcommittee plans to seek \$6 million in additional cash (2.8 for MR/DD and mental health; 2.2 for OASAS; 1 Other) and \$40 million in bonding authority. Speculation is rife (and hope is alive!) that a new attempt is

Bruce Bender moves up

Bruce Bender is City Council Speaker Peter Vallone's new Chief of Staff. He replaces Kevin McCabe who has gone to work on the Councilman's gubernatorial campaign. Mr. Bender has served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Councilman Vallone and was previously Chief of Staff for Councilman Herbert Berman. □

William Charet
will be posthumously
awarded the First
Coalition Founders Award
at the 14th Annual
Mental Health Awards
on June 4, 1998
Don't miss it!

COLA Rally is huge success

On Monday March 30 over 1,200 Human Services workers from all over New York State descended upon Albany to show the flag for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) they have long been denied. The day began in the Legislative Office Building where posters were handed out, logistics were planned and rally participants practiced chants for the afternoon's rally. After a sun-drenched lunch in East Rock Park the crowd moved to the steps of the Capitol.

The scene was inspiring as demonstrators overflowed the Capitol steps and surrounded the statue at their base. Waving signs and chanting "C-O-L-A Give our workers better pay," the energy level was very high. Speakers from the dozen human services coalitions from around the state brought cheers from the exuberant crowd.

After the rally we split up into smaller groups to pay visits to some legislators.

It seems that the day's efforts were not in vain. Early word from Albany is encouraging. Keep an eye on this space for more information. □

cvmha.org awarded 4 stars

We are very pleased to announce that **cvmha.org** has received the HealthAtoZ four star award. HealthAtoZ <www.healthatoz.com> is an Internet search engine specifically for medical and health-related sites. Sites are catalogued by medical professionals who categorize and then rank them based on scores in four categories: content, ease of use, layout and level of appeal. Our website received 33 of a possible 50 points, earning us four out of a possible five stars. This is the first of what we hope will be many awards **cvmha.org**

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Re-authorize Homeless Services

The legislation creating the New York City Department of Homeless Services is sunseting on June 30, 1998. The Coalition is working to ensure that the Department remains a permanent part of the city's human services landscape. □

Yet more merger matters

Legislation creating the new NYC Department of Public Health - merging DOH and DMHMR&AS - has been introduced to the City Council and assigned to the Committee on Government Operations, chaired by Councilwoman Mary Pinkett (D-Bklyn). Though the committee has two hearings scheduled in April, the bill (Int. 266) has not yet been added to the agenda of either hearing.

The bill names the merged department the Department of Public Health, not Department of Public Health, Behavioral Health and Disabilities Services, the designation preferred by The Coalition. The legislation creates a division of mental hygiene services consistent with Mental Hygiene Law requirements for a local governmental unit. Heading this division will be a deputy commissioner who will have the powers of a director of community services. A mental hygiene advisory board will serve as a community services board, advising the commissioner and the deputy commissioner, and will have subcommittees for mental health, mental retardation/developmental disabilities, and alcoholism and substance abuse. □

Surles leaves Merit

Richard Surles has resigned his post at Merit Behavioral Care. Mr. Surles will be starting a consulting agency in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. We wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors. □

The Coalition bids a fond farewell to Senior Policy Analyst James Murray. His wit, his wisdom and his budget analyses will be sorely missed. Good Luck Jim!

— Help Wanted —

Coordinator of County Services: Exciting opportunity to work with multidisciplinary child abuse intervention teams and child advocacy centers throughout New York State. **The Child Advocacy Resource Consultation Center** (CARCC) is seeking a motivated professional to provide consultation and technical assistance to child abuse intervention teams, coordinate training opportunities, and assist the Program Director with numerous projects. Masters degree preferred. Resumes and cover letters should be sent to: Program Director, New York State Child Advocacy Resource and Consultation Center, 30 Main Street, First Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201. □

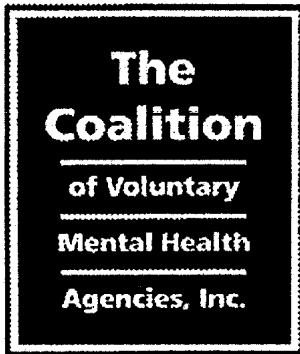
Assistant Clinical Director - **League School**: working in a Day treatment setting with children 5-21. CSW, PHD, PSYD, 2-4 years' administration experience in a clinical setting. Responsibilities include program administration, supervision and small caseload, salary commensurate with experience. Contact Aubrey Reese (718) 498-2500. □

William F. Ryan Community Health Center a progressive comprehensive multi-site ambulatory health care center seeks an Assistant to the Mental Health Director to assist in the coordination of a busy Mental Health Department including: staff supervision, QI activities, coordination of intakes and performance outcomes, preparing statistical reports. Supervisory experience, BSW or BA in related field required, MSW or MA preferred. Excellent written/oral communications skills and computer literacy required. Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred. Resumes with cover letter to: Fern Lynn Fleckman, William F. Ryan Community Health Center, 110 West 97th Street, NYC 10025 or fax: 212-678-0005. □

Social Worker (CSW): Great opportunity - intense but rewarding! Work as an advocate/crisis counselor with detectives, ACS caseworkers and ADA's on a multidisciplinary team investigating cases of child sex abuse at new child-friendly center. Exciting, innovative program of **Victim Services**. Experience with trauma/children and/or rape crisis program. Bilingual English/Spanish a plus. Sun-Th or Tues-Sat schedule. Salary low to mid 30's. Resume and cover letter to Deputy Director, Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center, 30 Main Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or fax 718-260-6083. EOE. □

Upcoming Dates

April 9	Special Membership Meeting with Commissioner Neal Cohen
	Board of Directors
	Finance Committee
April 17	Passover - Coalition closed
April 21	Task Force on Children and Families at CCC
	Children's Mental Health Alliance at CCC
April 22	Reinvestment Year 5 Public Hearings - Bronx
April 23	Membership Meeting
April 28	Managed Care Technical Assistance at NYANA
	Reinvestment Year 5 Public Hearings - Manhattan
May 17	Mental Health Parity Picnic and Parade
June 4	14th Annual Mental Health Awards



The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies, Inc.

Position Openings

As New York City's largest membership organization serving community-based mental health providers, The Coalition is seeking to fill several key support positions.

Office Manager/Assistant to the Executive Director: FT, Provide primary support services including scheduling, correspondence, purchasing, delivery and inventory, office list and database management. Must have strong communication and analytic skills, be well organized and computer literate. BA preferred.

Bookkeeper: PT, 2-2.5 days a week, Accounts payable, accounts receivable, billing, reports. Must be able to manage numerous grants in addition to payroll and office account maintenance.

Clerk: FT, Filing, Database maintenance, coordinate major mailings, answer phones, general office support, meeting setup, light typing. Must be organized and personable.

Resumes specifying desired position to:

Human Resources Director

The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies

120 West 57 Street #1014

New York, NY 10019

or fax to 212-586-4555.

**Women, people of color, people with disabilities and other minorities
are encouraged to apply.**