



Coalition Briefs

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

Positive trends

The Coalition was once again fortunate to join with the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare for our annual Lobby Day. It was a very exciting and promising trip to Albany. During our visit we learned some important information that will help shape our budget lobbying strategy. Most importantly, we learned that there is some support for a trended increase to help community-based providers keep pace with inflation and that the COLA we received last year (flawed though it may have been) was a direct result of the intensive campaign that we mounted. Every one with whom we spoke indicated that the flood of calls, faxes, letters and visitors was the key to getting the allocation from the legislature last year. The only hope to get a trended rate increase this year is if we can mount a grass-roots campaign similar to last year's. Furthermore, if we ever hope to see a regularized trended increase we must ensure that the legislature knows we are not going away.

Many of you have already received our Action Alerts asking for your help in letting the legislature know how important this issue is to us. Keep up the pressure and we may have good news again this year. ▣

Involuntary Outpatient Treatment Forum

Hold the Date! The Coalition is sponsoring a Forum on Involuntary Outpatient Treatment - Issues and Solutions, on Friday, April 9, 1999, from 1 to 3:30 PM, at F.E.G.S., 315 Hudson Street. We will provide the particulars about this very topical Forum in our next issue of Briefs. ▣

Assembly resolution includes inflation adjustment

The New York State legislature has adopted a new budget negotiating method for this year. Instead of creating single-house budget bills, both houses are publishing budget resolutions. The resolutions will serve as the beginning point for negotiations with the other house and the executive branch. The inclusion of an inflation adjustment in the resolution is a positive sign that the legislators have heard our requests. On the other hand, exclusion from the budget resolution is not necessarily a bad sign as both houses are keeping some 'aces in the hole.' The Assembly budget resolution includes a total addition to the Governor's proposed budget of \$34,925,500. Nearly four million dollars of that is for the State operations general fund. The other nearly \$31 million would increase the aid to localities budget. Highlights of the Assembly resolution includes:

- \$15,000,000 for a 2% inflation pacing adjustment for mental health service providers.

- \$4,000,000 for wrap-around services for seriously emotionally disturbed children and adolescents.

- \$4,200,000 to restore the Governor's cuts to shared staff.

- \$3,000,000 for supportive housing to add to the \$5,700,000 allocated in FY99 for New York/New York II.

- \$900,000 for 410 new supported employment slots.

- \$5,000,000 for assistance to safety-net providers to transition to a managed care environment. (would be \$20,000,000 with Federal match).

- \$2 per visit COPS rate increase.

- \$3,125,000 to restore the Governor's cuts to psychiatric research and residencies.

- \$1,500,000 for involuntary outpatient commitment demonstration projects.

The Coalition believes that the Assembly's resolution represents a good starting point for negotiations. We are pleased to see two of our top budget requests addressed, although the inflation adjustment is smaller than we would like to see, as is the money allocated for children's services. We hope that funding for people with co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders will emerge during the negotiating process. ▣

Important legislation moving

Three bills that would do something that we have been advocating for quite some time have passed the Assembly Mental Health Committee and have been referred to the Ways and Means Committee. A6781 would increase the number of mental health special needs plans authorized to be established from six to seven. The seventh SNP would in all likelihood go to New York City. A5768 would provide a

rate adjustment for the non-contract agencies that do not receive COPS supplements and were left out of last year's COLA. A5949 would require the State to Reinvest in community mental health the monies earned from selling the property of State psychiatric hospitals.

The Coalition is actively working to move all three of these bills along. We will keep you posted. ▣

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MICA roundtable with OMH and OASAS

On Wednesday, March 24th mental health and chemical dependency providers will meet in Albany to discuss the future of the delivery system for people with co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders with representatives of the State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

Commissioners Stone (OMH) and Miller (OASAS) will present the current New York Framework and the OMH/

Children's Mental Health Week

May 2-9, 1999 has been designated as Children's Mental Health Week, with the theme: "Mental Health Matters ... All Year Long." In addition, the entire month of May is designated as Children's Mental Health Month. Citywide activities are being planned and sponsored by the Children's Chairpersons' Committee and special borough activities are being sponsored by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Committees in each borough. If you are planning an event or need further information, contact your borough Committee or call Marilyn Kneeland at The Coalition.

May 4, 1999 has also been specifically designated as Children's Depression Awareness Screening Day. If your agency is interested in participating, contact Dr. C.C. Claus at 718-299-2771. □

Managed Care Information Needed

To Coalition members: If your agency is currently providing direct service to managed care consumers either through a phone line or through walk-in services, please contact Marilyn Kneeland at The Coalition *immediately* at (212) 586-4555x14. □

**Happy Easter and
Happy Passover**

OASAS Draft Memorandum of Understanding in the morning. The afternoon will be devoted to panel discussion with provider representatives and OASAS and OMH staff. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers and lunch will be served. The cost of the day is \$20 for members of the sponsoring (Coalition and NYS Council), collaborating (UJA, ACL and NYSSASAP) and supporting (OMH and OASAS) agencies, or \$25 for non-members. For more information contact Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555x17 or jfrubin@cvmha.org. □

Budget book available

The budget Briefing Book that The Coalition and New York State Council produced for legislators is available to anybody who wishes to see it. The book is on line at www.cvmha.org/budbook.html. If you would like a hard copy, contact us at (212) 586-4555 and we will be happy to mail you a copy. □

NY/NY II

The Grassroots Campaign for a Second New York/New York Agreement will soon begin a local lobbying effort. Contact Sue Batkin at (212) 533-0540x306 for more information. □

Kids and mental health

Children and Families in Child Welfare: Critical issues and Current Trends in Mental Health was the topic of a well attended seminar sponsored by The Coalition, Citizens Committee for Children of New York and the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies on March 12. Held at the Hunter School of Social Work, participants heard from Dr. David Gottesman, former Commissioner of the Albany County Department of Mental Health, Elvira Gonzalez, Associate Executive Director of Puerto Rican Family Institute and Gail Nayowith, Executive Director of CCC. The panelists portrayed the current practice and policy trends, practical responses in the field and strategies to deal with inflexibilities in the system. □

Coalition speaks out

The Coalition has signed onto an Open Letter to All New Yorkers that asserts that incivility on the part of police toward any segment of the citizenry is an unacceptable price to pay for our "war on crime." Joining with over 30 like-minded organizations in an advertisement in The New York Times, the statement expresses gratitude for the significant drop in crime but emphasizes the necessity for increased attention to police-community relations, more diversity training and policies and programs for the police force that make clear that bigotry, discrimination and cultural insensitivity will not be tolerated. □

Upcoming Events

March 23	MCTA: Utilization Management at CSS
March 24	Co-Occurring Conditions Roundtable in Albany
March 31	Passover - Coalition building closes early
April 1	Passover- Coalition building closed
April 7	Passover- Coalition building closed
April 9	Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Forum at FECS
April 13	Coalition Board Strategic Planning Session at ABCNY
June 10	Mental Health Awards at Pfizer World Headquarters

MIS Project shifts Into 2nd Gear

Almost 100 staff from 31 agencies attended focus groups on information technology, which were organized into functional and programmatic groups. The results of the focus groups have been analyzed and written up into a report available upon request. A MIS Technical Assistance Committee has been

formed to assist Coalition staff in developing an RFP to be sent to technology vendors in order to select the "best fit" products at the most competitive prices. Please call Patricia Gallo Goldstein for a copy of the report and/or more information regarding our MIS Project. Many thanks to all the participants of the focus groups and to our hard working committee. □

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Non-profit mental health agency in Harlem seeks 2 indiv with Business degree & supervisory exp. Non-profit financial background a plus, lotus & excels. Great benefits. Fax resume: 212-316-0789.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE: Management position w/overall agency resp.; financial statements, audit compliance, multiple budget allocations, internal accounting controls, forecasting, 403B, city & state contracts, AR/AP and cash flow analysis. 6 years exp in related field. Report to Executive Dir. 60K-65K.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT: To supervise acct. dept. Resp. for monthly fin. statements, annual budgets, journal entries, bank rec., AP/AR, payroll and 3 staff. 3 years related experience. 40K - 45K.

ART THERAPIST MUSIC THERAPIST: Two F/T position available with mental health agency in Harlem, working with mentally ill adult population, incorporate music & art as part of therapy of our MICA population, incorporate music & art as part of therapy of our MICA population, to assess, develop & implement program for population. College degree w/related experience. 35K with benefits.

STORE MANAGER: Exciting opp. for self starter with business & retail experience to take charge of new venture as part of our mental health agency in Harlem. We are looking for two innovative and inspired in to run our arts gallery and our book/gift shop. Ind. Will have opp. To build from ground up and be involve in all aspect of operations. Business degree with related experience. Supervisory skills., computer literate 30K w/benefits.

Mail or fax resume to Joe Wong at **Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.**, 203 West 113th Street, New York, New York 10026. Tel: 212-932-0023 Fax: 212-316-0789.☐

Bilingual Social Worker: Innovative geriatric mental health program on Upper West Side seeks a bilingual (Spanish/English) psychiatric social worker/CSW with strong clinical skills. Competitive salary. Send resume to: **SPOP**, 188 W. 88th St., New York, NY 10024.☐

— Help Wanted —

The National Alliance for the Mentally ill of NYC-METRO is seeking bi-lingual volunteers for our help line. The NAMI NYC-METRO help lines receives over 300 calls a month from consumers, family members and treatment providers seeking current information regarding services available for the mentally ill and their families support and referrals.

NAMI, NYC-METRO offers a casual, friendly and supportive environment for all of our volunteers. We welcome individuals from a variety of backgrounds and encourage diversity in the workplace. NAMI-NYC (212) 684-3365.☐

Major not-for-profit human service agency in Brooklyn seeks a highly qualified & dedicated mental health professional with proven leadership and team building skills to direct a consumer led community open 7 days per week. Responsible for ongoing staff development, monitoring of daily program operations, and achievement of contractual utilization and outcome goals. MA with history of progressively responsible work experience in a related setting required. Please send resume & cover letters to Ayn Steele, **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service**, 116 Williams Ave., Brooklyn NY 11207. FAX # (718) 346-4519.

We are currently accepting applications for a newly created comprehensive vocational program serving older SED adolescent.

All positions require BS/BA in related field; knowledge of children's mental health and special education systems; 2 yrs experiences with SED adolescents, excellent communication/writing skills and the ability to be a team player.

COUNSELING AND EDUCATIONAL COORDINATOR: Coordinate diverse support services necessary to meet the needs of the population. Implement assessment/evaluation tools, develop and implement groups & workshops. Individual client work, and assist w/program development issues.

VOCATIONAL COUNSELOR: Assess and determine client's vocational needs; coordinate vocational/educational support services, including workshops, skills building and tutoring/GED. Develop and implement worlds of work workshops.

PLACEMENT SPECIALIST: Provide vocational and job placement services to program participants. Develop and implement community service projects, internships and competitive placements.

Pls. Send resume & cover letter stating position of interest to: Janice Sequeira, **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service**, 116 Williams Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207. FAX (718)346-4519.

SOCIAL WORK/SUPERVISOR: provide individual therapy/counseling, group work and case mgmt to caseload of 15 adults w/mental illness. Complete biopsychosocial and substance abuse assessments, treatment plans and discharge planning. CSW degree w/ 2-3 yrs post masters exp. including some supervisory exp. Pls forward your resume & cover letter to: Ken Corbin **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service**, 285 Schermerhorn St., Bklyn, NY 11217. FAX# (718) 855-1517.☐

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House seeks a Program Director for its street-based Outreach Team, which serves homeless adults on the Upper East Side and in East Harlem. The successful candidate MUST have clinical training and experience with mentally ill, and/or substance abusing and/or homeless populations. We are looking for that special person who has excellent clinical skills, a commitment to and enthusiasm for the work, who thrives in a non-traditional setting and values solid support and the opportunity to work with a great staff. Qualifications: MSW or equivalent degree, at least four years, post-masters experience including supervision and administration. **Lenox Hill** values a diverse work force. EEO Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Mail resumes to: Tena Frank, CSW, Director, Homeless Services Department, **Lenox Hill Neighborhood House**, 331 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021. No phone calls or faxes, please.☐