

# Coalition Briefs

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

The  
Coalition  
of Voluntary  
Mental Health  
Agencies, Inc.



## Costs of Managed Care Readiness Are Huge

Dollars are needed to help community-based agencies transition to managed care. Agencies require money for infrastructure development, staff training, supplies, and necessary systems and clinical changes etc. The Coalition, both independently and in alliance with other like-minded organizations, is pursuing Federal and State level sources of such funds. One mid-size member agency estimates its one year managed care transition costs at more than a quarter of a million dollars, much of it non-reimbursable. Other agencies are experiencing proportionate expenses for essential managed care readiness. ■

## Community Health Partnership

HHC is in dialogue with community based "safety-net" providers. The plan is to use some of the Federal 1115 waiver managed care transition dollars that it will receive from the feds over the next five years to promote linkages with community based agencies. **Coalition members are urged to contact local HHC hospital and clinic administrators to initiate and nurture relationships on the local level and to become part of the local planning process.** ■

## Medicaid Audits, cont'd.

The Coalition learned recently that for its current round of Medicaid billing audits of agency programs, the Department of Health was seeking to scan agency documents which support the delivery of services. DOH would then keep such scanned documents in its custody in Albany for review by the auditors. We immediately contacted DOH and OMH about this proposed procedure, since it raises significant issues about the confidentiality of mental health clinical records and the requirements of the Mental Hygiene Law (especially M.H.L. 33.13). The scanning which was in progress at one Coalition agency has ceased, at least for now, and the policy is under review. ■

## FDA Improved

The Coalition was one of more than 2,000 national, state and local organizations that signed a letter to Congress in support of the FDA Modernization and Accountability Act of 1997. The campaign was a success, and after Congressional approval President Clinton signed the Act into law at the end of November. The Act will reform the FDA in many ways and reduce the drug regulatory and approval time by as much as sixteen months. ■

## Annual Meeting

On December 11, at 3:30 p.m. The Coalition will host our 25th Annual Meeting at 120 West 57th Street. The meeting will be a combination of business, pleasure and celebration.

The business aspect of the meeting will center around the election of a new Board of Directors and nominating committee members and the approval of The Coalition's fiscal year 1998 budget.

The pleasure of the meeting will be the getting together of old friends, the making of new friends and the eating of delicious refreshments.

In celebration we will look back on the past quarter of a century. We will be honoring those people whose vision created The Coalition as well as our past Executive Directors and Board Presidents.

We look forward to seeing all of our members there. ■

December 11 Finance Committee  
Board of Directors

## Annual Meeting

December 17 Children's Mental Health Alliance at Citizen's Committee for Children  
Conference Planning Committee

December 23 Managed Care Technical Assistance Seminar: Financial Risks and  
Managed Care Contracts

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— Help Wanted —

## Member Agency Notes

On Friday morning December 12, from 9 a.m. to noon the **Staten Island Mental Health Society (SIMHS)** will host the Tenth Annual Richard M. Silberstein Memorial Lecture and Award Ceremony. The lecture will be delivered by Campbell Earl Warren, M.S.W., Associate Executive Director of the Children's Aid Society. His lecture will be entitled "Community Schools: Ending the Fragmentation of Children's and Family Services."

The 1997 Dr. Richard M. Silberstein Award for service to the children of Staten Island will be presented to PS 25 Principal Stephen F. DiCarlo. In addition to his duties at PS 25, a school for children with severe emotional disturbances, Mr. DiCarlo is the supervising principal of ten special education schools in Staten Island and Brooklyn, overseeing a student population of over 2,600.

The lecture and award are a tribute to **SIMHS** founding director Dr. Richard M. Silberstein, who organized the Society in 1952 and served as its first Director for 21 years. □

## Child Health Insurance

\$1.3 billion in Federal funds will be available over the next 5 years for health insurance coverage to New York's children, and a major public policy debate has begun over the best way to utilize this new Federal money. Options include, but are not limited to, an expansion of Child Health Plus and of Medicaid. Effective Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, Child Health Plus coverage includes 20 outpatient visits per year. The Coalition Committee on Children will keep a watch on developments. □

## AIDS Care RFP Issued

The New York State Department of health has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to award State funds for Permanency Planning and Transitional Services for Families Affected by HIV/AIDS. A total of \$1,000,000 has been allocated for this project, with individual grants ranging up to \$150,000. The proposal is due by end of business on Friday, January 16, 1998. Inquiries can be directed to Wanda Jones-Robinson at 212-613-2559 or Thomas Tallon at 518-486-6048. □

## 21st Century Cometh

On January 13, 1998, beginning at 9:00 AM in the Assembly parlor in Albany, there will be a conference entitled "Redeployment of Mental Health Resources for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". The Coalition is part of the planning group charged with developing a dynamic and interesting panel. Featured speakers tentatively scheduled include Ron Manderscheid from the Center for Mental Health Services and Harvard economist Richard Frank. Other testimony is expected from a prominent provider representative, consumers and other stakeholders. We hope to have legislators present, as well. And, there will be breakfast and lunch! Nutrition for the mind and body - all in one setting!! For more information contact Sherri Sanduski at (518) 462-9422. □

## Juvenile Detention Conference

The Juvenile Detention Association of New York State's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute on Juvenile Justice will center around Mental Health Issues in the Juvenile Justice System. The conference will be held from April 19 through 23, 1998 in Lake George, NY. For further information contact John A. Gaines IV at (607) 387-5562 or GHYH@clarityconnect.com. □

**Psychologist or Social Worker** to coordinate Children's Department at not-for-profit psychotherapy clinic, P/T. Competence as a therapist and experience as an administrator required. Submit resume and salary history to: Ronald Kushner, **Advanced Center for Psychotherapy**, 178-10 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica Estates, NY 11432. □

**Social Worker Supervisor:** Psychiatric S.W. for innovative geriatric CDTP. CSW, supervisory experience and strong clinical ind./group skills required. Resume to A. Cohen, **SPOP**, 188 W. 88 St, NY NY 10024-2402 or fax to 212-787-1230. □

**Social worker/consultant** wanted for time limited project--to connect bereavement services with minority community. WPS (Widowed Persons Service) provides intensive peer support services, as well as I & R to the widowed population in Manhattan. The program is co-sponsored by **NY Service Program for Older People** and AARP. Good writing, speaking and liaison skills necessary. Knowledge of minority community in Manhattan is essential. \$22/hr. Must be bilingual (Spanish/English). Knowledge of bereavement and geriatric issues, and experience in working with volunteers is a plus. Resume to **SPOP**, 188 West 88<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC 100247-2402. □

**N.Y. Service Program for Older People** seeks a bilingual (Spanish/English) **psychiatric social worker** for senior outreach program, providing mental health services to the elderly in Manhattan. CSW and strong clinical and group skills required. A.M. availability essential. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Resume to **SPOP**, 188 West 88<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC 10024-2402. □