



# Coalition Briefs

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

## Final PAR application issued

The Coalition has received from OMH its final PAR Application Form, which replaces the draft application form issued earlier. As noted in earlier issues of Briefs, OMH's new PAR ("Prior Approval Review for Quality and Appropriateness") regulations went into effect on March 5, 1999. This Application Form is to be used for the new approval process. To obtain a copy of the Form, contact the OMH Bureau of Inspection and Certification, Larry Chase, Director, at (518) 474-5570; fax (518) 486-5587. The Form is also posted on the OMH Web site, available through the links section of [www.cvmha.org](http://www.cvmha.org) □

## Providers have joint meeting with OASAS and OMH

On March 24<sup>th</sup> over 100 mental health providers from all over New York State met in Albany to discuss the future delivery system for people with co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders. OMH Commissioner James Stone and his staff were joined by OASAS Commissioner Jean Sommers Miller and her staff to discuss the proposed New York Plan for treating people with co-occurring disorders and the provider role in shaping the future system.

The morning was devoted to a presentation of the plan, and the afternoon was spent with three roundtable discussions with members of the government agencies and provider representatives. Panel topics included treatment models, licensing and regulatory issues and the provider role in developing the initiative. Attendees were asked to fill out interest inventories indicating the areas in which they would like to help the State in its planning.

We feel that the day was a success, and hope that it will represent the beginning of an increased provider role in shaping the future of the care delivery system for people with co-occurring disorders. □

## Funding for antipsychotic Rx

The Governor's proposed FY2000 budget for the Office of Mental Health includes an increase of \$11.6 million for OTPS adult services. This money is earmarked to cover the costs of atypical antipsychotic drugs for people in inpatient State-run settings. OMH is already paying for these newer, more expensive drugs and the allocation will cover losses and allow them to prescribe the drugs more freely going forward.

In working to determine if a similar initiative is underway for people in community-based settings Coalition staff discovered that, in fact, Medicaid

will cover any antipsychotic drug a community-based provider prescribes, including atypicals. With the exception of clozapine, which has potentially fatal side effects, clients are not required to try the older medications before the atypicals can be prescribed.

We applaud the Governor's recognition that advances in antipsychotic medications require additional funding and hope that the administration will recognize that the costs of providing mental health treatment increase with inflation as well as science. □

## NYS budget will be late

The legislature has gone home for the holidays without passing a budget. For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the New York State budget will be late. The legislature is set to return on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April and at that point they will likely wish to move ahead quickly as legislators stopped getting paid on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The delay causes some problems, but it also gives us an opportunity to make our case for trended rate increases.

The Coalition has produced 30,000 postcards for legislators and the Governor. They are in the mail to other provider organizations and agency directors. Keep an eye out for them and for Action Alerts. □



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## Outpatient commitment forum

On Friday, April 9, 1999 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. The Coalition will host a forum entitled Involuntary Outpatient Treatment: Issues and Solutions. The forum will be held at the new offices of F.E.G.S., at 315 Hudson Street on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor. Participants in the forum include Neal L. Cohen, M.D., Commissioner, New York City Departments of Health and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services; Howard Telson, M.D. Director, Bellevue Hospital Center Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Pilot Project; Barbara Jones, Associate Attorney, New York State Mental Hygiene Legal Service; Jody Silver, Director of Advocacy, Community Access, Inc.; John Gresham, Senior Litigating Attorney, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and a representative of NAMI-NYC. We expect interest in this very topical issue to be high, so please RSVP as soon as possible. For additional information, contact Marilyn Kneeland. □

## DMH announces education grant

The Department of Mental Health announced on March 25<sup>th</sup> that workers employed in mental hygiene agencies currently under contract with the Department are eligible for the Mental Hygiene Training Program leading to a Master's Degree in Social Work from the Hunter College School of Social Work. Successful applicants will receive a grant from the Department for the full cost of tuition for Hunter's One-Year Residency Program. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of two years experience in mental hygiene and social work related tasks.

The goal of the program is to increase the number of culturally competent professionals available to work with the diverse populations served by community-based agencies in the City. Applications are due on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Arnold Korotkin at DMH at (212) 219-5474. □

## Dr. Popler to head taskforce

City Council Mental Health Subcommittee Chair Una S.T. Clarke has formed a taskforce on outpatient mental health services to advise her about the needs of the community-based mental health system. Staten Island Mental Health Society President (and Coalition Board Member) Kenneth Popler and Brooklyn Borough President Representative Joan Leavitt have been nominated co-chairs of the taskforce. For more information on the taskforce, contact Joshua Rubin. □

## Our months

April means more than just the arrival of spring. It also means Alcohol Awareness Month. If you would like more information on the month or National Alcohol Screening Day on the 8<sup>th</sup>, contact DMHMRAS's Bureau of Alcoholism Services at (212) 219-5389, or the national campaign at (800) 405-9200.

Following Alcohol Awareness Month is National Mental Health Awareness month in May. Highlights of the month include Children's Mental Health Week from the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>, and Children's Depression Screening Day on the 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information about children's mental health activities, contact the DMHMRAS Office of Public Education and Community Affairs at (212) 219-5526. □

## Mental health awards

June 10 marks the date when The Fifteenth Mental Health Awards will be presented at Pfizer World Headquarters. This year's Mental Health Award will be presented to Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Dr. Neal L. Cohen. Harvey Rosenthal, Executive Director of the New York Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programs, will receive the Consumer Leadership Award.

Pfizer, Incorporated, a company whose community involvements are widespread and particularly felt in New York will be presented with the Corporate Good Citizen Award. Barry Roff, the Coalition's late Treasurer, will be presented posthumously with the Founders Award for his many years of service to the Coalition. A Special Presentation will be made to Honorary President, Mary D. Redd.

Coalition members and friends gather together each year to celebrate our collective work in the community mental health sector and to honor those who have made significant contributions to the field. □

## Saperia joins Council committee

National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH) Board Chair B.R. Kennemer has invited Coalition Executive Director Phillip Saperia to join the NCCBH Public Policy Committee. Mr. Saperia was excited at the prospect; "I am gratified to be asked to join such an important committee for this prestigious organization. I look forward to working for The Coalition's public policy goals on a national stage." □

## Upcoming Events

April 7	Passover- Coalition building closed
April 9	Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Forum at FECS
April 13	Coalition Board Strategic Planning Session at ABCNY MCTA: Geriatric Populations at JASA
April 14	Children's Committee at CVMHA
April 15	Finance Committee at CVMHA Board of Directors at CVMHA
April 19	MICA Committee at The Bridge
April 21	MCTA: Time Based Treatment at UJA
April 22	Membership meeting at CVMHA
April 27	MCTA: Quality Assurance at CSS
May 5	Membership Committee at PRFI
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Mental Health Awards at Pfizer World Headquarters</b>
<b>June 22-23</b>	<b>Best Practices Conference at Fordham</b>

# Coalition Briefs

## — Help Wanted —

**Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, Inc.**, a mental health agency serving the residents of Brooklyn for over 80 years is seeking the following professionals:

Assistant Program Administrator/CSW/Ph.D.: Our children's Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team in Central Brooklyn Seeks a FT CSW/Ph.D. with minimum five years experience to supervisor Professional staff delivering services too seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children and their families in their natural setting. Must be a team player. Familiar with systems approach; Exp. in indiv./family therapy; Spanish/French/Creole desired. Substance abuse background encouraged to apply. Excellent benefits.

Psychiatric Social Worker/MSW or CSW: Our ACT Team seeks a Social Worker to deliver services to Seriously Emotionally Disturbed children and their families in their natural setting. Exp. in indiv./family therapy. Spanish speak desired. Excellent Union Benefits.

Occupational Therapist OTR TR: Our CSS Day Program seeks a part time (14 hrs per week) Occupational Therapist to develop a program for geriatric adults in a mental health setting.

Psychiatric Social Worker: 14 hours (part time) to deliver services to two schools for On-Site School Program. Spanish speaking, minority desired.

Program Coordinator, CSW: 2 high schools, Central Brooklyn initiative On-Site School Program. 5 years experience, preferably in a school setting. Experience in ind/group psychotherapy with adolescents and their families. Must have ability to work with school personnel.

Psychiatrist: Our On-site School Program seeks a part-time (7hrs per week) psychiatrist (Board eligible/certified) to serve children in two schools within School District 15.

Fax resumes to: Marie Kelleher, ACSW at (718) 875-5672. Director of Clinical Operations, **Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers, Inc.**, 189 Montague Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. □

Bilingual Social Worker: Innovative geriatric mental health program on Upper West Side seeks a bilingual (Spanish/English) psychiatric social worker/CSW with strong clinical skills. Competitive salary. Send resume to: **SPOP**, 188 W. 88<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10024. □

**Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.** is seeking a Clubhouse Generalist: Non-profit mental health agency located in Harlem has an opening at our clubhouse facility for individual with good computer and administrative skills. Duties include intake, clerical and computer training to consumers, completion of city forms for submission as well as interaction with consumers. Some experience in Clubhouse environment preferred, but not necessary. Experience in dealing with MICA population a plus. Must possess good verbal and writing skills. Fax resume to Joseph Wong at (212) 316-0789. Salary \$22K. □

**The New York Society for the Deaf** is expanding and growing! New Programs! New Positions! We are currently seeking a creative staff of professionals to work with adults who are Deaf or Deaf Blind. ALL POSITIONS REQUIRE FLUENCY IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Equal opportunity employer.

Director of Behavioral Health and Clinical Services: CSW with "R" number preferred, but will accept Master's Degree in related field, with 5-7 years clinical and administrative experience working in a social services or mental health setting. Provide direct supervision to professional staff.

Social Worker: CSW preferred will accept Master's Degree in related field. One year counseling experience.

Director of Service Coordinators: MA preferred but will accept BA in human services with 3-5 years experience. Provide direct supervision to service coordinators.

Service Coordinators: BA required in the human services field. One Year experience and possess knowledge in providing case management services to adults who are Deaf/Deaf Blind, seniors, HIV+ or living with AIDS, substance abuse, Development Disabled and/or Mentally Ill.

Residential Counselors: High School Diploma/GED required. Provide assistance to individuals so they may become more independent.

Accountant: BA required in accountings with a minimum of 3+ years work experience. Assist in financial statement preparation, budget, and general accounting duties.

Staff Interpreters: Part-time position interpreting in a wide variety of settings. RID certified a plus.

American Sign Language Instructors: ASLTA certified a plus.

Job Coaches: Seeking an energetic professional job coach with at least six months work experiences. A NY Teachers Certificate or MA in Vocational Rehabilitation, Special Ed, or Employment Training experience can be substituted for work experience. All candidates will be required to pass a job coaching evaluation.

Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway - 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10003, Fax: (212) 777-5276. □

## Member Notes

The **Jewish Child Care Association** will hold a free children's depression screening on Tuesday, May 4, 1999 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. May 4<sup>th</sup> is Children's Depression Screening Day. The screening will take place at 3003 Avenue H in Brooklyn. Call (718) 859-4500 for more information. □

**Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.** is seeking a residence counselor: We have an opening for a full time, day shift residence counselor. Duties include counseling adults who were homeless with possible mental illness and/or substance abuse. Provides rehabilitative and restorative services to residents. Provides services to resident in apartment visits, individual sessions, group meetings and off-site activities. Reports to Team Coordinator and participates in individual and group supervision, team meetings and staff meetings. Qualification includes a High School diploma or equivalent with two years experience in mental health or related field. Computer literate and good writing skills. Salary: \$18,000. Fax resume to Joseph Wong, Human Resources Manager at (212) 316-0789. □