



Coalition Briefs

A SEMI-MONTHLY UPDATE ON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW

Robert H. Meyers 1948-1999

It is with tremendous sadness that we report the death of Robert Henry Myers, the Assistant Commissioner of Child and Adolescent Services for The New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services. Bob, as he was known to his numerous friends and colleagues in our work world, provided invaluable assistance, insight and support to all of us at The Coalition and member agencies, and especially to those of us who work with children and adolescents. This came naturally to Bob who was a devoted husband to Ava and father to Dawn 23, Akil 17, Khary 14 and Damani 7. We will all miss him terribly. □

New agency locator on website

The Coalition has added an exciting new function to our already award-winning website www.cvmha.org. Visitors to the site are now able to enter an address and find the nearest Coalition member agencies. This new operation is the result of collaboration with the New York Public Interest Research Group's Community Mapping Assistance Project.

If you want to try this new feature just click on the "Agency Locator" button. Happy surfing. □

SRC employment plan

On September 22, 1999 The State Rehabilitation Council presented its plan for "Eliminating Barriers to Support Employment for New Yorkers with Severe Disabilities." The program featured State Education Commissioner Richard Mills, and Commissioners Stone, Johnson and Maul from SOMH,

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SNP Bidder News

Two potential bidders on the Adult Mental Health Special Needs Plans for New York City, Chem Rx of Oceanside, NY, and St. Vincent's Services of Brooklyn, did not attend the mandatory September 13th Offerers' Conference and have been notified by the NYS Office of Mental Health that they are therefore disqualified from bidding on the SNPs.

A third potential bidder, Comprehensive Behavioral Care, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, appears to be a branch of Comprehensive Care Corporation of Tampa, Florida, which trades over the counter on the NASDAQ exchange as "CHCR." It provides psychiatric and substance abuse services for managed health care providers through its Comprehensive Behavioral Care (CompCare) subsidiary. According to its public information, the parent organization had \$46.1 million in sales in 1998 and \$2.0 million in 1998 net income. As of 1998 it had 347 employees and provided services in 10 states and Puerto Rico, including 9 contracts with PCA, a subsidiary of Humana. Over 80% of its operating revenues are from managed care agreements. □

Movin' on up

On September 30th Sharon Carpinello took over the role of Executive Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health, replacing Alan Weinstock, who is reportedly moving to Pilgrim Psychiatric Center. Associate Commissioner Keith E. Simons replaced Sharon as Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Managed Care. Congratulations to both. □

Two shared staff bills

The chairs of the legislative mental health committees have heard our concerns about the havoc that will be wreaked on some community based services by the cuts to State shared staff that were enacted in the NYS FY2000 budget. Governor Pataki's budget proposed eliminating all 215 of the shared staff positions (professionals who work in the community and are paid by SOMH) in New York State. The legislature restored 66 of those slots, but the remaining 149 lost

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Movin' on over

After seven years at the helm of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill - New York State, Glen Liebman has taken a position at the SOMH. Glen will now turn his energies to implementing the recently enacted Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program. SOMH's gain is the advocacy community's loss. We will miss his insight and effort. Good luck Glen. □

Jim Brennan receives Safar award

At the October 6, 1999 Board of Directors and Membership meeting of the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Assembly Mental Health Committee Chair James F. Brennan accepted the 1999 Howard Safar Award from Mrs. Howard Safar and Kenneth Popler, PhD., M.B.A. and President/CEO of the **Staten Island Mental Health Society, Inc.**

Assemblymember Brennan said, "It is an honor to accept an award identified with such a dedicated community mental health advocate." □

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Assembly holds employment hearing

On September 28th the New York State Assembly Mental Hygiene Committee held a hearing entitled "Improving Employment Opportunities for Persons with Mental Disabilities." Executive Director Phillip Saperia testified on behalf of The Coalition about steps that can be taken to improve the employment opportunities for New Yorkers with psychiatric disabilities. In his testimony he highlighted steps that the New York State legislature can take to reduce the 80% plus unemployment rate among those with mental illness. Among the issues he emphasized were:

- The need to pass the Work Incentives Improvement Act
- The need to coordinate the efforts of numerous State agencies to help people with mental illness find and retain work
- The benefit of allowing people with disabilities who are employed to purchase Medicaid coverage
- The community-based sector's need for assistance in transitioning to an employment-focused paradigm

The text of the remarks are available on The Coalition's website at www.cvmha.org. □

Happy Disability Employment Awareness Month

On September 30th President Clinton proclaimed October, 1999 to be National Disability Employment Awareness Month. In doing so he called upon Americans to "reaffirm our determination to fulfill both the letter and spirit of the Americans with disabilities Act."

October has been designated in this way since 1945. □

Forensic MICA Conference

In conjunction with St. Barnabas Hospital, **Fordham-Tremont CMHC**, NYSAASAP, and the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, The Coalition is sponsoring a one day conference entitled "The Forensic MICA Client: Provider Competencies and Public Policy". Featured speakers will include Kenneth Minkoff, MD, Director Integrated Psychiatric and Addiction Services for Choate Health Systems; Patricia Harrison, Ph.D. from NYC DMH and C. Terence McCormick from NYS OMH. Speakers from provider agencies will showcase programs targeting MICA forensic clients. This conference is free to voluntary providers. □

\$100 million federal grants

On September 11th the federal departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services announced the awarding of \$100 million in grants to prevent violence and drug use among youth. The grants, part of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative were awarded to 54 communities across the country, including three in New York State.

The program "aims to help communities design and implement comprehensive educational, mental health, social service, law enforcement and juvenile justice services for youth." Funding comes from the Department of Education (\$60 million), SAMHSA (\$25 million) and Department of Justice (\$21 million).

The three New York State programs are in the Auburn Enlarged School District, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County and the Yonkers City Schools. The New York State grants total \$4,262,919 and are intended to fund the first year of a three-year project. For more information visit www.ed.gov/OESE/SDFS. □

Dr. Minkoff headlines free one day seminar

The NYS Council and The Coalition are co-sponsoring an excellent one day seminar entitled "Models of Integrated Treatment Strategies for Individuals with Co-occurring Psychiatric and Addictive Disorders" on Thursday, November 4 at the Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene in Poughkeepsie, from 11 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The seminar will feature Ken Minkoff, M.D. who is a national expert in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders and the Director of Integrated Psychiatric and Addiction Services, Choate Health Systems in Woburn, MA.

All Council and Coalition members are urged to attend this highly instructive seminar. □

1998 OMH Chartbook is available

The most recent edition of the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) Chartbook of Mental Health Information was recently posted on its Web site www.omh.state.ny.us also accessible through Government Links on The Coalition's Web site www.cvmha.org. Printed copies are available by contacting Catherine Matt at OMH at coplcam@omh.state.ny.us.

The 1998 Chartbook includes the following:

- Client Characteristics statistics for 1995 and changes from 1991 to 1995;
- Census of General Population, 1990 Actual Census - by Gender, Age Group and Ethnic Group, plus 1990 Corrected Census and Estimated Census for 1991 through 1997;
- 1994 Service Utilization and Expenditure Profiles [the most recent data available];
- 1994 Statewide Summary of Provider-Reported Revenues;
- Trends at State Psychiatric Centers, through 1997.

Most of this information is presented on a statewide basis and by counties. Additional statistics on Residential Indicators and Local Inpatients will be added at a later date. □

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Shared staff

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professionals still pose a tremendous problem for agencies that have come to rely on these roles.

Now both chairs have introduced bills that will completely restore the cut positions using Reinvestment funds. Senator Libous' bill (S.6099) would make shared staffing services an exception to the Reinvestment law that prohibits use of Reinvestment funds "to supplant or replace community mental health costs of any provider that were previously paid from the prior year's office of mental health general fund appropriation for the identical purpose." S.6099 passed the Senate on August 5th and was referred to the Assembly Mental Health Committee.

Assemblyman Brennan's bill (A.9074) was introduced on September 20th. A.9074 makes a similar exception for State fiscal year 2000, but additionally stipulates that up to half of the 15% of Reinvestment funds that are set aside for state operated hospitals be made available to restore shared staffing cuts. It also specifies that at least seven percent of the general Reinvestment funds may be used for shared staffing positions. ▣

CCC considers lawsuit

The Citizen's Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC) is contemplating suing the State of New York over the fact that children on the RTF waiting list and thousands of other emotionally disturbed children are forced to go without needed mental health services. Parents of children referred for placement in an RTF or whose children are on the RTF waiting list are encouraged to call (collect if need be) (212) 673-1800 and speak to Gail Nayowith (x25) or Suri Duitch (x18). Agency staff are encouraged to help with this important process. ▣

State Rehabilitation Council

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OCFS and OMRDD. Commissioner Mills assured the group that the Regents 2000-01 Budget Recommendations would include approximately \$8 million to support expansion of services provided by the Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID).

However, in a room filled with advocates for those with developmental and physical disabilities, Commissioner Stone's comments were truly sobering. Stone said SOMH has collected data that indicates that only 30% of OMH service recipients have ever had a job. Stone also claimed that with an employment rate ranging from 5 to 15% of all recipients, OMH has the lowest employment rate across the State agencies serving disabled individuals.

Clearly, mental health advocacy must do more to make work and employment more of a reality for many individuals. We have to start by supporting the Regents request for additional funding and finish by ensuring that mental health care recipients benefit from the vocational services added to the system. ▣

Member Notes

The keynote address at the Staten Island Committee on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services' 1999 Biennial Conference will be former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders. The theme of the daylong October 22nd conference will be "Déjà Vu: Our Failures of the Past, Our Hope for the Future." Also featured at the conference will be Dr. James Alan Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University.

Among the sponsors of the conference are a number of Coalition members including: **Children's Aid Society, JBFCS, Project Hospitality, St. Vincent's Services and Staten Island Mental Health Society, Inc.** For further information contact (718) 442-2225. ▣

Council Children's Committee

On September 29, 1999, the Children's Issues Committee Chair, Harry Cook, joined a panel of children's mental health advocates at the annual conference of the Coalition for Children's Mental Health Services in Saratoga Springs, NY.

In his well-received comments, Mr. Cook emphasized:

- that the best outcomes are achieved when SED youth and their families receive treatment in the normative community settings;
- that children need access to additional community residence beds; and CRs need to provide kids with more clinical services and provide higher staffing levels;
- that children and their families need more crisis and respite beds;
- that day treatment services and social and recreational support services need to be tied to after-school programs that are appropriately staffed to care for high-need kids and better serve families.

The Children's Issues Committee plans to meet after the November 4 Board Meeting and will schedule advocacy meetings with government officials to discuss these priorities. ▣

Accepting award applications

Eli Lilly and Company and the National Managed Health Care Congress are accepting applications for the 2000 Behavioral Healthcare Leadership Award. The award "recognizes those U.S. organizations which display successful and innovative leadership in how they serve their patients and providers, integrate clinically optimal outcomes in their programs, and coordinate and collaborate care management with medical health delivery systems, public mental health systems, employer customers and consumer groups." OPEN MINDS President Monica Oss will chair the panel of independent judges. Applications are due November 30, 1999. For more information contact Ronda Aliano at (781) 663-6549 or raliano@nmhcc.com. ▣

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— Help Wanted —

Upcoming Events

October 11	Columbus Day - Coalition Closed
October 12	PLC:Medical Necessity at CSS
October 12-13	Coalition Office Closed
October 14	Finance Committee at CVMHA Board of Directors Meeting at CVMHA
October 20	Government Relations Committee at CVMHA
October 28	Membership Meeting at CVMHA
November 5	Forensic MICA Conference at St. Barnabas

November 17 Big Apple Circus

Lake Shore Behavioral Health has three (3) full-time positions available for clinical therapists to provide comprehensive assessments, treatment planning, individual and group treatment modalities to an adult population. Masters degree in OMH approved discipline (RN, CRC, MSW) and Bilingual fluency (English/Spanish) essential. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Send cover letter and resumes to: John Flynn, 951 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14213. □

Building Available: A 20,000 sq. ft. brick building is available for use as a mental health program or related facility in the South Bronx on Southern Boulevard between 173rd and 174th Streets. Available November, 1999 the building (currently a daycare center) has a full kitchen, 7 classrooms, 5 offices, lounge, library, 2 conference rooms, 3 baths, common room and 5,000 sq. ft. play roof. Air conditioned. Call Mark Marcario (718) 727-9107. □

Catholic Charities is looking for an Assistant Director of Personnel to review, maintain and respond to resumes and employment inquiries. Manage open enrollment procedures, handle benefit problems directly. Act as a liaison to Pension, Health Insurance carrier, disability, LTD, TDA, Workers' Comp. and Unemployment. Conduct first day orientation. Prepare reports related to Human Resources. BA in Business w/ a specialty in Human Resources pref. or related degree. MA pref. Min. 3 yr. exp. in a H.R. capacity w/ an emphasis on recruiting, HRIS maintenance & benefits administration. Excellent communication and listening skills, computer skills including Word, Excel and database management. Knowledge of health, disability, workers' compensation and other benefits. Exc. Benefits. 19 Holidays. Send resume, salary req. & include job title in your response to **Catholic Charities**, 1011 1st Ave., Rm. 1113, NY, NY 10022 Or FAX (212) 826-8795. □

Brooklyn Psychiatric Center, Inc., a mental health agency serving the residents of Brooklyn for over 90 years is seeking:

Psychiatric Social Worker/MSW/CSW (F/T): for our Children's Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team. The right candidate will deliver services to seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families in their natural settings. Experienced in individual/family therapy; Spanish speaking desired. Excellent Union Benefits.

Child Psychiatrist (21 hours): NYS license, Board certified or eligible to work with a dynamic team providing intensive treatment to SED children and their families in their natural setting. Competitive salary and benefits.

Chief Accountant: whose responsibilities include, but not limited to staff supervision of two (2) analyze G/, Payroll, etc. Must be hands on and able to work independently with minimum supervision. Requirement five (5) to eight (8) years supervisory experience, advanced knowledge in Microsoft application, experience in Excel and Fund EZ software, CFR preparation, B.S., Accounting degree, MBA a plus. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. E.O.E.

Send CV's to: **Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, Inc.**, Human resources Department, 189 Montague Street - Suite 418, Brooklyn, NY 11201 or fax (718) 875-5672. □

New York Society for the Deaf has immediate openings for the following positions all of which require fluency in American Sign Language and have excellent benefits. Salary commensurate w/ exp.

Social Worker: CSW preferred will accept MA in related field. 1 yr. counseling exp.

Director of Service Coordinators MA preferred but will accept BA in human services w/ 3-5 yr. exp.

Service Coordinators: BA req. in human services field. 1 yr. exp. & knowledge in providing case management to adults who are Deaf/Deaf Blind, seniors, HIV+, or living w/AIDS, Substance Abuse, Developmentally Disabled, and/or Mentally Ill

Employment Specialist: BA/BS req. strong marketing skills & job counseling exp. Must be willing to travel. Must pass a job coaching evaluation

Administrative Assistant: Computer skills req. BA/BS pref. Responsible for reports, correspondence, supplies, schedules

Receptionist: 1 yr. exp. in answering phones. Good communication skills req.

American Sign Language Instructors: For NYC and LI offices, ASLTA certified a plus

Job Coaches: energetic professional job coach w/ min. 6 mo. work exp. NY Teachers Certificate or MA in Voc. Rehab, Sp. Ed, or Emp. Training exp. can be substituted for work exp. must pass a job coaching evaluation.

Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf/Personnel Dept.**, 817 Broadway - 7th Fl., NY, NY 10003. FAX: (212) 777-5276. □