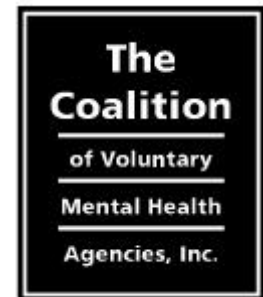


Briefs Coalition

October 1, 1997



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

Welfare and People with Mental Illness

We have prepared a brief summary of the new welfare reform system that was signed into law by Governor Pataki in late August. It addresses primarily the Safety Net Assistance feature of the new law which is most applicable to persons with mental illness, particularly the disability program. Many issues remain unclear including how effectively the new system will operate. The Coalition continues to seek answers to outstanding questions and will monitor the development of new regulations. You may request a copy of this summary by phone, fax or email. □

Housing Committee Hearings

The Assembly Standing Committee on Housing is holding a hearing on the subject of how NY State can best promote the construction of affordable housing. NY City hearings are on October 9, 12 noon, at 270 Broadway, 11th floor. Contact Linda Camoin at 518-455-4355 if you wish to testify. □

Attention Coalition Members

We want this semi-monthly newsletter to be as useful as possible for our membership. As such, we are happy to publish certain items of broad interest for our members. Any agency that would like to place an item in this semi-monthly newsletter should send a fax with the pertinent information to Joshua Rubin at The Coalition. (212) 541-6183 or email to jfrubin@cvmha.org. □

Taking the Lead for NY's Children

The Coalition has been active in the Children's Mental Health Advisory Workgroup of the State Office of Mental Health, which has been meeting on the potential formation of Special Needs Plans in New York for seriously emotionally disturbed children and adolescents. In addition, we are a co-founder of the Children's Mental Health Alliance of New York City, which addresses similar issues from a downstate perspective. SOMH is planning to issue a combined Request for Information/Draft RFP for such SNPs, which will be voluntary at first and will become mandatory after SOMH's proposal satisfies the milestone process of the federal Health Care Finance Administration. The Children and Adolescent SNP process is behind that of adults, but SOMH still plans to be ready for SNP contract signing in 1998. □

www.cvmha.org (almost)

Our venture into cyberspace continues with the slow but steady process of building our website. Currently, very little resides there, but eventually it will be a beautiful and useful virtual place. We would like to include links to our member agencies. If you have websites, please email their addresses to jfrubin@cvmha.org. In addition, webmasters should feel free to insert a link to cvmha.org on your pages. Thank you and we'll see you in cyberspace. □

Mental Health Awareness Week October 5-12, 1997

"Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York recognizes that the week of October 5, 1997 to October 12, 1997 is Mental Illness Awareness Week and acknowledges the positive contributions that community organizations make on behalf of the mentally ill by providing educational activities and programs which increase the awareness and understanding of mental health issues."

With these words the City Council recognized both the contributions of the community mental health sector and the necessity to institutionally try to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

The resolution was introduced by Councilwoman Una Clarke, the head of the City Council's Subcommittee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services. □

Upcoming Dates

October 9	Finance Committee and Board of Directors Seventh Annual National Depression Screening Day
October 15	Managed Care Committee
October 20	Task Force on Children and Families
October 22	Children's Mental Health Alliance of NYC
October 28	Managed Care Technical Assistance MIS Workshop
October 30	Membership Meeting
November 13	BIG APPLE CIRCUS