

Coalition Briefs

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

Report shows NY/NY housing is cost effective

A new report released last week by the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research at the University of Pennsylvania demonstrates that the cost of providing housing with supports for people with mental illnesses is minimally higher than the cost to provide just services to a similar population that is homeless. As a result of the NY/NY programs, between 1989 and 1997, more than 4,500 homeless people with severe mental illnesses were provided with supportive housing.

Those homeless who have mental illnesses receive treatment and services from a variety of sources—the shelter system, from psychiatric hospitals, and from prisons and jails among others. By combining data from eight New York City and State agencies, researchers Dennis Culhane, Stephen Metraux and Trevor Hadley were able to estimate the costs of pub-

(Continued on page 3)

Coalition, MFY Legal Services to co-sponsor supported housing conference

In conjunction with MFY Legal Services, The Coalition will sponsor a conference on the Supported Housing model on May 18th, 2001. The conference will be held at the offices of Simpson Thatcher and Bartlett from 9:00 am to approximately 12:30 pm.

The conference itself is largely in response to the sticky legal issues that have emerged in New York City. Over the last 10 months many of these issues have come to a head as landlords have raised rents in order to capitalize on the explosive housing market in New York City. At the same time, contract rates were virtually flat. This created a situation in which many tenants were threatened with eviction because the state contracts were unable to cover the rent increases. For many tenants who were served eviction papers, MFY Legal Services stepped in to represent their interests in legal dealings. The Coalition and MFY have been working together to help address these issues.

The conference will feature two panels of speakers made up of consumers, providers and state and local mental health administration officials. In particular, the conference is focused on the tenancy and responsibility issues of the program. One panel will address the history of the program and the social milieu from which it emerged, while the other will look at the legal issues of tenancy as they relate to Supported Housing and the problem of providing protections to consumers and providers. This second panel is intended to be prescriptive—describing and identifying potential modifications to the program that could solve all the constituent issues.

For more information call David Bergman at x102, or to RSVP call MFY Legal Services at (212) 417-3747 by May 11. Space is limited. ☞

Coalition Announces MH Awardees

The Coalition is proud to announce the four recipients of the annual Mental Health Awards: Gov. George Pataki, Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., and the United Way of New York will each receive Mental Health Awards for their attention to and service of mental hygiene issues. Additionally, Susan Chan of **Hamilton-Madison House** will receive a Founder's Award. Each recipient will receive a Briefs profile leading up to the event.

Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, Ph.D.

In 1999 as Surgeon General, Dr. Satcher produced a landmark report on mental health which has since served as the basis for mental health policy making. This document was shortly followed by a supplement on children's mental health. The Surgeon General's most recent project is a document on suicide prevention entitled "National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action."

Dr. Satcher has held a variety of posts in the federal government. He served as a Director of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry from

(Continued on page 3)

Coalition Protests DOH Moves

On May 14th, The Coalition wrote to Commissioner Novello taking issue with several aspects of the recent letter from DOH regarding the COPS (Comprehensive Outpatient Programs) recoupment. The Coalition is dismayed by the fact that DOH began the recoupment process **prior** to the actual notification letter which excluded complete information regarding the years of recoupment and the explanatory Volume Adjustment Report. The report delineates the methodology

(Continued on page 2)

Coalition Briefs



Gary Bond presents on supported employment

On Monday, April 16th, the NY Work Exchange kicked off its Employment Seminar Series with a presentation by Dr. Gary Bond, noted researcher and authority on the implementation and use of Supported Employment (SE) in mental health treatment programs.

Dr. Bond began the morning session by defining Supported Employment and providing an overview complete with historical perspective, comparisons with other employment models, and the effectiveness of integrating SE with existing clinical services. From the perspective of SE being an "evidence-based practice," he identified current trends in mental health services using the findings of several controlled studies conducted throughout the US. He also discussed the future of ongoing research in the field. The afternoon session consisted of a practical discussion of the "nuts and bolts" of implementing an SE program.

Fifty-nine individuals from a variety of mental health programs attended. Clinicians, program staff and consumers alike said they enjoyed Dr. Bond's presentation, which they found to be informative and thought provoking.

Visit our website at www.nyworkexchange.org to view and/or download the handout copies of the slide presentations. If interested in listening to the audiotapes of the presentation, please call Dan Del Bene at (212) 742-1122x206.

We are pleased to announce that Connie Ferrell will be the next speaker in the NY Work Exchange Employment Seminar Series. On June 11th & 12th, she will present on

"Job Coach I: Job Development and Placement Strategies." On June 12th & 13th, she will present on "Job Coach II: Training and Support Strategies that Work." Call Debbi Talbott at (212) 742-1122x209 for more information.

Employment Network RFP

The Social Security Administration posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Employment Network contracts on April 13, 2001 on the Federal Procurement website www.fedbizops.gov. **Hard Copies of the RFP will not be mailed out.** To download the RFP, type in Solicitation Number SSA-RFP-01-0010.

As part of the Ticket-to-Work and Self-Sufficiency Program signed by President Clinton in 1999, vendors will contract with SSA to become Employment Networks (ENs). The Ticket to Work program provides Social Security beneficiaries with a "ticket" to use at an employment network of their choice to obtain employment services, vocational rehabilitation services and other supports. As an EN, providers will receive financial incentives to serve these individuals. New York is one of the first states scheduled to issue the "ticket."

Employment Networks will be responsible for providing employment services, vocational rehabilitation services or other supports to individuals directly or by entering into contracts/agreements with other providers of such services. The EN must provide the client with a comprehensive explanation of services and outline the responsibilities of the EN. They must develop an Individual Work Plan (IWP) with the client that will define the employment goal(s) and the services needed to reach and maintain the goal(s). ENs are also responsible for reporting data to SSA on outcomes achieved through the provision of services, a statement of finances and other management information data.

Contracts are expected to be for

(Continued on page 3)

Brad H—still in litigation

The mental health community was gratified that the New York Appellate Division denied the City's appeal in the *Brad H* case. This means that the City has no more appeal options left to prevent the implementation of preliminary discharge planning. They must now decide precisely how to proceed with a discharge plan for inmates released from City jails who require mental health treatment upon their release. To date, the City of New York has not set a plan of action on how to provide these vital services. Instead, the City has pursued a strategy of costly and time-consuming litigation. Unfortunately, rather than spend City resources to put a plan into effect, the City proceed with litigation and delay speedy and necessary treatment for discharged people with mental illnesses.

(Continued on page 3)

COPS

(Continued from page 1)

used to calculate the COPS receipts and describes the COPS financial reporting requirements. Its absence leaves many providers uncertain of the basis for their recoupment balance and in doubt that the assessed liability amount charged to their agency was even correct.

In addition, The Coalition questioned the interest rate charges of prime plus 2%. While we fully understand that the Federal government requires the State to pay this rate on the federal share only, we wonder why the State requires providers to pay interest on the **Federal, State and local share** and must ask if the State is making a profit they might forgo. This is particularly disturbing in light of the fact that provider contract payments are frequently late due to late State budgets and providers must take out loans from private sources with interest repayments.

We have asked Commissioner Novello to consider the following requests:

(Continued on page 4)

Coalition Briefs

Work Exchange

(Continued from page 2)

a five-year term, with one five-year option.

New Federal Guide on ADA

On April 4th, three government agencies released a new federal guide on the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals with disabilities who are working or seeking employment. The Social Security Administration, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Department of Justice released the guide to explain the key provisions of the ADA. Included is the definition of "disability," a description of the employer's obligation to make "reasonable accommodations," and the process for filing a charge with the EEOC if a person believes their rights have been violated. The guide is available at www.eeoc.gov, www.ssa.gov/work, or www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada.

Free Computer Classes

The Nonprofit Computer Exchange and Internet Academy of the Fund for the City of New York has partnered with the Verizon Foundation to offer free computer training for the staff of nonprofit organizations.

The Fund for the City of New York offers a range of computer classes to nonprofit organizations to provide a basic understanding of computers and to develop preliminary skills with a variety of software applications. For more information, please call the Fund for the City of New York at 212-590-9400.✉

Brad H

(Continued from page 2)

The Coalition signed onto the appellate brief as a friend of the Court and will continue to support the plaintiffs in this action as the case moves ahead. The issues are still pending before the Court as a civil action since it has been determined that the City has a legal obligation to provide discharge planning and is failing to meet that obligation. The Coalition will continue to watch the case as it proceeds in the hope that the City will comply with the injunction and not use resources for litigation that can be put to use treating the mentally ill.✉

Mental Health Awards

NY/NY

(Continued from page 1)

1993 to 1998. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and Graduate Studies. He was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar and a Macy Faculty Fellow.

Appointed the 16th Surgeon General in 1998, Satcher's four-year term expires in February of 2002. He and his wife, Nola, have four grown children.

Susan Chan:

Mental Hygiene Pioneer

As an immigrant, Susan Chan has a keen insight into the needs of new Americans. Culturally sensitive and language-barrier free mental health services for non-native Americans are of utmost importance. Ms. Chan was instrumental in establishing the first community-based mental health program for Chinese immigrants, and has served those with mental disabilities in a variety of ways. It is for her exemplary service—particularly to New York's Asian communities—that The Coalition will present her with a Founder's Award. Ms. Chan is currently the Associate Executive Director of **Hamilton-Madison House**. Born and raised in China, Ms. Chan came to the United States in 1996. She has a BA in Social Work and Sociology from Chung Chi College and an MA from Columbia. She is married with two children.

Congratulations Susan and Dr. Satcher! Thank you for your great service to people with mental illnesses!✉

(Continued from page 1)

licly funded services to the homeless population. These include extended time in psychiatric hospitals, homeless shelters, and prison and jail terms. They discovered that the cost is a shocking \$40,449 per person per year.

By looking at comparable use data by people who received housing under the NY/NY agreements, they were able to determine that, in fact, stable supported housing contributed to a reduction in the use of those services that totaled \$16,282. However, the cost of the housing program with its supports was estimated at \$17,227. The net result of these findings was that the provision of non-licensed housing resulted in a minimal increase of \$995 per unit per year. If the number of licensed units are included in the cost calculations, the total cost of the program per year was a mere \$6.9 million. Given that this program has helped to stabilize and provide homes to nearly 5000 New Yorkers, few can argue with the collateral benefits of this program. Like the New York Daily News (5/2/01) we, too, believe that the City and the State should capitalize on this information, further funding this important program, to provide a home for all homeless New Yorkers with mental disabilities.✉

Community Mental Health	Tell the world!
	Order your lapel button from The Coalition Web site today!
GETS MY VOTE	www.cvmha.org

Upcoming Events

May 17	9:30 am	Government Relations Committee
May 18	9:00 am	Supported Housing Conference with MFY Legal Services (At the Law firm of Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett)
June 5	5:00 pm	MENTAL HEALTH AWARDS

Coalition Briefs

COPS

(Continued from page 2)

Anasazi users group

Last month, I attended the founding meeting of the national Anasazi Software Users Group (ASNA) in Austin, Texas with approximately fifty people from around the country. I took as my mission to collect information for current and future New York providers and to represent New York State's interest in this emerging entity. As Coalition and New York State Council members continue to sign up for the Anasazi product, based on The Coalition's study and recommendations, it becomes more critical for us to be sure that our interests are represented and protected and that we have a voice in the national users group.

Product development and refinement under the Anasazi system is controlled by the users. A portion of each user's maintenance fee is held in escrow, a portion to be allocated to the national user's group and a portion to be allocated to and controlled by a New York State group that will prioritize the changes and developments that are needed and specific to the New York environment. As more agencies sign on, the dollars allocated to the New York group will grow significantly.

Also attending from New York was Aaron Levitt from CUCS and Aaron Fox from Lake Shore Community Mental Health Center both representing agencies that are well along on their conversion processes. The Coalition will monitor developments in the product's growth, facilitate the New York State users' group and try to provide a linkage with Anasazi Software that will serve our providers in New York State.

The founding meeting of the Anasazi Software New York State Users Group will be held on May 21, 2001 at The Coalition, 90 Broad Street, 9:30am to 4:30 pm. Call Patricia Gallo Goldstein (212-742-1600 x106) or email her (patgg@cvmha.org) for more information. ✍

– Phillip Saperia.

1. The recoupment of COPS overpayments should stop until all providers have received notification reflecting accurate information of fiscal years and liability amount. The notification should include the COPS Volume Adjustment Report in order for providers to fully comprehend the assessment methodology.
2. In anticipation of a delayed State budget which will put providers at risk, the State should forgo the interest on the COPS overpayment. At the very least, interest should only be applied to the Federal share. ✍

Save the Date!

Tuesday June 5, 2001
from 5-8 pm

The Coalition of Voluntary
Mental Health Agencies
Celebrates
**The 17th Annual
Mental Health Awards**
At Pfizer World Headquarters

For tickets and information
call Judeth Podell at
(212) 742-1600 x104.

Help Wanted

Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers is looking for three full-time (MSW/CSW) social workers.

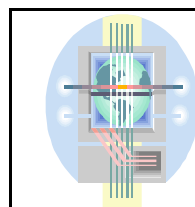
1) For a Bushwick agency (Spanish speaking a plus) providing health services to children/adolescents and adults.

2) For a Central Brooklyn agency (French/Creole speaking a plus) providing services to SED children and their families in their homes.

3) On-site school program providing mental health services to children/adolescents in a school setting, and their families.

Minorities are encouraged to apply. EOE, excellent 1199 Union benefits, Salary \$38,670.06. Send resume and specify position to Marie Kelleher, ACSW, Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, Inc. 189 Montague Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Fax: (718) 875-5672. ✍

Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service seeks a dynamic, organized and creative Director to provide leadership for Project Moving On, an OMH licensed Continuing Day Treatment Program serving SPMI adults. Must rigorously monitor and enhance the program and nurture and support the professional development of 12 staff. Experience working with seriously mentally ill and MICA adults in a clinical setting. Must have MSW, CSW preferred or equivalent degree with certification. Minimum of five years post Master's experience at the Supervisor/Director level. ✍



The Coalition Web Site: Your one-stop shop for mental health news, advocacy and information. Visit today!
www.cvmha.org

Best practices conference

Western Queens Consultation Center will host a best practices professional conference entitled, "Integrating Child Psychiatry and Family Systems Theory in the Clinical Treatment of Children" on Friday, May 18th, 2001 from 1-4:30 p.m. The Conference will be held at the **Western Queens Consultation Center** located at 44-04 Queens Boulevard, 2nd Floor, in Sunnyside, New York. Presenters will speak on the role of psychotropic medication in child psychiatry, and family systems and child treatment. For additional information, please contact: Cheryl Lazo at (718) 672-1705. ✍