



Coalition Briefs

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

NYCOMP gets rolling

The New York Community Outcomes Measurement Project (NYCOMP) has already registered over twenty agencies, with agreements to measure outcomes for over 8,000 clients. In collaboration with The New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare we will begin final price negotiations this week. Members who have signed up will receive contracts in the mail directly from Access Measurement Systems (AMS). Training is expected to begin later this month or in early November. Additionally, agencies using a different outcomes measurement tool that would like to use AMS to process their data should contact Pat Goldstein at The Coalition for more information on this possibility. □

Child Health Plus signed

Governor Pataki signed the expanded version of New York's Child Health Plus (CHP) legislation on September 24. The new CHP bill increases the range of services covered (including the mental health benefit), increases eligibility, lowers monthly premiums and eliminates some co-payments. The new Medicaid rules for kids also extends the eligibility from age 14 to age 18. The legislation is the result of bi-partisan cooperation by the State legislature, but expectation is that the millions of uninsured New Yorkers will continue to be a hot issue in the upcoming legislative session. □

Medicaid audits

Any Coalition member with issues concerning the current round of Medicaid audits should communicate them immediately to Marilyn Kneeland at (212-586-4555x14), if you have not already done so. □

Managed Care Technical Assistance - The Sequel

Coalition members are invited to attend the introductory meeting of Part II of Managed Care Technical Assistance on October 8 at 120 W. 57th Street. Our consultant, Michael Kraten will explain this year's format. In addition, the results of the self-assessment survey will be distributed and the bench marking information will be presented. All participants in the survey will be scheduled for an on-site visit by Mr. Kraten. Technical assistance this year is free to member agencies. An RSVP is necessary for this meeting. Please call Patricia Gallo Goldstein at extension 12 to RSVP.

The Coalition will also launch an MIS Technical Assistance Project with the objectives of 1) ascertaining the data collection and reporting needs of our members; 2) Finding and customizing suitable software to meet identified sector needs, and; 3) helping agencies leverage their collective purchasing power for both software and hardware. □

Mildred Allen to highlight multi-cultural mental hygiene

Dr. Mildred Allen, Executive Director of **Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center** in the Bronx will keynote the luncheon plenary session at New York's "best practices" conference on Tuesday, October 13. Sponsored by The Coalition, and co-sponsored by New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare in cooperation with the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, the event will be held at The Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers.

Dr. Allen is a noted expert in the fields of social work and health planning, policy and administration. Born in Guyanilla, Puerto Rico, she was the first woman to be elected president of the New York State Association of Community Health Centers and currently serves on The Coalition's Executive Committee. A distinguished expert on cultural sensitivity and its practice in the behavioral sciences, Dr. Allen is an experienced practitioner who can testify personally to the efficacy of multi-cultural awareness in treatment settings.

Also speaking at the conference will

be Dr. Elaine Congress, Director of the Doctoral Program and Professor at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Science. Dr. Congress, the President of the New York City Chapter of NASW will speak to the ethical issues that face community practitioners in her afternoon plenary session on Ethics in Community Behavioral Healthcare. Ethical challenges are coming more to the fore as principles of managed care business are brought into the behavioral healthcare environment.

"Discovering and Implementing Best Practices for Behavioral Healthcare" will feature sessions on outcomes measures, risk management, confidentiality, advances in anti-psychotic medications, brief therapies, Assertive Community Treatment Plans, peer support in clinical practice, and concerns about the mentally ill who have co-occurring chemical and alcohol dependancies.

Registration is still possible. Call (800) 227-7566 for last minute sign-ups. □

Coalition Briefs

Special Needs Plan update

Three officials of the NYS Office of Mental Health (SOMH) - Dr. Sharon Carpinello, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Managed Care; Keith Simons, Director, Bureau of Adult Special Needs Plans; and Jay Zucker, Assistant Counsel along with Peter McGarry, Director of Managed Care for NYC Department of Mental Health informed Coalition members of the current status of planning for mental health special needs plans (SNPs) at our September membership meeting. They noted that the planning process has been an open one, dating back to 1995. However, in an estimated 4 to 6 weeks a "blackout" period for dialogue with SOMH on adult SNPs will begin, at or immediately prior to issuance of final requests for proposals, or RFPs, for these SNPs.

At present, seven counties or county consortiums have indicated interest in applying for the SNPs; up to six adult SNPs have been mandated by state legislation. New York City will receive at least two SNPs, but SOMH officials are optimistic that a third SNP for the City will become available. Legislative approval for a seventh SNP could be sought. Evaluators of the SNP applications will include New York City residents who are not City employees.

The projected timetable includes: 1) issuance of simultaneous RFPs in the relevant parts of the state indicating interest, before January 1, 1999; 2) approximately 180 days from RFP issuance to contracting, including 90 days to bid and 60 days for selection of conditional SNP grantees; 3) implementation in spring 1999 for non-New York City SNPs and late 1999 for New York City. Participation in these SNPs will be voluntary, at least for awhile, and anybody who meets SNP eligibility criteria will be exempt from mandatory Medicaid managed care enrollment. SOMH is also focusing on the mental health benefits which will be available to Medicaid managed care enrollees under the basic health plan. Additional information on this should be available within the next month on the SOMH website, which can be easily accessed via The Coalition's website at www.cvmha.org.

Volunteers available

The 92nd Street Y Teen and Middle School Service Programs have volunteers for short and long term projects. For more information contact Teen Director Julie Walpov at 212-415-5614 or Middle School Director Jonathan Bayer at 212-415-5600.

OMH dual diagnosis planning

Last week, staff from the Inter-Office Coordinating Council (OMH, OASAS and OMRDD) met with the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors to present the New York plan for integrating services for people with co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders. A model of care based on the severity of the addictive disorder and the psychiatric disability was presented along with a draft Memorandum of Understanding.

On October 1st, members of New York State's provider advocacy community, including The Coalition's Joshua Rubin, met with Dr. Isaac Koilpillai, M.D., OMH's Director of Special Health Needs, to discuss the care model and principles for service. We encouraged OMH to create a forum where the provider community can meet with finance and licensing staff to help develop solutions to licensing, regulatory and rate issues. Additionally OMH was supportive of creating cross-agency training for mental health and substance abuse providers on issues related to people in dual recovery.

The Coalition will distribute copies of the draft Memorandum of Understanding to all members for comment and review. Please contact Joshua Rubin with any further questions. □

Member Notes

The Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services has opened the Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Center for Community Services in an abandoned Con Ed power station at 2020 Coney Island Avenue. Eight **JBFC** programs, previously scattered throughout Brooklyn, have moved into the new space that is now the **JBFC** Brooklyn flagship. The project was entirely underwritten by philanthropic funds and will save **JBFC** an estimated \$250,000 per year in rent. □

Staten Island Mental Health Society, Inc. President/CEO and Immediate Past President of The Coalition, Dr. Kenneth Popler will receive a Community Service Award from the Neighborhood Care Team, Inc. (NCT), a St. Albans, Queens mental health provider. Dr. Popler will receive the award on October 23rd at NCT's 5th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at the Allen AME Cathedral Banquet Hall in Jamaica, Queens. □

The William F. Ryan Community Health Center has formed a Speaker's Bureau of professional staff who are available to present workshops to community groups on a variety of health related topics. The Bureau consists of health care professionals and educators who are available to provide culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate preventive health education to our community. Call Lourdes R. González, Director of Administrative Affairs, at 212-316-7904 for information. □

As part of its National Vision Awareness Campaign, **The Jewish Guild for the Blind** is offering a free poster describing four common vision disorders. The four color poster measures 23 x 35 inches and illustrates how lines of print look to a person with normal vision and how the same lines look to someone who has macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts or glaucoma. Copies of the poster can be obtained by writing: Public Relations Department, **The Jewish Guild for the Blind**, 15 West 65th Street, New York, NY 10023 or by calling 212-769-6237. □

Institute for Community Living will receive the 1998 Eli Lilly and Company Schizophrenia Reintegration Award in recognition of the tremendous success of the Emerson Family Center. The Emerson Center is the only program in New York City that provides housing for formerly homeless psychiatrically disabled parents and their children. The award will be presented on October 3 in Los Angeles. □

Coalition Briefs

— Help Wanted —

The New York Society for the Deaf is currently seeking a creative staff of professionals to work with adults who are Deaf or Deaf Blind. ALL POSITIONS REQUIRE FLUENCY IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Equal opportunity employer. We have immediate openings for the following:

Social Worker: CSW preferred, will accept Masters Degree in related field. One year counseling experience.

Director of Finance: CPA or MBA preferred, Knowledge of CFR and OWP a plus. Supervisory skills. Responsible for the overall fiscal operations.

Director of Interpreter Services: BA in business administration or related field, MBA a plus. 3-5 years management/supervisory experience required. RID Certified a plus.

Case Managers: MA preferred but will accept BA in human services field. One year experience and possess knowledge in providing case management services to adults who are Deaf/Deaf Blind, HIV+ or living with AIDS, Substance Abuse, Developmentally Disabled, and/or Mentally Ill.

Residential Counselors: BA in human services preferred, but will consider High School diploma/GED. Certification in First Aid, CPR, SCIP and AMAP a plus.

Teacher: MA preferred, but will consider BA. Minimum of one year teaching experience. Knowledge of I.E.P.'s and teaching materials.

Administrative Assistant: BA/BS preferred. Two years of work experience. Excellent communication and English skills required. Editing skills a plus. Computer skills. Seeking a well organized individual with the ability to "own" projects.

Staff Interpreter: Full time position interpreting in a wide variety of settings. RID certificate a plus.

ASL Sign Language Instructors: ASLTA certified a plus.

Job Coaches: Seeking an energetic professional job coach with at least six months work experience. A NY Teachers Certificate or MA in Vocational Rehabilitation, Special ED or Employee Training experience can be substituted for work experience. All candidates will be required to pass a job coaching evaluation.

Facilities Manager: Housing manager to oversee existing and new developments. HUD and Section 8 experience a plus. A unique opportunity.

Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway - 7th Floor, New York, NY 10003, Fax # 212-777-5276. □

Upcoming Events

October 5	Sukkot - Coalition building closed
October 8	Managed Care Kickoff Day at CVMHA
October 12	Columbus Day - Coalition closed
October 13	Coalition-NYSCCBH Conference: Discovering and Implementing Best Practices for Behavioral Healthcare. Call The Coalition for reservation information; CEU credits are available.
October 15	Finance Committee at CVMHA Board of Directors at CVMHA
October 19	Government Relations Committee at ICL
October 27	Managed Care Technical Assistance
November 12	Big Apple Circus

Sky Light Center, a psychiatric rehabilitation program serving adult Staten Islanders with psychiatric disabilities, is seeking rehabilitation counselors. **Sky Light Center** operates as a clubhouse model program. Staff members have generalist roles which include service coordination, job coaching, apartment program support, and in-house unit work. **Sky Light** members and staff members work side-by-side to run all program activities. Staff need to possess strong interpersonal, communication, time management and organizational skills. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in social services is required with experience a plus. **Sky Light Center** provides excellent employee benefits with salaries beginning in the mid-twenties.

Sky Light Center is a five minute walk from the Staten Island Ferry and is a convenient commute by car from Brooklyn and New Jersey. Please send resumes to: Hiring Committee, 307 St. Marks Place, Staten Island, NY 10301. Or fax to 718-720-2601. Consumers of mental health services are encouraged to apply. □

The Homeless Division of **Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.**, seeks the following professional: Specialized Care Manager - will provide case management, outreach and placement to the mentally ill, medically needy and frail elderly homeless population in midtown Manhattan. Bachelor's Degree in Mental Health Discipline, knowledge of housing and mental health systems and at least 2 years experience with similar population required. We offer growth opportunities and competitive comprehensive packages. For immediate consideration mail/fax resume and cover letter indicating salary requirements to: B. Muñoz, Assistant Manager, Human Resources, **Volunteers of America Greater New York, Inc.**, One Keener Building, Wards Island, NY 10035. eoe/m/f/v/d/ada. Only qualified individuals will be contacted. □

Weston United Community Renewal, Inc., an award winning mental health agency located in Harlem seeks HR manager with generalist background. Ideal candidate will possess at least 3 years management experience in a non profit environment and be familiar with innovative change management strategies. Must have knowledge of HRIS, BA required, MS in HR preferred. Salary low \$40's. Fax resume to: Clive Kerr, 212-316-0789. □