



# Coalition Briefs

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

## RFP release imminent

The rumor mill indicates that the Special Needs Plan Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. An OMH spokesperson indicated that an official date has yet to be announced so he could neither confirm nor deny the July 19<sup>th</sup> date. The spokesperson did indicate that everything looks like it is coming together and that OMH staff anticipate that they will be able to announce an official release date sometime shortly. ▣

## Moving on the merger

Discussions about the merger of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services with the Department of Health are continuing following successful passage of a FY00 City budget. We hope that this proposal will receive the full consideration of the City Council. We hope that they will quickly resolve the issue and end the limbo in which the Departments and their constituencies have been hanging for over nineteen months. It is in everybody's best interest for this pending matter to be resolved. ▣

## 2/3 of the way to 1/2 fare

Sometimes an idea is so good that even the seemingly endless partisan squabbling in Albany can be put aside for a brief moment. The MTA Half Fare Fairness Bill is just such an idea. After unanimously passing the Senate (99-0) in mid-June, an identical bill passed the Assembly by an overwhelming majority (128-3). All that remains is for the Governor to sign the bill into law and end ten years of institutionalized discrimination against people with mental illness by the Metropolitan Transit Authority. We encourage all readers of Briefs to contact the Governor's office at (518) 474-1041 to register your support for this worthy piece of legislation. ▣

## DMH anti-stigma campaign works for people with mental illness

The Blue Room at City Hall was overflowing on June 21<sup>st</sup> for the official kick-off of the City Department of Mental Health's anti-stigma campaign. The campaign focuses its efforts on work and the benefits to people with mental illness of working as well as the benefits to society when people with mental illness work. The slogan "Treatment Works for People with Mental Illness" is a conscientious double entendre. Work is good treatment and people who are receiving treatment and supports make good workers. The event was still more exceptional because of the presence of U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), a long-time advocate for people with mental illness on the Federal level.

Our kudos to the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services and Department of Health Neal Cohen for spearheading this ambitious project, which includes an initiative to build relationships between businesses and the nonprofit mental healthcare sector as well as the creation of a City-wide Employment Center for people with mental illness. Kudos also to Mayor Giuliani for his efforts and the way in which he "urge[d] New Yorkers to set aside prejudices and stereotypes about people with mental illness."

Sadly, we are unable to laud the New York City press corps which, despite their large presence at the announcement, could muster not even a single question about the campaign, and allowed the story to languish in the back of the papers and at the tail end of the nightly news. ▣

## Third SNP's a charm

One way or another New York City needs a third Special Needs Plan (SNP). The current legislative authorization for six, four of which are being held for regions outside the City, leaves the State one shy of where it needs to be.

The ideal solution to this shortage is the legislative authorization of a seventh SNP. With the anticipated release of the Adult Mental Health Special Needs Plan Request for Proposals (RFP) likely before the end of July, the time frame in which the State can act is growing ever shorter. Bills authorizing this seventh SNP have passed both houses of the legislature, but differences in the bills have, until now, held up passage. The Coalition is seeking the assistance of the Governor's office to resolve these differences and get a seventh SNP authorized before the SNP

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## Supreme Court news

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the U. S. Supreme Court issued four very important decisions interpreting the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) of 1990.

One case, *Olmstead v. L.C.* (No. 98-536), may well help state mental hospital patients enter community-based treatment, through its central holding that unnecessary segregation of persons with mental disabilities may constitute discrimination based on disability under the A.D.A. Fortunately, the Court gave clear recognition to the isolation, stigma, and fundamental discrimination that results from "institutional placement of persons who can handle and benefit from community settings." Although the Court acknowledged the states' clear need to provide a range of treatment settings, including inpatient treatment, its straightforward language cannot help but focus attention on the need for adequate and appropriate community-based mental health treatment and the man-

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## Bruno blocks parity bill

New York State is a leader in this country. Good ideas often start here and spread to the rest of the country and world. That is one reason it is so disappointing that we continue to lag behind the rest of the country when it comes to providing mental health insurance parity to our citizens. 23 States now mandate insurance parity for people with mental illness. Despite the fact that the Assembly has passed parity legislation every year for three years running (this year 146-0), the State Senate continues to fail in its duty to New Yorkers with mental illness. In fact, no parity bill has ever even made it out of the Rules Committee and onto the floor so that rank and file Senators can vote on it. We urge *Briefs* readers to contact Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno at (518) 455-3191 to encourage him to move S2089 out of the Rules Committee, where it has languished since June 11. □

## Managed care consumers gain new external appeal rights

New York's new External Appeal Law went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, affording this State's healthcare consumers important new rights to independent review of decisions by their HMO or health plan denying health insurance benefits.

To utilize the protections afforded by this new law, a consumer seeking to question a health plan's adverse decision must first file an internal appeal with that plan, or the consumer and the health plan may jointly agree to waive the internal appeal process. A consumer need not exhaust a second level of internal appeal, if that is available. Instead, the consumer must file an external review application within 45 days of a *first*-level denial. Health plans must provide an external review application whenever they issue a final adverse determination (1) based on reasons of medical necessity or (2) because the requested services are considered experimental or investigational.

For further information, an application form, or problems with the law's implementation, call the State Insurance Department's hotline: 1-800-400-8882 or check the Department's Web site, [www.ins.state.ny.us/extappqa](http://www.ins.state.ny.us/extappqa). □

## Supreme decisions

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date for care in the least restrictive possible setting.

The Court's other A.D.A. decisions may have a less sanguine result. Three employment cases (*Sutton v. United Air Lines, Inc.*, No. 97-1943; *Murphy v. United Parcel Service, Inc.*, No. 97-1992; *Albertsons, Inc. v. Kirkingburg*, No. 98-591) limited the reach of the A.D.A., ruling that the Act does not protect persons with disabilities which can be corrected or mitigated by medicine or medical devices. The potential reach of such a ruling is troubling to many disability rights advocates.

Because of the importance of these Supreme Court rulings, The Coalition is preparing a more extensive analysis of the cases and their potential impact and applicability for our members. In the meantime, the full texts of these opinions are available on the Web at [supct.law.cornell.edu/supct](http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct). □

## Editor's note

*Briefs* readers may have noticed that we have diverged from our regular publication schedule. As things slow down for the summer we hope to do the same. We will continue to publish *Briefs* as often as the news warrants, and will return to our regular semi-monthly schedule in the autumn. Enjoy the long lazy days of summer and we will try to do likewise. □

## IOC negotiations continue

Despite the gridlock by which this year's legislative session has been characterized, negotiations around an Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) bill are proceeding with some degree of vitality. The linkage to the Webdale family and Kendra's name seems to have made passage of this bill something of a political imperative. The Coalition, while not outright opposing any form of mandated outpatient care, has serious concerns with the bills on the table that, based on what we hear from Albany, are not being addressed. We will oppose any IOC bill that: does not include an allocation to cover the costs of the mandated services, does not target only a very narrow group of consumers who may benefit from IOC, does not allow mental health professionals to make decisions about what is appropriate treatment, forces providers to inform the authorities about non-compliant consumers, applies to minors under 18, and does not provide presumptive Medicaid eligibility for people coming out of inpatient treatment facilities or correctional institutions. The Coalition will be joining mental health advocates from across the State in Albany on Tuesday for another round of meetings and press conferences about IOC. □

## Three's Company

(Continued from page 1)

RFP is released.

If an authorization for a seventh SNP is not forthcoming, the only way to provide New York City with the third SNP it needs

is to reallocate SNPs so that only three are held for communities outside the City. With two-thirds of the likely SNP-eligible consumers in New York City, it is not unreasonable to expect that the City should get more than one-third of the SNPs. □

## Upcoming Events

July 15	CARF: Improving Performance by Measuring Outcomes
July 21	Breakfast for prospective new members at PRFI
August 16	MIS Committee at CVMHA
August 26	MIS Committee at CVMHA
August 27	MIS Committee at CVMHA
September 6	Labor Day - Coalition closed
September 7	MCTA: Larry Berg, Ph.D., Esq. on MC Contracting at CSS
September 13	MICA Committee at The Bridge

# Coalition Briefs

## — Help Wanted —

Staff Generalist: **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service, Metro Club** is seeking an enthusiastic individual to work w/ adult members of psychosocial club in the daily operations of the clubhouse. Position requires organizational skills, and the ability to simplify tasks in order to stimulate participation and interest in the weekday work. Min. evening and weekend hours for social and recreational programming. Staff encourages member leadership and help members to identify and use community resources that promote their well-being, independence and satisfaction. Min. one-year exp. with mentally ill adults and AA degree or some college course work, or H.S. diploma w/ extensive exp. with population. Salary commensurate w/ experience. Contact: Michael Williams, Metro Club Director **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service** (718) 834-0496 or FAX resumes to (718) 834-9390. □

Employment Specialist: **The New York Society for the Deaf** is seeking someone with strong marketing skills and job counseling experience. Responsibilities include facilitating communication needs btw. employers and employees who are Deaf/Deaf Blind. Must be willing to travel. BA/BS required. Candidates must pass a job coaching evaluation. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway-7th Fl., New York, NY 10003. Fax to: (212) 777-5267. □

Director of Service Coordinators: **The New York Society for the Deaf** is seeking a creative professional to provide direct supervision to service coordinators working with adults who are Deaf or Deaf Blind. MA preferred but will accept BA in human services w/ 3-5 yrs. experience. Fluency in American Sign Language required. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway - 7<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10003. Fax to: (212) 777-5276. □

Resident Managers: **Pesach Tikvah/Door of Hope Family and Children's Services**, seeks Resident Managers for ICF and IRA in Williamsburg. Previous MR/DD administrative exp. required. Send resume with cover letter to: Director, MR/DD Services, **Pesach Tikvah**, 18 Middleton St., Brooklyn, NY 11206; or FAX: (718) 875-6999. □

Associate Director: **Catholic Charities** is seeking someone for overall management of Migration Services & its programs, including day to day operations, direct supervision of staff, review of client files & accounts. Responsible for the compilation of monthly statistical reports & budgets. Provide training & technical assistance to casework staff regarding immigration related issues. Assist the Director in developing strategies & program expansions as well as drafting grant proposals. Masters degree preferred. Prev. exp. in staff supervision, highly motivated & self-starter; good communication, analytical & interpersonal skills. Bilingual (English-Spanish) preferred. Knowledge of immigration & naturalization laws helpful. Exp. w/ Microsoft Office. Excellent benefits. 19 Holiday. Send Resume, salary requirements & include job title in your response to **Catholic Charities**, 1011 First Avenue, Rm. 1113, NY, NY 10022 or fax to 212-826-8795. □

Residential Counselors: **The New York Society for the Deaf** is seeking creative professional w/ High School Diploma/GED to provide assistance to individuals so that they may become more independent. Fluency in American Sign Language req. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate w/ experience. Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway-7th Fl., New York, NY 10003. Fax to: (212) 777-5276. □

Staff Interpreters: **The New York Society for the Deaf** is seeking to fill a part time position interpreting in a wide variety of settings. RID certified a plus. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway-7th Fl., New York, NY 10003. Fax: (212) 777-5276. □

Case Manager: **Weston United Community Renewal TLC** has full time day position for case manager. Responsibilities include admission/discharge process, assist consumers, ensure ADL services performed by counselors, conduct groups and participation in team meetings. Good computer and writing skills. BA in human services preferred and 2 years of experience. Salary \$26,000. Fax Resume to: Joseph Wong, Human Resources Manager, **Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.** (212) 316-0789. □

American Sign Language Instructors: **The New York Society for the Deaf** is seeking American Sign Language instructors for both their New York City and Long Island Offices. ASLTA certified a plus. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of intent and resume to **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway-7th Fl., New York, NY 10003. Fax to: (212) 777-5276. □

Job Coaches: **The New York Society for the Deaf** is seeking an energetic professional job coach with at least six months work experience. 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. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway-7th Fl., New York, NY 10003. Fax to: (212) 777-5276. □

Social Worker - Counseling Department: The Social Worker will be responsible for "hands-on" supervision and developmental functions of a small after-school program. Primary focus will be running a small after-school program for SED adolescents that is part of larger teen program in multi-service agency and other required duties as assigned. Position is full-time with Flexible hours (early evenings and some Saturdays). Candidates must have CSW and specific experience working with SED teens, preferable within a recreational setting. Supervisory experience and bi-lingual Spanish/English a Plus. Comprehensive benefits package. Salary commensurate with experience. We are an EOE. If you meet these qualifications then please send us your resume in confidence. Mail resume to: Human Resources/Social Worker, **Hudson Guild**, 441 W. 26th Street, New York, NY 10001. Or fax resume to: (212) 268-9983. No Phone Calls Please. □

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## — Help Wanted —

Grants Coordinator: **Catholic Charities** is seeking a Grants Coordinator to be responsible for coordinating the distribution of HPNAP and FEMA funds to 50+ NYC emergency food & shelter programs & social service staff programs located throughout the Archdiocese. Position will assist Office Coordinator in soliciting, reporting on, & monitoring grants. B.A. in related area or 3 yrs. exp. in grants management or similar accounting procedures. Proficient in Microsoft Office. Excellent communication & organizational skills. Ability to handle multiple tasks & attention to detail. Excellent benefits. 19 Holidays. Send resume, salary requirements & include job title in your response to **Catholic Charities**, 1011 First Avenue, Rm. 1113, NY, NY 10022 or fax to 212-826-8795.☐

Administrative Assistant: **Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.**, a Mental Health agency in Harlem has full time position for administrative assistant. Responsibilities include assisting fiscal and executive departments in typing, filing, phone coverage and special projects. Good computer phone and clerical skills, must type 45 wpm and experience in office environment. High School diploma or GED. \$20,000 w/ benefits. Fax Resume to: Joseph Wong, Human Resources Manager, **Weston United Community Renewal, Inc.** (212) 316-0789.☐

Accounts Payable Clerk: **Catholic Charities** is seeking someone to verify that approval for payments are prepared properly & proceed on a timely basis. Will coordinate activity w/ Data System center for processing batches. Maintain Accounts Payable files in an efficient manner. Other assignments & special projects as required by senior management. College credits in accounting or HS diploma w/ 2-4 yrs. of payables or related exp. Excellent interpersonal communication & organizational skills. Willingness to work additional hrs. when necessary. Excellent Benefits. 19 Holidays. Send resume, salary requirements & include job title in your response to **Catholic Charities** 1011 First Ave., Rm. 1113, NY, NY 10022 or fax to 212-826-8795.☐

Psychiatrists: **Bedford Stuyvesant CMHC, Inc.**, a Comprehensive Community MH Center is seeking to fill positions for BE/BC in Adult and/or Child Adolescent. NYS license req. for Adult OPDs Day Treatment programs and Child Adolescent OPDs. Offers competitive salaries & comprehensive benefit packages. Send CV & cover letter indicating area of specialty w/ salary req. to: **Bedford Stuyvesant CMHC, Inc.**, 1406 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY 11216, Attn: Human Resources. Fax # (718) 398-3233.☐

Clinical Coordinators: Citywide Behavioral Network, a start-up provider-owned managed care network of 45 NYC agencies, needs full and part-time clinical coordinators to intake, refer and track clients, work w/ agency staff to implement specialized services and make program modifications. We seek creative problem-solvers familiar w/ NYC delivery systems to develop innovative interventions; need NYS licenses and 5+ yrs. clinical/supervisory behavioral health exp., preferably in child/adolescent services. Computer literacy req. Send resume to: Dr. Thelma Dye, Citywide Behavioral Network c/o Northside Center, 1301 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 11229.☐

Social Worker: **The New York Society for the Deaf** is seeking creative professionals to work with adults who are deaf or Deaf Blind. CSW preferred. Will accept Master's Degree in related field. Fluency in American Sign Language required. One year counseling experience. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate with exp. 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, NY 10003. Fax: (212) 777-5276.☐

Directors: **Bedford Stuyvesant CMHC, Inc.**, a Comprehensive Community MH Center is seeking to fill positions for Child/Adolescent & Adult OPDs; Supervisory & Clinical exp.; MSW, LCSW or Ph.D. Clinical. Offers competitive salary & comprehensive benefits package. Send CV & cover letter indicating area of specialty w/ salary req. to: **Bedford Stuyvesant CMHC, Inc.**, 1406 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY 11216, Attn: Human Resources. Fax # (718) 398-3233.☐

Computer Help Desk/IT Support Associate: **Catholic Charities** is seeking someone who can provide the support needed for adequate utilization of computer resources by servicing end-user requirements & monitoring computer resources. Develop & assist in developing application software systems & reports as required. Other assignments & special projects as req. by senior management. College degree w/ 1-3 yrs. of end-user support & help desk support. Ability to relate & communicate w/ both end-users & management. Ability to initiate projects, prioritize & complete tasks on a timely basis & work w/ min. supervision. Intermediate knowledge of the following: Microsoft Office, Outlook, Lotus, Crystal Reports, Internet Explorer, Windows (95/98/NT), Novella and DOS, personal computers, peripherals and servers. Excellent Benefits. 19 Holidays. Send resume, salary requirements & include job title in your response to **Catholic Charities**, 1011 First Avenue, Rm. 1113, NY, NY 10022 or fax to 212-826-8795.☐

Director of Behavioral Health & Clinical Services: **The New York Society for the Deaf** is seeking a CSW with "R" number preferred, but will accept Master's Degree in related field, w/ 5-7 yrs. clinical and admin. experience working in a social services or mental health setting. Responsibilities include providing direct supervision to professional staff. Fluency in American Sign Language req. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate w/ experience. 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, NY 10003. Fax: (212) 777-5276.☐

Service Coordinators: **The New York Society for the Deaf**. BA required in the human services field. One yr. experience and must possess knowledge in providing case management services to adults who are Deaf/Deaf Blind, seniors, HIV+ or living w/ AIDS, Substance Abuse, Developmentally Disabled, and/or Mentally Ill. Fluency in American Sign Language required. Excellent benefits. Salary commensurate w/ experience. Send letter of intent and resume to: **New York Society for the Deaf**, Attn: Personnel Dept., 817 Broadway - 7<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10003. Fax to: (212) 777-5276.☐