



Coalition Briefs

F L A S H

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

Mental Health SNP RFP expected Monday - Check SOMH website

Highly placed sources at the New York State Office of Mental Health (SOMH) have indicated to Coalition staff today that we can expect to see the Mental Health Special Needs Plan Request for Proposals (SNP RFP) on the SOMH website first thing Monday morning. Other highly placed sources at SOMH indicated that they were unable to either confirm or deny that date. They did say that it would be coming out "very soon," that the RFP would go online on the day that copies are mailed, and that we should check the SOMH website regularly.

We are unable to guarantee that the RFP will be released on Monday, but members of the legislative Mental Health Committees have received phone calls in recent days from staff at SOMH confirming their addresses for an important mailing of some sort.

The Coalition is concerned that no third SNP has thus far been secured for New York City. We hope that this problem can be solved before the RFP is released.

We suggest that those of you who are interested check the SOMH website (which can be reached through the "links" section of The Coalition's website at www.cvmha.org) on Monday morning. We certainly will. ▣

Revenue figures set - Budget conference committees expected next week

The leaders of the New York State legislature announced today that they have agreed on revenue figures to the point that they can begin budget negotiations. We reprint below the entire text of the message.

STATEMENT BY THE LEADERS

We are in virtual agreement on avails to pay for additions that both houses would like to make to Governor Pataki's budget. Given these developments, we are bringing our respective conferences back to Albany on Monday for a noon conference to discuss these budget developments and expect to begin conference committees next week.

The Coalition and our allies will continue to press for our budgetary agenda:

- Cost-based mental health funding
- Additional services for SED children
- Increased school-based mental health and anti-violence services
- An expanded residential MICA enhancement rate
- OMH and OASAS cross-discipline MICA training
- An adolescent MICA outreach pilot program
- A MICA support team pilot program
- The creation of a CDT MICA enhancement rate

Coalition members and others in the mental health community should prepare themselves to make one final push next week to ensure that people with mental illness get the funding they deserve from the New York State government. Keep an eye out for Action Alerts. ▣