



# Coalition Briefs

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

## Barry Roff remembered

The Coalition will host a celebration of the life of Barry Roff on Friday, September 25, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. The event will take place in the auditorium at the Hunter College School of Social Work. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to extension 16. ▣

## Over-managed care

The New York State Department of Health has indicated that gatekeeping practices implemented by two for-profit behavioral health MCOs are illegal. Merit Behavioral Care and Value Behavioral Health were both requiring providers to notify them before making an inpatient admission, and reserved the right to have a face-to-face interview before granting approval for the admission. According to a DOH spokeswoman, "You can't have prior approval for an emergency admission." ▣

## Medicaid managed care update

The implementation of mandatory Medicaid managed care (the basic health plan) in New York has been delayed at least until December 1998. The State has asked for a delay in HCFA's readiness review until mid-October. This readiness review must precede any implementation of mandatory enrollment and will take approximately 75-90 days. In this time frame, Medicaid recipients will be notified about their mandatory enrollment options in mid-December, at the earliest. They will then have 60 days to choose a managed care plan. ▣

## Be an early bird

Don't miss your chance to get the early bird registration discount for "Discovering and Implementing Best Practices for Behavioral Healthcare." The \$25 discount (\$125 for members) for registering early only lasts through September 8, so don't delay. ▣

## From email to voice mail

The Coalition continued to move toward the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the installation of a new telephone and voice mail system. Coalition staff members may be reached at the following extensions:

Hildi Ali	19
Melinda Bowleg	11
Patricia Gallo Goldstein	12
Marilyn Kneeland	14
Dena Koppoe	10
Judeth Podell	18
Joshua Rubin	17
Phillip Saperia	15
Sam Sunshine	20

## Anthony Genovesi 1937-1998

Late on the evening of August 11, Brooklyn Assemblyman Anthony Genovesi died in a car crash in Dutchess County. The 61 year old Brooklyn political powerhouse was killed when his daughter lost control of her 1998 Toyota on rainy Route 22. Genovesi had served in the New York State Assembly since 1986, when he was elected to the seat vacated by then Speaker Stanley Fink for whom he had worked as a top aide. From his post atop Brooklyn's Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club he pushed a progressive agenda including championing services for the poor and opposing the death penalty. Attorney Frank R. Seddio, a political ally of Genovesi's, was selected by Democratic officials to replace him on the ballot for the Assembly. City Council Finance Committee Chair and Mental Health Award recipient Herb Berman will replace him at the head of the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club. ▣

## Upcoming Dates

September 7	Labor Day, Coalition closed
September 10	Finance Committee at CVMHA Executive Committee at CVMHA
September 14	MIS technical assistance kick-off meeting
September 16	MICA Committee at CVMHA
September 21	Rosh HaShanah, Coalition building closed
September 22	Rosh HaShanah, Coalition building closed
September 24	Membership meeting at CVMHA
September 25	Celebration of the life of Barry Roff at Hunter College
September 30	Yom Kippur, Coalition building closed
<b>October 13</b>	<b>Discovering and Implementing Best Practices for Behavioral Healthcare</b>
<b>November 12</b>	<b>Big Apple Circus at Lincoln Center</b>

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## Member notes

On September 30 **Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)** Executive Director Mark Robinson will resign. Ronald S. Johnson has been named as Acting Executive Director during the search for a successor. □

**The Center for Children and Families** has recently opened a new licensed outpatient mental health clinic. The Spa West Clinic located at 300 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street specializes in issues of family violence, sexual abuse, child abuse and neglect, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, foster care, adolescent and parenting issues, empowerment, parent effectiveness training and grandparent support. □

**Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center** has recently opened an employee assistance services division. The division provides assessments, crisis intervention, information, referrals, short-term counseling and specialized clinical interventions in both English and Spanish. Affiliation with St. Barnabas Hospital provides access to psychiatric inpatient hospitalization. In addition, 24-hour-a-day seven-days-a-week psychiatric emergency services are available. □

On October 1, 1998 **Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center** will begin operation of a crime victims/witnesses assistance program. The program, funded by the New York State Crime Victims Board, will provide services which immediately respond to the needs of crime victims and which are aimed at restoring the victim's coping mechanism, sense of dignity and self-esteem. □

## The Circus is coming!

November 12, 1998 will be a night for all of New York's mental health community to remember. Don't miss out when The Coalition hosts the Big Apple Circus. The sooner you send in your reply form the better will be your seats so don't delay; purchase tickets today! If you need an invitation or information, please contact Judeth Podell. □

## Outcomes measuring

The New York Community Outcomes Measurement Project (NYCOMP) will get under way very shortly. Coalition members who have not yet signed up should not miss this opportunity to be a part of the vanguard of outcomes measurement in New York. NYCOMP is being organized in conjunction with the New York State Council. If you still have questions or concerns please contact Pat Gallo Goldstein for more information. □

## Calling all members

Each Coalition member agency should have received by now a copy of the Summer 1998 membership survey. It is very important that we hear from all of our members as we begin to craft a strategy for the upcoming legislative session. The responses that have been returned to us have been great, but we hope to see many more. Take a few minutes to fill the survey out and fax it back. If you have questions or have not received a survey, contact Joshua Rubin. □

## — Help Wanted —

**FEGS** seeks (PT & FT) CSW's with expertise in short-term modalities to provide individual and group psychotherapy in our Rego Park Counseling center. 2-3 years related experience required. Fluency in Spanish and knowledge of HIV+/AIDS preferred. Flexible hours.

We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package including four weeks vacation for f/t staff. Resume to: HR Dynamics, Inc., dept. JC/RP, 235 Park Ave. South, 8th floor, NY, NY 10003. EOE. □

# Discovering and Implementing Best Practices for Behavioral Healthcare

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers  
811 Seventh Avenue at 52nd Street

Presented by

**The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies and  
The New York State Council for Community Behavioral  
Healthcare** in cooperation with the  
**National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare**

**Register by September 8 and save \$25**