



# Coalition Briefs

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

## Kendra's law

On Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> Governor Pataki held a ceremony to officially sign 'Kendra's Law,' requiring people with mental illness to comply with court-ordered treatment regimens or face involuntary hospitalization. Governor Pataki was joined by Patricia Webdale, mother of crime-victim Kendra Webdale at the bill-signing. 'Kendra's Law' will take full effect on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 90 days after the bill was actually signed into law. 'Kendra's Law' will expire on June 30, 2005. □

## Suing for discharge plans

Lawyers from the Urban Justice Center, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and Debevoise & Plimpton have filed a class action lawsuit in State Supreme Court to force the City to meet its responsibilities for appropriate discharge planning for people with mental illness who are coming out of City jails. The suit, filed on August 24<sup>th</sup>, names as defendants the City of New York, Mayor Giuliani, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation and its President Luis Marcos, NYC Department of Mental Health (DMH), NYC Department of Health (DOH), DMH and DOH Commissioner Neal Cohen, NYC Department of Corrections and its Commissioner Bernard Kerik, NYC Human Resources Administration and its Administrator Jason Turner and St. Barnabas Hospital and its President Ronald Gade. The 27 page complaint accuses the defendants of violating the requirement under § 29.15 of the Mental Hygiene Law (the section under which the Koskinas case was filed) and 14 NYCRR § 587 for appropriate discharge planning. The complaint also alleges that the rights of inmates, including pre-trial detainees, with psychiatric disabilities are being violated under Article I, § 5 and 6 of the New York State Constitution. □

## Fair at last, fare at last...

On Tuesday, September 31<sup>st</sup> Governor George Pataki ended some of the discrimination faced by people with mental illness when he signed into law the MTA Half Fare Fairness bill. After near-unanimous passage by both the Senate and Assembly, we are thrilled that the MTA will no longer be permitted to deny the half fare benefit to people with psychiatric disabilities.

Fred Levine, whose tireless efforts built a small coalition into a powerful grassroots force was grateful for the result. "I think this is a time to be thankful for the Senate and Assembly sponsors, Senator Padavan and Assemblyman Brennan, and the entire legislative leadership, without whose leadership this would not have been possible. It's also time to be thankful that the mental health community was able to coalesce around this positive initiative and showed the ability to persevere over more than a decade to make this happen. Perhaps it is an indication that access to services will be the major policy direction that the Governor and our public policy leaders will be moving towards in the future. That ultimately is what leads to recovery."

The passage of this bill is a direct result of the intensive grassroots campaign mounted by New York State's mental health advocacy community. According to his staff Governor Pataki received more mail and phone calls about this issue than any other this session. Briefs readers who wrote/called/faxed/emailed our elected officials to get this passed should give themselves a pat on the back. □

## Charter Revision Commission adopts merger proposal

The New York City Charter Revision Commission, chaired by former Deputy Mayor Randy M. Mastro, has placed on the ballot a proposal to merge the New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services with the New York City Department of Health. The proposal has survived the first winnowing of the items under consideration by the Commission. On Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, the list of items under consideration was whittled from 40 to 14.

On August 12<sup>th</sup> Coalition staff member Joshua Rubin testified before the Commission about protections the provider community needs before the two Departments can be safely merged. In a letter dated August 24<sup>th</sup> Commission Executive Director Claude Millman indicated that he was considering recommending to the Commission that they make all of the changes to the Charter language about the merger that The Coalition requested. Specifically:

- The new agency would be named the Department of Public Health and Mental Hygiene Services (DPHMHS).
- The Deputy Commissioner for Mental Hygiene would report directly to the Commissioner of Public Health and Mental Hygiene Services.
- The Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Mental Hygiene would act as a liaison between voluntary agencies and DPHMHS procurement staff.
- The merger would face a mandatory review by the Mayor's Office of Operations after year two and year four.

According to reports published in the *New York Times*, the 14 proposals will all be included in a single ballot item. □

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## Begun confirmed by Senate

Coalition Honorary Director and long-time mental health advocate Martin S. Begun has been appointed to two important statewide Councils by Governor George E. Pataki. On August 4<sup>th</sup> the New York State Senate confirmed Mr. Begun as a member of the Mental Health Services Council and the State Hospital Review and Planning Council. Mr. Begun will serve on the Mental Health Services Council until March 31, 2002 and the Hospital Review and Planning Council until December 9, 1999. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Begun on these important appointments. ▣

## Coalition begins contract

The Coalition has entered into a contract with the Board of Directors of the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NYSCCBH) to oversee the operations of the statewide provider advocacy group while New York State Council Executive Director Gayle Farman is on maternity leave. The Coalition is honored to have been considered for this opportunity and pleased to be involved with the New York State Council.

We are also excited to have engaged the services of Andrea Smyth of Albany's A. Smyth Advocacy to aid in the day-to-day operations of the New York State Council. In the many years that we have worked with Andrea Smyth we have come to know her as one of Albany's savviest human services advocates.

The Coalition wishes Gayle Farman the best of luck with the conclusion of her pregnancy and hopes that we can meet the high standards that she has set for the New York State Council. We, along with the entire mental health community, look forward to her return to the helm of NYSCCBH after a smooth delivery. ▣

## Professional Learning Center

The curriculum for this year's **first** series of professional presentations is currently available on The Coalition's website at [www.cvmha.org](http://www.cvmha.org). Year three of The Coalition's technical assistance project will offer three discrete series. Series I, "Legal and Ethical Issues in Managed Care" to begin on September 7, 1999, will feature Lawrence Berg, Ph.D., JD, who will present "An Introduction to Managed Care Contracting for BHOs". The second series will deal with managed care issues and the third will relate to clinical best practices.

The schedule for the first series is finalized and brochures are being sent to all member agencies. Other interested parties should contact Pat Gallo Goldstein at extension 12. All presentations are free to Coalition members. ▣

## ReMember

Coalition members are reminded that they are entitled to place free help-wanted ads in Coalition Briefs as a benefit of membership. Want-ads should be sent to Joshua Rubin by email at [jfrubin@cvmha.org](mailto:jfrubin@cvmha.org) or by fax at (212) 541-6183. ▣

## And the winner *almost* is...

After nine months of intensive work by the MIS Selection Committee, The Coalition is very close to selecting one or two software vendors. As many of you already know, this past year, The Coalition hired Jim Chiang from Capstone Resource Corporation to assist member agencies in identifying information technology needs that would enable better management of information and overall client service.

In December of 1998, through a series of focus group, we were able to identify the technology needs and requirements of our member agencies. Following this analysis, the committee developed an RFP that was sent to a select group of vendors. The RFP responses led the group to select five semi-finalists who have just finished demonstrating their products to the committee. At our next meeting, in order to determine the "Best-Fit" vendors and products, the committee will develop a short-list of semi-finalist (2-3) vendors for further assessments which will include reference checks and product use site visits and lead us to contract negotiations for group sales.

Our final decision will be announced in late October or early November. ▣

## Member Notes

The **Park Slope Center for Mental Health** is running two programs in hypnosis. The first, the Hypnosis Institute, trains Masters level and above healthcare professionals in clinical hypnosis. A beginners' class begins October 14 from 7-9:30 p.m. and runs eight weeks. The second program is a Sunday evening lecture series that runs from 7-9:00 p.m. On September 24<sup>th</sup> the topic is "Hypnosis and Sex Therapy" and on October 10<sup>th</sup> the subject is "The Power of Self-Hypnosis." Call Susan Lee Bady, CSW at (718) 788-2461 for more information. ▣

## New York Service Program for Older People

is pleased to announce a new seminar series on *Older Adults and Mental Health*. The first seminar, "The Search for Meaning in Later Life: Theory & Techniques," will be held on Tuesday September 14<sup>th</sup>. Future seminars on older adults will include: "Depressive Disorders" (Dec. 7), "Narcissistic Personality" (Mar. 7) and "Holocaust Survivors" (May 9). All seminars are free and are held at **SPOP** at 175 West 87<sup>th</sup> Street from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Pre-registration is required, call (212) 787-7120x111. ▣

**PSCH** has introduced a 45-hour training for professionals entitled *The MICA Client and the MICA Clinician: Assessment & Treatment Strategies*. The OASAS certified training is designed to enable participants to develop assessment strategies for the mentally ill client with co-occurring addiction disorders, to develop intervention and treatment strategies and to develop individualized assessment skills. The course meets on consecutive Tuesdays from 12:00-4:30 p.m. beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999 and January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2000 and will be taught by John J. Benitez, MA, CASAC. The training costs \$385 per person and space is limited. Call (718) 445-4700x2602 for more information. ▣

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**Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service** has an opening for a Senior Financial Manager. Resp. include budget, financial analysis, grant mgmt. & reporting, forecasting, audit, review, supervision of staff. Req. include advanced degree in finance (CPA, MBA), knowledge of Fund Accounting, good comm. skills. Salary commensurate w/ exp; excellent benefits. Cover let. & resume to: Barry Newmark, **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service**, 285 Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn, NY 11217. FAX: (718)858-7570. □

**NY Service Program for Older People (SPOP)** has an opening for a Bilingual Psychotherapist w/ interest in geriatric MH. Span./Eng. fluency is essential. MSW req. Recent grads welcome. Strong clinical skills needed. F/T position, competitive salary & benefits. Send or fax your resume to: **SPOP**, 188 W. 88<sup>th</sup> St., NY, NY 10024. FAX: (212)580-0533. Or call Laura Osinoff @ (212) 787-7120 x118. □

**Fordham-Tremont** has an opening for a Contract Manager. BA/BS or MA/MS in Admin./Social Sciences reqd. Must have knowledge/exp. in admin., planning, eval., budget & policy analysis, and prog. development. Also, working knowledge of spreadsheet/database applications in Windows. Submit resume to: Dept. of Human Resources, **Fordham-Tremont CMHC**, 2021 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10453 or FAX: (718)583-6610. □

**Weston United** has an opening for a General Manager f/t to oversee Gallery, Bookstore and Garden. Resp. include: providing direction and assistance in operations and financial areas to individual retail managers. BA in business, 4 yrs. related retail & supervisory exp. Proven record in successfully running retail business and knowledge of all facets of operations. Salary 40K w/ benefits. Fax resume to: **Weston United**, Joseph Wong, HR Manager, (212) 316-0789. □

## — Help Wanted —

**Fordham-Tremont** has an opening for a Clinical Supervisor of Adult Services NYS CSW or licensed PhD/PsyD. Min. 2 yrs. exp. supervising clinical staff, admin. exp., req. Spanish a +. Submit resume to: Dept. of Human Resources, **Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center**, 2021 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10453 or FAX to: (718)583-6610. □

**Postgraduate Center** has an opening for a MICA Specialist f/t, M-F 9-5, to provide indiv. counseling and psychotherapy as well as case mgmt. to a caseload of up to 12 clients. Facilitates a min. of 8 psychoeducational/ psychotherapeutic/ psychosocial groups/week. Caseload screening. Charting and completing treatment plans according to OMH standards. BA in human service req. CASAC pref. Min. 1 yr. exp. in a MH and/or SA treatment. Knowledge of MICA treatment techniques - incl. familiarity w/ motivation for recovery & relapse prevention groups, 12-step approaches. Crisis intervention, multi-disciplinary exp. desirable. Sal. fixed @ \$27.8K.

Resume to: Cynthia McLaughlin, MA, CASAC, MICA Team Leader, **Postgraduate Center** West, 344 W. 36<sup>th</sup> St., NY, NY 10018 or FAX: (212)244-2034. □

**Fordham-Tremont** has an opening for a Program Coordinator of a batterers program. NYS CSW or a licensed PhD/PsyD. Must have exp. in group therapy & psychoeducational model. Experience in treating SA and/or CASAC pref. Requires 2 eve. a wk. and/or Sat. Submit resume to: Dept. of Human Resources, **Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center**, 2021 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10453 or FAX: (718)583-6610. □

**Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service** has an opening for a Director of Facilities and Central Services who will oversee bldg. Services in 16 sites, including housekeeping, bldg. systems, maintenance and repair. Negotiate leases, ensure compliance w/ capital and operations budgets, oversee purchase of supplies, phone systems and equipment as well as direct switchboard, mailroom and messenger services and records management. Req: 7 yrs. exp. in related areas and supervision of staff, excellent organization and communication skills, working knowledge of office systems, not-for-profit exp. Send cover letter and resume to: Barry Newmark, **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service**, 285 Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn, NY 11217. FAX: (718)855-1517. □

**Fordham-Tremont** has an opening for clinicians in Adult Services, Batterers Program (P/T), Children, Adolescent and Family Svcs, EAP, Family Crisis Svcs, CDT and MICA/Continuing Treatment. NYS CSW or licensed PhD/PsyD. Must have clinical exp. in a MH setting. Provide full range of services including indiv., group, and/or family treatment for the program target population. Spanish speaker pref. Batterers Program and EAP positions req. some eve. and Sat. hrs. Submit resume to: Dept. of Human Resources, **Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center**, 2021 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10453 or FAX to: (718)583-6610. □

## Upcoming Events

September 6	Labor Day - Coalition closed
September 7	PLC: Larry Berg, Ph.D., Esq. on MC Contracting at CSS
September 9	Finance Committee at CVMHA Executive Committee at CVMHA
September 13	MICA Committee at The Bridge
September 20	Yom Kippur - Coalition building closed
September 22	Children's Committee at CVMHA
September 23	Membership Meeting at CVMHA
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Big Apple Circus</b>

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## — Help Wanted —

**Sky Light Center**, a psychiatric rehabilitation program serving adult Staten Islanders recovering from psychiatric disabilities, is seeking two Rehabilitation Counselors. **Sky Light Center** operates a clubhouse program. Staff members have generalist roles which include service coordination, job placement management, apartment program support, and in-house unit work. **Sky Light** members and staff members work side-by-side to run all program activities. Staff needs to possess strong interpersonal, communication and time management skills. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in social services is required. Experience a plus. Salaries begin in the mid-20s with excellent benefits. **Sky Light Center** is a five-minute walk from the Staten Island Ferry and is a convenient commute by car from Brooklyn, Manhattan and New Jersey. Send resumes to: 307 St. Marks Place, S.I., NY 10301, or fax to (718) 720-2601. Consumers of mental health services are encouraged to apply. □

Network Administrator/PC Support: Non-profit mental health agency in Harlem has F/T position for individual experienced in all facets of LANs, Novell 4.0 & 5.0, troubleshooting and maintenance of PCs. Office 97, Windows 95 & 98, Some WAN knowledge a plus. Providing support and training to users and advise agency in purchasing, development, implementation, installation and operation of systems. BS in computer science or equivalent. 1-2 years of related experience. 40K with benefits. Fax resume to Joseph Wong, HR Manager at (212) 316-0789 or call (212) 932-0023. □

**Catholic Charities** seeks staff to fill the following positions:

Accountant: Verify the financial data from departments and government funded facilities. Other accounting responsibilities. Accounting degree with 2-4 years of related experience. CPA preferred. Good interpersonal skills. Computer skills, specifically in Lotus and Excel. Able to meet deadlines.

Computer Help Desk/IT Support Associate: Provide the support needed for adequate utilization of computer resources by servicing end-user requirements & monitoring computer resources. Develop and assist in developing application software systems and reports as required. Other assignments and special projects as required. College degree with 1-3 years of end-user support and help desk support. Ability to initiate projects, prioritize and complete tasks on a timely basis and work with minimal supervision. Intermediate knowledge of the following: Microsoft Office, Outlook, Lotus, Crystal Reports, Internet Explorer, Windows (95/98/NT), Novell and DOS, personal computers, peripherals and servers.

Criminal Justice Outreach Coordinator: Provide ongoing education and advocacy to Chaplains, clients and parish based groups. Act as a liaison with outside community groups as well. Maintain crisis intervention program, develop a process for advocacy and education toward those involved in the Criminal Justice system. Masters in Criminal Justice or related field. 5 years experience in the Criminal Justice system or in community organizing. Bilingual. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Computer literate. Night and weekend work may be required.

Education Coordinator: Maintaining, developing and implementing the education component of the program. Record and follow up procedures for students. Responsible for conducting GED, Pre-GED and ESL classes. Responsible for recruiting students and monitoring their attendance BA or BS Teaching experience in adult education necessary (NYS certification preferred). Excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills. Ability to handle a variety of responsibilities and work flexible hours. Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office. Bilingual (English-Spanish).

Executive Secretary: Maintain calendar and appointments on computer. Prepare and disburse minutes of meetings and meeting arrangements. Receive and prioritize written communication and respond to routine correspondence. Record keeping/computer file management. Basic office management and other special projects as assigned. College degree preferred. Ability to handle multiple tasks independently with moderate supervision. Shorthand, Dictaphone preferred. Knowledge of Microsoft Office. Excellent organizational, communication and interpersonal skills.

Migration Assistant: Advising clients on basic immigration problems. Preparation, handling, completion of applications for work authorizations. Applications for new alien registration cards. Maintaining and updating client records using the computerized immigration software. Greeting clients, answering telephones, scheduling appointments, filing correspondence and any other office duties as assigned by the Director. Associate degree preferred. Good organizational, interpersonal and communications skills. Ability to work independently. Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office.

Office Manager: Delegate tasks to support staff. Maintain filing systems. Provide typing and filing assistance to all programs. Assist with answering telephones as needed. Prepare and collect monthly time sheets for the Department. Other projects as assigned by the Director. Associate degree preferred. Good organizational and communications skills. Ability to work independently. Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office.

Receptionist/Secretary: Maintain registry of clients. Maintain and update program resources. Type all program reports and correspondence. Answer all social service phone calls and direct calls to the appropriate office. Greet clients and handle routine inquiries. High School Graduate with prior experience. Excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills. Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Word.

Excellent benefits. 19 Holidays. Send resume, salary requirements and include job title in your response to **Catholic Charities**, 1011 First Avenue - Room 1113, New York, NY 10022 or fax to: (212) 826-8795. □