

Coalition Briefs

May 22, 1998

The
Coalition
of Voluntary
Mental Health
Agencies, Inc.



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

Veto hearing scheduled

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver is sponsoring a series of hearings on the Governor's vetoes of the FY 1999 New York State budget. On June 3, 1998 at 10 a.m. a joint public hearing of the Assembly Standing Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; the Assembly Standing Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Assembly Standing Committee on Ways and Means will be held in Hearing Room C in the Legislative Office Building in Albany. The Coalition has reserved a prime time slot and encourages members to join us in our testimony. Contact Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555 or jfrubin@cvmha.org for further information. □

Merger hearing scheduled

The City Council Government Operations Committee, Chaired by Hon. Mary Pinkett, will meet to discuss the proposed merger of the Department of Mental Health with the Department of Health on May 28, 1998. The meeting is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m. in the City Council chambers. The proposed merger is second on the agenda following a discussion of the Mayor's preliminary management report. Discussion of the merger is expected to begin around 11 a.m. Coalition members are encouraged to attend. □

Moving on Up

Belated congratulations to Arlene Sanchez for her appointment to the post of Associate Commissioner of the NYC Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services. She reports directly to Elsie Del Campo. □

More detail on the City Budget

The details of Mayor Giuliani's proposed FY 1999 budget for the City of New York are becoming more clear as time progresses. The total budget of the Mental hygiene section of the proposed merged Department of Public Health is \$411.7 million. This represents an increase of 13.6% over the 1998 adopted budget for DMH of \$362.3 million which was itself an increase of 7.6% over the 1997 adopted budget of \$336.9 million. This \$411.7 million breaks up into five distinct units of appropriation which enable us to track the mental health dollars with a fair degree of accuracy. Mental Health services total \$145.3 million. The Early Intervention Program is budgeted for \$159 million. Mental Retardation services are funded at \$43.2 million, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse services are funded at \$44.8 million, and administrative services account for the remaining \$19.3 million. □

Technical Assistance for children's programs

On June 11, 1998 as part of the Technical Assistance Program, The Coalition will be holding a special session for agencies that operate programs for children and adolescents. Coalition staff, along with our consultant will discuss, among other items, the Children's Special Needs Plan RFI. The meeting will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 120 West 57th Street, Room 4A. Please RSVP to Patricia Gallo Goldstein at (212) 586-4555 by June 9 if you are interested in attending. □

Outcomes measurement demonstration

A downstate presentation on the Massachusetts Outcome Measurement Project will take place on Wednesday, June 10, 1998 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the offices of the **Puerto Rican Family Institute**, 145 W. 15th Street, 7th Floor. The meeting is co-sponsored by The Coalition and the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. Guest speakers from Access Measurement Systems (David R. Krause, Ph.D., President) and Mental Health Corporations of Massachusetts (Jeanne Schwartz-Crawford, Deputy Director) will discuss the system which has received clinician and administrator buy-in, provides immediate feedback and scoring, is adaptable to different area sites and has enabled Massachusetts to get access across regional systems and geographic areas. The event is free for members but you must RSVP by June 8 to (212) 586-4555. □

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Member Notes

Monica House is a 78 bed SRO/Community Residence in Jamaica, Queens. Monica House is operated by **Builders for Family and Youth** and provides on-site clinical support including case management, nursing, psychiatric consultation, MICA counseling and recreation in a twenty-four hour staff supported setting. Applications for beds are currently being accepted from anybody with HRA 1990/New York-New York status. For further information please contact Judy Vicinanza, Residence Administrator, at (718) 262-8190. ▣

Summer in Saratoga

A conference entitled "An Entrepreneurial Approach to Behavioral Healthcare" will be hosted on June 15 and 16, 1998 by the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. Saratoga Springs, New York is the scenic site for the conference which will be keynoted by Dr. Daniel Callahan, Ph.D. of the Hastings Center. For more information contact Gayle Farman at (518) 445-2642. ▣

On May 9 **Steinway Child and Family Services, Inc.** began offering services to the Queens community on Saturdays. The main office at 41-36 27th Street in Queensboro Plaza will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday except holidays. In addition evening hours have been extended to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For further information, please call (718) 389-5100. ▣

Summit House of Brooklyn, Inc. has started a new not-for-profit business venture specializing in printing, graphic design and advertising specialties called Summit Graphics. The business is operated entirely by those who have, are recovering from, or have recovered from mental illnesses. The goal of Summit Graphics is to empower recovered/recovering mentally ill by enabling them to take control of their financial future. However a portion of the businesses revenues is also used to support other programming. For further information, please call (718) 256-3430 or fax (718) 256-3504. ▣

May 25	Memorial Day - Coalition Closed
May 26	Managed Care Technical Assistance at NYANA, 9:30 a.m.
May 28	City Council Government Operations Committee Meeting in City Hall, 10:00 a.m.
	Membership Meeting @ UJA-Federation, 130 East 59th St. Ballroom A, 3:30 p.m.
June 3	Assembly hearing on Governor's Mental Hygiene vetoes in Legislative Office Building Hearing Room C, 10:00 a.m.
June 4	14th Annual Mental Health Awards at Pfizer World Headquarters, 5:00 p.m.
June 8	Technical Assistance Cohort Meeting for Programs for the Aged in NYANA Auditorium, 9:30 a.m.
	Technical Assistance - CAHPS in NYANA Auditorium, 1:00 p.m.
June 10	Presentation on Massachusetts Outcome Measurement Project at Puerto Rican Family Institute, 11:00 a.m.
June 11	Board of Directors at CVMHA, 9:30 a.m.
	Technical Assistance on Children's SNP RFI at CVMHA, 1:00 p.m.

Bigger than Godzilla.

Better than the last Seinfeld.

Swifter than Pataki's vetopen.

More exciting than a Knicks/Heat playoff brawl.

The 14th Annual Mental Health Awards

June 4, 1998, 5:00 p.m. at Pfizer World Headquarters

Tickets still available. Call (212) 586-4555.