



Coalition Briefs

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

Shared Staff Cuts

Although bills have been introduced in both houses of the New York State legislature to restore the shared staff positions that were cut during this year's budget negotiations, The Coalition's Government Affairs Committee is still unsatisfied. Both bills would permit the use of Reinvestment funds to restore the cut positions and the Committee is unwilling to advocate the dilution of the exceptionally important Reinvestment funding stream. The chairs of both house's mental health committees have been informed of the Coalition's desire to have the cuts restored from the general fund. ■

Voters reject merger

At least for the moment, The New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services will continue to remain separate from the New York City Department of Health. On November 2nd New York City voters overwhelmingly rejected the 14 proposals of the New York City Charter Revision that were combined into a single issue on the ballot. Of those, one was a proposal to merge the two Departments. Dr. Neal Cohen will remain at the head of both separate agencies. ■

Don't miss the fun!

It's not too late to get tickets to The Coalition's annual Big Apple Circus event. The circus will be held on November 17th at 6:30 p.m. Call Judeth Podell at ext. 18 to order your tickets before they're all gone. ■

"Kendra's Law" Begins

New York State's new Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Law goes into effect on November 8, 1999. This is the first day that AOT petitions may be filed. DMH will create a new AOT unit, which will be in place on November 8th. Until AOT unit phone numbers become available, questions on the law should be directed to Dr. Michael Lesser at DMH, (212) 219-5602.

Under the AOT law, DMH will have the major function of investigating and filing AOT petitions on behalf of the general public. DMH has not yet concluded what the procedure will be for Article 31 providers. Full, written AOT guidelines will be available from DMH in early November.

DMH estimates that a total of 7,000 AOT petitions will be granted in New York City in the first year of the law's operation. DMH has designated four HHC hospitals to handle AOT triage, investigation and petition filing: Woodhull Hospital for Brooklyn and Staten Island, Elmhurst Hospital for Queens, Bellevue Hospital for Manhattan and HHC's North Bronx Network for the Bronx.

Each hospital's AOT team will include psychiatrists, lawyers, social workers, administrators, secretaries and a peer advocate, as well as drivers, mobile crisis teams and ACT teams, to evaluate whether an AOT petition is warranted. The hospital teams will identify available service providers, go to court, monitor compliance, do follow-up and any necessary pickup for non-

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DMH to discuss MICA plans

New York City Department of Mental Health Deputy Commissioner Elsie Del Campo will attend the next meeting of The Coalition's Committee on Co-Occurring Psychiatric and Addictive Disorders to discuss the Department's efforts to provide appropriate services to people with multiple disorders. The meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. on November 9th at The Bridge, 248 West 108th Street. For more information call Joshua Rubin. ■

Goldstein jury deadlocks

After days of sometimes contentious deliberations the jury determining the fate of accused subway pusher Andrew Goldstein reached an impasse. Two jurors, both of whom have worked in health or human services, refused to vote to convict Goldstein. A new trial has been scheduled for the beginning of the new year. If found guilty Goldstein will face 25 years to life in prison. ■

New York/New York II signed: 1500 units

Months after announcing agreement on a second New York/New York Agreement, Governor Pataki and Mayor Giuliani have signed an accord. The agreement will fund 1,500 units of housing. The eligibility requirements reportedly have remained the same as under the first agreement. ■

Russell J. Ackaway, MA, CSW

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Administrator and business consultant for mental health agencies

- Program design, management and development • Community outreach and relations
- Preparation and development of strategic plans, informational surveys, program plans and market analyses
- Identification of funding opportunities • Grant writing, management and compliance

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— Help Wanted —

Kendra's Law

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compliance, and will coordinate with the police.

For now, funding for the AOT teams is coming from the City's general fund; however, the City is requesting additional State budget funds for the next fiscal year. Since there was no money allocated by the State in connection with the start-up of AOT, there is a serious problem of capacity in the present system to provide the care coordination and services mandated by the law. Since there are insufficient

slots for Assertive Community Treatment teams and Intensive Case Management or Supported Case Management, these case management services must be expanded.

DMH also indicated a lack of new dollars available for other community-based mental health services, or for housing for AOT subjects. We have expressed strong concern that the new AOT law did not address the fundamental issue of the lack of adequate funding in this State for effective outpatient mental health services and that the inadequate, existing system may be drained still further to meet the very valid needs of the AOT program participants. □

Intro to Medicaid managed care

The Mental Health Project at Urban Justice Center & the Mental Health Work Group of the NYC Task Force on Medicaid Managed Care invite consumers & advocates to attend an Intro. to Medicaid Managed Care Free Training Seminar on Nov. 18th 2:30-1:30pm at the Community Service Society, 105 E. 22nd St., Conference Rm., 4A, 4th Fl. RSVP to Andrea Ryan at (212) 533-0540x347. □

Victim Services' Solace and REFUGE programs invite you to a **free** One-Day Conference On: **The Arts and Survivors of Political Violence-A Bosnian Study** at The Riverside Church, Room 430, the MLK Wing on Friday, November 19th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The conference will be centered around experiential treatment of refugee trauma and survivors of torture in a format that combines the clinical and the creative. The goal is a deeper understanding of trauma and productive explorations of using artistic expression in working with survivors of trauma & their families.

The Conference leader, Melinda Meyer, R.N., M.A. is Director of the Norwegian Institute for the Expressive Arts Therapies, the Head Nurse and Expressive Arts Therapist at the Psychosocial Center for Refugees at the Univ. of Oslo and faculty member, Univ. of C. America. She will be showing two relevant films that focus on the expressive arts and film as therapeutic methods with specific focus on a group of Bosnian refugees as an example. Please RSVP by phone to Ernest Duff at (718) 899-1233x101. □

Member Notes

The Training Center of **The Educational Alliance, Inc.** announces upcoming presentations. "The Psychosocial Aspects of Cultural Diversity" is a 3-hour presentation by Felix Lorenzo. It will be held on November 10, 1999 from 1-4 p.m. (fee: \$15). "Identifying Transference and Countertransference" will be led by Caren Greenberg from 9-10:30 a.m. on November 19, 1999 (fee: \$10). For more information please call Maybelline at (212) 780-2300 ext. 451. □

Riverdale Mental Health Association seeks P/T Child Psychiatrist. 10hrs./wk. Work w/ child/adolescent population in outpatient, community-based MH center. Resp. include: diagnostic evaluations, medication supervision, consultation w/ staff. Board Eligible or Cert. NYS license. Easy access to NYC, Westchester, & NJ. AA/EOE. Send C.V. to: Matthew Gudis, M.D., Medical Director, **Riverdale Mental Health Center**, 5676 Riverdale Ave., Bronx, NY 10471. FAX: (718) 548-1161. □

Catholic Charities seeks Assistant Director of Personnel to maintain resumes & respond to emp. inquiries, manage enrollment procedures, handle benefit problems, act as liaison to Pension, Health Insurance carrier, disability, TDA, Workers' Comp, etc., conduct orientations. B.A. in Business w/ a specialty in HR pref., MA pref. Min. 3 yrs. exp. in an H.R. capacity w/ emphasis on recruiting; exc. communication & computer skills. 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 to (212) 826-8795. □

The **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service** seeks a Director of Planning. This is a 16-site organization, which offers a continuum of services. The overall responsibilities for this position will consist of the coordination of a new five-year strategic plan, responses to government RFP's and foundation grant requests and public communications. Interested candidates please contact Juliann May, DRG, fax (212) 983-1687, or jmay@drgnyc.com. □

Raices Casa BienEstar Geriatric Outpatient MH Clinic seeks bi-lingual Social Workers (MSW/CSW) to help in quality outreach services, community ed. assessment, counseling, referral services, & individual & group family treatment for older adults. Services target the needs of Latino, minority & immigrant pop. NYS License & NYS Ed. Dept. Cert. pref. Geriatric exp. +. Salary commensurate w/ exp. Mail, fax or e-mail resume & cover letter to: Jose R. Ortiz, Assoc. Exec. Dir., Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES, Raices Casa BienEstar, 10 Hanover Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11201. Ph: (718) 222-1518; FAX: (718) 222-4926. Email: CasaBienEstar@aol.com. □

Upcoming Events

November 9	PLC: <i>Confidentiality, Communications and the Client</i> at CSS MICA Committee at The Bridge
November 11	Veterans Day—Coalition closed
November 17	Big Apple Circus
November 18	Membership Meeting at CVMHA
December 9	Committee on Children and Families at CVMHA