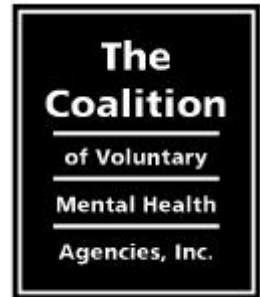


# Briefs Coalition



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

## Diet COLAs

A Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), including Medicaid rate adjustments rate very high for the Coalition, and we are working with a statewide group in pursuit of this objective in addition to the Human Services Council of New York City. As the legislative cycle approaches, we'll put together some helpful information on this issue to complement upcoming lobbying efforts. □

## Date Set for Forum on SNP Draft RFP

Forums have been set around the State for public feedback on the Draft RFP. A hearing will be held in New York City on November 13 from 12 to 7 PM. Member agencies are encouraged to testify. The hearing will be held at Hunter College School of Social Work, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 129 E. 79<sup>th</sup> St. For an appointment to speak for one of the allotted five minute slots, contact Jo Henry, NYC Field Coordinator, 212-675-3803 Ext. 300. □

## Citizenship Project Underway

The Coalition's collaboration with NYANA to provide naturalization assistance to Coalition clients is underway. A free **Training Session for Coalition member agencies' staffers** will be held at the NYANA auditorium, 17 Battery Place, 1st Floor, **from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Friday, November 7, 1997.** This training on the basics of the citizenship application, disability exceptions, education requirements, and problem areas will provide crucial information which agency staff will need in order to identify potential successful applicants for U. S. Citizenship, for assistance through this project. □

## Task Force Study Points Out Problems with Managed Care

In a new study by the New York City Task Force on Medicaid Managed Care consumers report a high incidence of problems with their Medicaid health providers and in getting the care they need. The report also proposes several suggestions for system improvements. The Study included participants from several special populations including people with mental health and substance use service needs. For a copy, call Elisabeth Benjamin at 212-577-3386. □

## Come One Come All

The Coalition Board has agreed to open its Managed Care Technical Assistance Seminars to non-member agencies. The workshops will be conducted by Michael Kraten of Enterprise Management Corporation. The curriculum will operate on two parallel tracks, one for executive and policy staff and the other for operational and middle management. The ten part series starts October 28, 1997. Call 212-586-4555 for a curriculum and application. □

## Medicaid Audits and Blue Cross Health Insurance

At our October 30th Membership Meeting (3:30-5:30 PM), representatives of the DSS Audit Bureau will explain the audit process and answer our questions about the current round of audits by DSS of outpatient mental health programs. Also, representatives of Blue Cross/Blue Shield will present the discounted health plan available to Coalition members. □

## Member Agency Notes

Starting on October 27 **Barrier Free Living** will have a new domestic violence hotline. The hotline will be available from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, providing information and assistance in both English and Spanish. The hotline number is 212-533-4358. There is an additional TDD number for the hearing impaired at 212-533-4632. For further information contact BFL at 212-677-6668. □

**The Park Slope Center for Mental Health** is offering hypnosis training for health care professionals with a Masters Degree or above. If you would like a free presentation at your clinic by Hypnosis Training Institute Director Susan Lee Bady, CSW, BCD, contact PSCMH at 718-788-2461. □

The **Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services** has opened the Abraham Residence III on East 96th Street in Manhattan to serve formerly homeless adults with mental illness. The residence is run jointly with the Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty. □

October 22	Children's Mental Health Alliance of NYC
October 28	Managed Care Technical Assistance MIS Workshop
October 30	Membership Meeting
November 6	Task Force on Children and Families
<b>November 13</b>	<b>BIG APPLE CIRCUS</b>