



# Coalition Briefs

## FLASH

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

## Governor makes \$125 million mental health proposal

Governor Pataki announced today that he is adding \$125 million in new funding to strengthen and expand New York State's mental health care system. "Coupled with funding already committed for new housing units and the implementation of Kendra's Law, these initiatives represent an investment of more than \$420 million in increased State and local spending for community-based mental health services," he claimed. Highlights of the proposals include:

### Services for adults

- \$52 million for case managers and ACT teams to increase the number served from 15,600 to 25,000.
- \$20 million for 2,000 additional units of supported housing.
- \$8 million to expand State-operated transitional residences at all five State Psychiatric Centers in New York City.
- \$10 million allocated to SOMH to enhance oversight of "the quality and appropriateness of care" and to "review, assess and improve both program and clinical effectiveness and performance" at community-based programs (we are concerned about this and await further details).
- A freeze on State Psychiatric Center bed closures (this will result in a loss of \$15-20 million in Reinvestment year VII funding).

### Services for children and adolescents

- \$14 million for Home & Community Based Services Waiver to increase the number of slots to 600 and bring the number of children served each year from 300 to almost 900.
- \$13 million for case management services to bring the capacity up from 1,950 to 4,530.
- \$5 million for Family Based Treatment, to expand services to reach 490 children and adolescents from the current 365.
- \$2.6 million for Family Support Services (including home care, planned and emergency respite, transportation, parent training, parent education/support groups and advocacy training). This will expand the number of families that can access these services from 4,000 to 5,200.
- \$1.6 million for Mobile Mental Health Teams, for severely disturbed juvenile offenders, operated by NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), expanding the program to another five OCFS facilities, to bring the total to six.

The State Office of Mental Health will be holding a briefing tomorrow about these initiatives and that, combined with some additional time to analyze these proposals, will give us a better idea of the impact of these proposals. We will let you know when we have more information. ▣