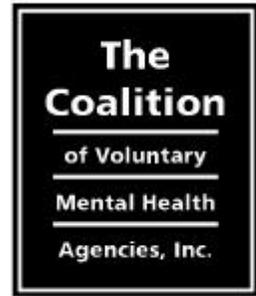


Briefs Coalition



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

Proposed Mayoral budget is promising but not perfect

Mayor Giuliani presented his Executive Budget on Friday, April 24. The budget is the first to allocate funds for the proposed merged Department of Public Health. Because of this change, analysis of the budget is proving more difficult than in years past.

The bottom line is, however, encouraging. The Mental Hygiene section of the newly merged department has been allocated \$411.7 million, 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.

Much of the additional mental hygiene money falls into two categories. \$11.7 million has been added to the budget of the Early Intervention Program, which has grown dramatically since its inception in 1993. This allocation is census-driven, as the program has treated an ever-increasing caseload of children under three. \$12.1 million

has been allocated for a comprehensive treatment model to serve high-end substance abusing adults and adolescents. Approximately \$2.6 million of this represents a Mayoral add for HHC's Cumberland Hospital Program of integrated service delivery. Of the remaining \$9.5 million, \$4.3 million is earmarked for HHC.

The remaining \$5.2 million will be divided between the criminal justice system, the Department of Homeless Services and community-based agencies. DMH is currently deciding whether to produce an RFP or use the remaining money to supplement existing programs.

The Coalition will continue to keep you informed about the City budget. □

Massaging the merger

Int. 266 is the bill before Councilwoman Mary Pinkett's Government Operations Committee that proposes to merge the City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services with the City Department of Health. The Coalition does not oppose merging the two departments, but thinks it is important that Mental Health interests be protected. To this end we have made four suggestions:

- The new Department should be named the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Services. This is important for both symbolic and substantive reasons.
- The Deputy Commissioner of the Mental Hygiene Division should report directly to the Commissioner of the newly merged Department.
- The Mental Hygiene Division should have an administrative officer responsible for fiscal and contract matters to serve as a liaison between community-based providers and the Department's Chief Contracting Officer.
- The law should include a two-phase review process--after two and four years--to ensure that Mental Hygiene constituencies are continuing to be protected, that consumers are receiving appropriate levels and quality of care, and that the Department is running as smoothly as it does currently.

These four simple requests will help ensure that the interests of mental health communities will be protected in the new Department. □

Member Notes

BRC Human Services Corporation has changed its name to **Bowery Residents' Committee, Inc.**, returning to the name under which they incorporated in 1973. They made the change to acknowledge their origin as a grass-roots organization, although they have grown to serve three of the five boroughs. Their phone and fax numbers remain the same, as does their address. □

Adult Mental Health SNPs "Any day now"

OMH has announced a projected release date of July 2, 1998, for the final Request for Proposals for Adult Mental Health Special Needs Plans. □

Children's Mental Health SNP RFI

NYS OMH and DOH have released their Request for Information for Children's Mental Health Special Needs Plans. For a copy of the Executive Summary of this RFI, call Marilyn Kneeland at The Coalition. For a full copy of the RFI, including the Executive Summary (approximately 290 pages total), call Chris Balcerzak at OMH, 518-474-1704. The RFI is also available for browsing or downloading from the OMH website <www.omh.state.ny.us> or

through the Government link on The Coalition's own website <www.cvmha.org>.

Comments on the RFI are due on or before June 15, 1998. *The Coalition's Task Force on Children and Families will meet on Thursday, May 21st, 3-5 p.m., 120 W. 57th St., Rm. 4A to discuss the RFI and The Coalition's response.* All Coalition members (not just Task Force members) are welcome to attend this meeting; we seek your input. □

Coalition Briefs

Vetoed...What next?

Most people know by now that the Governor slashed \$1.2 billion from the State Budget presented him by the Legislature, hacking out all of the funding they had added for mental health, with the exception of funding for New York/New York II which was saved by the Giuliani administration. No one knows how much, if any, of that money will be restored. What we do know is that if we sit quietly we will definitely not get any of it back.

The Coalition's Government Relations Committee met in an emergency session on Wednesday, May 6 to discuss potential strategies for continuing to combat the vetoes. Action Alerts were sent to Coalition members about the decision of the committee. Questions regarding the alert can be directed to Joshua Rubin at 212-586-4555. The Committee will convene again on Monday morning, May 11 at 9:30 in the offices of the Institute for Community Living at 40 Rector Street. All Coalition members are encouraged to attend. ▣

Managed Care Tech Assist Update

Our consultants began visiting agencies on April 6, 1998, in order to assist with the completion of a managed care readiness survey. It must be emphasized that the results of the survey are strictly confidential and will be shared with the individual agency only. The results of the survey will serve many purposes.

Based on the survey, Coalition staff, assisted by our consultant, will forward a report to each agency noting areas of strengths, that can be capitalized upon, and weaknesses that need remediation. A site visit by Mr. Kraten will be scheduled for your agency sometime over the summer to address those issues. The survey results will help Coalition staff plan for upcoming training. In addition, the survey results will allow us to begin benchmarking agencies involved in the project to help staffs gauge their readiness for managed care.

— Help Wanted —

Hudson Guild, a not-for-profit settlement house in Chelsea, seeks to fill three positions:

Group Teacher: creative pre-school group teachers for our innovative multicultural early education program in a non-traditional environment. Our program serves children 2-6. We offer a number of programs including Early Head Start, Head Start, Day Care, Family Day Care, and After School Programs. Applicants must have or be actively pursuing permanent NY State Certification, N-6, Bilingual a plus (English/Spanish or English/Chinese). Salary: Union Scale, Local 205.

Office Manager/Administrative Assistant: Challenging, multi-task position managing the day-to-day needs of a mental health/social services clinic. Requires versatility, high energy, excellent communication and people skills. Excellent opportunity for a highly organized, flexible, take charge individual with three years office

management experience, computer proficiency, related degree preferred, and Bilingual English/Spanish a must. Duties will cover a broad range of managerial, administrative, and clerical functions that will include supervision of clerical and volunteer staff, answering phones, distributing mail, ordering supplies, filing, etc. Salary low to mid 20's with excellent benefits.

Social Worker (2 positions): Outpatient community mental health clinic seeks 2 CSWs to provide full range of mental health services to children, adolescents and adults. Both positions require either fluency in Spanish or significant experience working with the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community. One of these positions requires a minimum of five years post-MSW work as well as supervisory experience. Competitive salary, commensurate with experience, excellent benefits, creative and progressive work environment.

An Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage applications from under-represented groups and all minorities. Responses will be made only to those selected for interviews. NO PHONE CALLS - PLEASE. Resume to: Human Resources, **Hudson Guild**, 441 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001. (Fax) 212-268-9983. Please indicate position. ▣

Upcoming Dates

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| May 11 | Government Relations Committee at ICL, 40 Rector Street, 9:30 a.m.
MCTA: Small Group Meeting - Co-Existing Disabilities at CVMHA, 9:30 a.m. |
| May 14 | MCTA: HEDIS 3.0 NCQA Standards at CVMHA, 1:00 p.m.
Finance Committee at CVMHA, 8:30 a.m.
Executive Committee at CVMHA, 9:30 a.m. |
| May 17 | Mental Health Parity Picnic and Parade in Bryant Park, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. |
| May 18 | CMHA meeting on the RFI at CCC, 2:30 p.m. |
| May 19 | Reinvestment Rally in Albany |
| May 21 | Task Force on Children and Families at CVMHA, 3:00 p.m. |
| June 4 | 14th Annual Mental Health Awards at Pfizer World Headquarters, 5:00 p.m. |

Again, please remember that confidentiality will be maintained by assigning a number to each agency for identification purposes only. We are very aware of some of the limitations of the survey tool and will be working with a

research consultant over the summer in order to refine the tool and consequently the process. As always we welcome your input. Call Patricia Gallo Goldstein with any questions, suggestions or concerns. ▣