



Coalition Briefs

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

State of the State

Governor Pataki delivered his annual State of the State address on January 5th. The speech covered a broad range of topics and initiatives ranging from education to health care to tax cuts. His brief mention of mental health services was a positive one. "This year we must take the next step and adopt a comprehensive program that will provide a broad range of expanded services for New Yorkers with mental illness, including additional treatment, and increased residential and case management services for both children and adults." The full text of the speech is available online at <http://www.state.ny.us/sos2000text.html>. □

Still waiting for half-fare fairness

On August 31, Governor Pataki signed the MTA Half Fare Fairness Bill (S. 2505) into law. At that time we all thought that SSI/Medicaid recipients with serious mental illnesses would soon be using newly issued Half Fare Metrocards on NYC Buses and Subways.

We were wrong.

In October, MTA Chairman Virgil Conway advised Senate sponsor, Senator Frank Padavan (R. Queens), that the MTA was refusing to implement the new Law on NYC Buses and Subways. Senator Padavan and Assemblyman Jim Brennan (our Assembly sponsor) were outraged. Conway claimed that the new Law contained a "technical deficiency." The MTA would not move forward. Begrudgingly, implementation is apparently proceeding...very slowly...for the Long Island Railroad and Metro-North systems.

Governor Pataki, who signed the Bill expecting full implementation, oversees the operations of the MTA. Please call him at (518)474-8390. Thank him for signing the new Law, but tell him how disappointed you are that his appointed Chairman refuses to implement it. □

Special thanks to Fred A. Levine, Esq. For his help with this piece.

Councilman Council comes to Coalition

New York Work Exchange Director Norman Council has brought his unique blend of clinical, academic and public policy experience to the problem of employment for New Yorkers with mental illness. Norman has been a provider of mental health services in very diverse circumstances, from day treatment to inpatient to residential to crisis intervention, always trying to find ways to help people with mental illness effectively socially integrate. That is what led him to spend the last three years focusing on employment and the way it helps increase people's self-esteem and move into the mainstream.

In that time he has developed an extensive knowledge of the research base and the successes mental health professionals are having with getting their clients into jobs and helping them stay there.

He describes himself as "model-free" because he has not determined that any particular model is a panacea. "I see this as an opportunity to bring some badly needed resources to the effort to get people working. I see my role as helping providers of mental health services to improve employment outcomes for the people they work with. I'm not trying to sell anybody's model, I'm just trying to help providers figure out what works in their community."

In addition to his clinical experience Norman has been, for the past seven years, a Professor at Philadelphia's MCP Hahneman University in the mental health technology program. Norman is also an elected Councilman in Lansdowne Borough in Pennsylvania, where he focuses primarily on economic development. Norman lives with his wife, one of his children and a cat. □

Protection for kids day tx

The Children's Day Treatment Task Force received a holiday gift from Governor Pataki when he signed Senate bill 1502a on December 21st. The Assembly and Senate unanimously passed this legislation in the spring. The legislation carves out OMH licensed children's day treatment programs from Medicaid managed care - ensuring that these psychiatrically ill children will

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"Our Nation's failure to fully fund the community mental health system of care is our greatest healthcare failure."

--Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan

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Y2K Board of Directors

The December 16, 1999 Coalition Annual meeting was a mix of business, information and pleasure. The pleasure was in seeing old friends, making new ones and eating the beautiful spread provided by our gracious Pfizer hosts. The information was provided courtesy of National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare Vice President Pope Simmons, who briefed us on federal legislative issues.

The business portion of the meeting revolved primarily around the election of the Year 2000 Coalition Board. The hard work of the Nominating Committee paid off as their slate was unanimously adopted by the Membership. The two newly elected members of the Board are **Project Renewal's** Edward Geffner and **The Bridge's** Julia Stewart. Re-elected to the board were **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service's** Susan Buchanan, **Community Access's** Steve Coe, **Barrier Free Living's** Paul Feuerstein, **Puerto Rican Family Institute's** Maria Elena Girone, **League Treatment Center's** Hannah Achtenberg Kinn, **Advanced Center for Psychotherapy's** Ron Kushner and **Riverdale Mental Health's** Joyce Pilsner. **C.A.P.E. Samuel Field's** Jane Bardavid and **Astor Child Guidance Center's** Joan DiBlasi were elected to serve on the 2000 Nominating Committee.

Our thanks to this year's Nominating Committee and all those who helped make the Annual Meeting such a success. ▣

Managed care questionnaire

As we announced in November (*Briefs* 11.19.1999), The Coalition and the Mental Health Project of the Urban Justice Center are now collaborating on a Managed Care Consumer Assistance and Ombudsprogram for managed care consumers of mental health services in New York City. The Program Coordinator, Andrea Ryan, welcomes your questions about the Program and requests for assistance with consumers' mental health managed care issues. She can be reached at the Urban Justice Center, phone (212) 533-0540x347.

To assist the program, we have mailed a Mental Health Managed Care Questionnaire to Coalition members. There is still time to respond to this brief questionnaire, and we benefit from your responses. Coalition members needing extra copies of the questionnaire should call Marilyn Kneeland at The Coalition (x14) or Andrea Ryan. ▣

New lobby law signed

Two days shy of the New Year Governor Pataki signed a new lobbying law that took effect on January 1st. The law increases the penalties for violating limits or reporting requirements and requires additional reporting of lobbying activities and expenses. More information is available at www.nylobby.state.ny.us. Watch this space for more information next time! ▣

Census 2000 Presentation

At The Coalition's Membership Meeting on February 24, 2000, we will hear a brief presentation on the importance of the April 1st Census by Karen Shaw, Deputy Coordinator, NYC Census 2000 Office of the Mayor. As we noted in our October 22nd Briefs, census undercounting directly impacts all of us in many ways, so it is very important that we all assist in getting an accurate census count in this City in 2000. ▣

Kids day treatment

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continue to receive the treatment services they require. Congratulations and compliments to Dr. Ethel S. Wyner, Executive Director of **Lifeline Center** who organized the Day Treatment Task Force which was so instrumental in making this happen. Thanks to Senator Padavan and Assemblyman Brennan who wrote and sponsored this important legislation. ▣

Member Notes

On February 2nd **Steinway Child and Family Services, Inc.** will sponsor a training entitled "A Reflective Processes Experience." The seminar will feature Tom Andersen, MD from the University of Tromso, Norway and Peggy Penn, MSW of **The Ackerman Institute for the Family**. The session will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Laura Parsons Pratt Conference Center, and will cost \$100. Call Valerie King, Ph.D. at (718) 389-5100 for more information. ▣

Barrier Free Living is beginning a new partnership with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and Brooklyn Legal Service Corporation to address the needs of women with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Its purpose is to form a better working relationship between the agencies whose primary purpose is law enforcement with agencies whose primary purpose is helping the victims. **Barrier Free Living** will be training staff in the D.A.'s office on the dynamics of disability and abuse. **BFL** will be coordinating with social workers and assistant district attorneys to improve investigation and trial preparation, improve coordination with Family court and provide access to needed mental health services and other supports. The program is funded through Violence Against Women Act funds. ▣

AOT Q&A

SOMH recently released a 15-page document which answers some frequently asked questions regarding AOT and "Kendra's Law." Coalition Members will soon receive this document in the mail. It is interesting to note that question number one is, "What steps should be taken to pursue amendments to Kendra's Law?" The answer from the State Office that has clearly been inundated with calls and questions is, "Any changes to the law should be pursued utilizing the legislative process." ▣

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— Help Wanted —

The William F. Ryan Center has an opening for an Assistant to the Director of Mental Health. Will assist in the coordination and supervision of busy MH Dept. including: staff supervision, QI activities, coordinating intakes & performance outcomes, preparing stat reports. Supervisory exp., BSW or BA in related field req.; MSW or MA pref. Exc. communication skills & comp. literacy req. JCAHO accredited w/ commendation, bilingual Eng./Span. Pref. Competitive salary, exc. benefits. Send resume w/ cover letter to: Human Resources Department, **William F. Ryan Community Health Center**, 110 W. 97th St., NY, NY 10025. Fax: (212) 316-7945. □

Weston United seeks ESL & GED Teacher (P/T). BA in English or related field. Responsibilities include setting up curriculum for Clubhouse members to achieve a GED or increase their proficiency in English, also general clubhouse duties. 20 hrs./wk. Fluent in Spanish. Clubhouse & MICA exp. +. Computer literate. \$15/hr. Fax resume: (212) 316-0789. □

Weston United seeks Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for new Hispanic Clubhouse in E. Harlem. MA w/ min. 2 yrs. exp. in related field. Span. speaking. Responsibility includes interviewing, evaluating & developing rehab. Plan for clubhouse pop. Also general clubhouse duties. Assess skills & develop program for vocational training & placement. Knowledge of MICA pop. & clubhouse exp. a +. Computer literate. Hi 30s w/ benefits. Fax resume: (212) 316-0789. □

The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies, Inc. seeks an Administrative Assistant for the New York Work Exchange. Requires a very high level of computer literacy, exceptional writing and communication skills, excellent analytic abilities and good interpersonal skills. Must be well organized and be able to manage a variety of simultaneous tasks and projects. No experience necessary but be prepared to provide wrap-around support. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume with cover letter to Norman Council, 120 West 57th Street #1014, NYC 10019. □

Weston United seeks Job Developer (P/T). Responsibilities include developing training possibilities for MICA consumers through personalized contact w/ employer, businesses, TAP centers, etc., establish potential job sites, skills training, assist in resume writing, interview & presentation skills, also general clubhouse duties. BA in business or equivalent exp. 20 hrs./wk. Read & write Spanish. Clubhouse exp. +; Computer literate. \$12-15/hr. Fax resume: (212) 316-0789. □

Lexington Center for Mental Health Services, Inc. has an opening for a Social Worker for Children's Intensive Case Manager Program. BS or MA in Social Work, Psych., Nursing or Rehab. Counseling. Exp. Linking emotionally disturbed children & families to necessary community services. Sign language req. Flexible schedule. For info. and to apply contact: Adele Agin, CSW: (718) 350-3110 or Fax: (718) 899-6834 or email mentalhealth@lexnyc.org. □

Lexington Center for Mental Health Services, Inc. seeks Social Worker/Clinical Psychologist for Parent-Infant Therapeutic Nursery. One-to-one clinical work with deaf parent - hearing infant dyads in a Nursery setting. CSW in Social Work or Ph.D. in Psychology. Knowledge of child development. Clinical exp. w/dyads a +. Communication competence in ASL. For information and to apply, contact: Diana Silber, CSW: (718) 350-3159; Fax: (718) 899-6834 or email mentalhealth@lexnyc.org. □

Weston United seeks Bilingual Clubhouse Director to start new Clubhouse in E. Harlem for Spanish speaking MICA pop. 3 yrs. Exp in psychosocial environment. Will participate in start up and overall management of clubhouse. Progressive supervisory & management exp. w/ a track record in TE program development desired. Masters pref. Computer literate. Salary \$40Ks w/ benefits. Fax resume: (212) 316-0789. □

Upcoming Events

January 11	PLC: Risk Sharing and Payment Mechanisms at CSS
January 13	Finance Committee at CVMHA Board of Directors Retreat at PRFI
January 17	Coalition closed in honor of Martin Luther King Day
January 18	Government Relations Committee at FECS
January 21	Special Membership Meeting: Provider Liabilities and AOT at FPWA
January 24	MICA Committee at the Bridge
January 27	Conference: Housing and Employment for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders at Brooklyn Marriott
February 10	Finance Committee at CVMHA Board of Directors at CVMHA
February 15	Coalition Lobby Day in Albany
June 15	Mental Health Awards at Pfizer