



Coalition Briefs

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

TOP this...

In addition to the workshops presented through the Coalition's Professional Learning Center, three special meetings will be held in the coming weeks. **On March 30th, Access Measurement Systems will present on the short version of the TOP Instrument**, an outcome measurement tool currently in use by seven Coalition member agencies. They have participated in the Statewide venture initiated by The Coalition and The New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. This venture, the New York Community Outcomes Measurement Project (NYCOMP), has enabled us to collect aggregate data (whitewashed of all identifiers) on some 10,000 clients. From the perspective of The Coalition and The NY State Council, this information represents a powerful tool in our advocacy and lobbying efforts.

The seven member agencies and 24 upstate agencies have themselves gained considerable benefits from using the TOP instrument. Outcomes measures are useful to providers and clinicians as a clinical tool to measure behavioral progress over time and to improve care for consumers. Outcomes measurements can also be used as a management tool in determining the efficacy of service and treatment modalities and as a marketing tool in making the provider's case to MCOs and other payers for the appropriateness and necessity of behavioral health care.

The March 30th meeting will be held at from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, 281 Park Ave. South, Conference Room A. RSVP to Pat Gallo Goldstein at x12 or patgg@cvmha.org.

Revenues abound in Albany — Enough for a trend

On Monday, February 28th the leaders of the two houses of the New York State legislature announced remarkably close budget surplus estimates. The Assembly has estimates \$1.152 billion more in revenues than Governor Pataki, while the Senate estimated an extra \$940 million. In addition the Assembly has estimated that tax receipts during the current fiscal year have exceeded expectation by between \$3-4 billion.

With these large sums and healthcare issues settled in December, there should be plenty of funding for a trended increase for mental health care providers. In order to make that happen, though, Speaker Silver and Majority Leader Bruno need to hear from us often. All Briefs readers are encouraged to contact both leaders to urge them to fund a 3.9% trended adjustment on all mental health rates, grants and fees. ©

Assembly holds hearing on forensic mental health

On March 2, 2000 the Assembly Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Codes and Criminal Justice Committees held a joint hearing on mental hygiene services in correctional facilities. Kudos to Chairmen Brennan, Aubrey, Weisenberg and Lentol for coordinating their efforts around this very important issue. Coalition staff testified about the need for presumptive Medicaid eligibility and adequate and appropriate discharge planning. Copies of our testimony are available on our website at www.cvmha.org. ©

Amending the amendment

The half-fare fairness technical amendment bill has been amended itself. On March 1st the bill was amended and recommitted to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions. The amended bill responds to the disturbing reports that the MTA planned to implement the half fare only during non-peak hours by adding the phrase, "The half fare rate program established and implemented pursuant to this subdivision shall be in operation during all hours in which such authority provides railroad, subway and/or omnibus services, and such program shall not be limited in operation to off-peak hours or to any other hours design-

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Medicaid managed care statistics

The Medicaid managed care auto-assignment rate for December 1999 was 28.2% – above 20% is considered too high (although Partnership Plan sanctions don't kick in until above 40%). The statewide average is 24.1%, but there's a vast range – from 37.1% auto-assignments in Rensselaer Co. to 5.1% in Greene County.

In addition, HCFA has apparently done an unreleased study that finds a correlation between foreign language speakers & auto-assignment rates. This is not surprising since Maximus materials are as yet available in only English and Spanish, other languages promised but not delivered – and only the brochure & application form are in Spanish, not the cover letter explaining what Medicaid CHOICE is all about. The report, we are told, is critical of not only Maximus but also of NYC DOH & HRA on their management of

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Presentations available

During the budget-negotiating season, it is critically important that community-based mental health services providers motivate their staffs, boards, clients and friends to contact their elected officials and participate. Coalition staff are available to come to member agencies to make presentations about our advocacy and the best way to impact the budget process. Presentations can be tailored to fit the specific needs and time constraints of an agency. To schedule a presentation contact Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555 x17 or jfrubin@cvmha.org.

Medicaid statistics

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Maximus' enrollment activities.

As of January 22nd a total of 2,409 exemption packets had been mailed. Of those, 476 exemptions had been granted, 383 were denied & 41 were in process. This total of 901 in-process exemption applications is only 37% of the number mailed. 115 SPMI/SED exemption applications have been approved, and 14 denied.©

Les MIS

Thirty-four member agencies have registered their interest in buying software through The Coalition's MIS Technical Assistance Program. Our two finalist software vendors will demonstrate their software products on the following dates: March 31st - Medical Manager from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, 281 Park Ave. South, Conference Room A; and April 7th - Anasazi Software from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at **JBFC**, 120 W. 57th St., Room 306/307. RSVP to Pat Gallo Goldstein at x12, by fax at (212) 541-6183 or by email at patgg@cvmha.org.©

Welfare reform survey

The New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers is conducting a study on the impact of welfare reform on the provision of social services in New York City. They are seeking social workers who have been with agencies for more than three years who can comment from both a front-line and agency-wide perspective. Interviews will be conducted either by phone or in person and will last between 45-60 minutes. Agency and worker names will be kept confidential. Contact Mimi Abromovitz at (212) 452-7150 or iabramov@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu for more information.©

MTA half fare

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nated by the authority or its subsidiary corporations."

Wise legislators are very cautious when dealing with noncompliant agencies.©

Member Notes

From March 3rd to 13th, 2000 Lincoln Center's Cork Gallery at Avery Fisher Hall will host an exhibition by the artists of **Pathways to Housing**. The display includes photographs and other work by people with mental illness who are formerly homeless. An opening reception will take place on March 3rd at 4:30 p.m. at Avery Fisher Hall.©

The Association for Rehabilitative Case Management and Housing has found that hospitalization rates for clients in their programs are continuing to decline. In 1999 clients were hospitalized for psychiatric reasons only 1.8% of their days in the program, or 6 days per client per year. This represents a continuing decline from 1.9% in 1998 and 2.2% in 1997. They also found that their beds were occupied 97.5% of the time in 1999.©

The Institute for Community Living has launched their website. The site, at www.iclinc.net, can be reached through The Coalition's website at www.cvmha.org.©

Victim Services will be providing the following trainings this spring.

- Assessing Child Abuse – May 3
- Conflict Resolution – May 9 or June 15
- Train the Trainer – March 29 or May 24
- Understanding the Dynamics of Rape and Sexual Assault – April 11, May 16 or June 13
- Domestic Violence 101 – April 4 or June 22
- Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse – April 26, May 11 or June 28
- Vicarious Trauma – April 18 or May 17
- Understanding Offenders of Intimate Violence – April 13
- Working with Homicidal and Suicidal Clients – May 10
- Group Work 6 half-day sessions – April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and June 5
- Advanced Management Strategies – June 21
- How to Recruit Interview and Select the Right Employee and EEO and Sexual Harassment Issues – April 27
- Now You're a New Manager/ Supervisor – April 5
- Performance Management – May 18
- Vicarious Trauma for Managers – April 6 or June 14
- Workplace Diversity – April 12 or June 1

All trainings are one full day (9am - 5pm) unless otherwise indicated. Fees are \$35 for half-day, \$75 for full-day, \$135 for two days, \$200 for six day group work. The location is 2 Lafayette St. 21st floor conference room.

Trainings can also be provided on-site for organizations at their request. Call Christina Choi for more information at (212) 577-7787.

Please call (212) 577-1276 or (212) 577-7787 or email christina_choi@mailgateway.victimservices.org to register or for more information.©

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— Help Wanted —

The **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service** in New York City is seeking a Director of Foundation and Government Funding. The outstanding candidate will be a team player and bring demonstrated skills in communication, critical thinking, conceptualization of social service programs and supervision. Successful experience in managing ambitious public and foundation grant-seeking required. Interested candidates should forward resumes to Eva Toth, DRG, 104 East 40th Street, Suite 304, NY, NY 10016, FAX (212) 983-1687 or e-mail etoth@drgnyc.com.©

Non-profit mental health agency seeks a horticulturist to plant, landscape and maintain our urban garden located in Harlem. Focus of garden is to enrich our consumers with a rural setting in the midst of a concrete environment and for them to have hands-on participation in the gardening process as well as to beautify the community. Prior experience and good interpersonal skills a must. 30K with benefits. Fax resume to: Joseph Wong, HR Manager, **Weston United Community Renewal** (212) 316-0789.©

Gay Men's Health Crisis seeks Community Organizer for Public Policy unit. Will develop & implement grassroots advocacy networks, coordinate comm. activities & participate in interorganizational coalitions. Will also mobilize & coordinate the participation of agency clients, volunteers & staff in related events. Must have exp. in grassroots mobilization & comm. organizing; knowledge of government, knowledge of HIV/AIDS & health care access issues; able to work w/ socioeconomically diverse communities & outstanding communication, leadership & management skills. Competitive salary & benefits package. Send cover letter & resume to: Robyn Overman, **GMHC/HR Dept.**, 119 W. 24th St., NY, NY 10011 or fax to: (212) 367-1020.©

Social Worker: **Maimonides Medical Center** seek bilingual Spanish/English CSW to provide clinical and case management services to primarily monolingual Spanish speaking patients with severe and persistent mental illness in our Continuing Day Treatment Services. Fax resume to: Karen Kobus (718) 283-6161.©

Maimonides Medical Center seeks an administrator for the Department of Psychiatry, which consists of a 70-bed inpatient service, outpatient clinics, continuing day treatment program and emergency and consultation services. The administrator is a member of the senior management team responsible for the planning, implementation and integration of psychiatric services throughout the department and coordination of activities with other Medical Center divisions. The administrator will provide oversight for department operations and ensure compliance with applicable regulations and policies. Requirements: RN, MPA, MPH, MBA or masters in health related field. Minimum of 5 years management experience; 2 years experience in mental health facility. Fax resumes to: Karen Kobus (718) 283-6161.©

Riverdale Mental Health Center has an opening for a CSW w/ min. 3 yrs. exp. to provide assessments and treatment for children, adolescents, and adults. Exp. w/ young children especially 3-7, adolescents & adults helpful. Fluency in Spanish & familiarity w/group & short-term treatment a plus. Supervision & in-service training provided. Exc. Benefits & competitive salary. Free parking. AA/EOE. Send resume & cover letter to: Robert Brewster, CSW, Dir. of Child & Adolescent Program, **Riverdale Mental Health Center**, 5676 Riverdale Ave., Bronx, NY 10471 or Fax to: (718) 548-1161.©

Non-profit mental health agency seeks Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for our new program in East Harlem. Candidate should have a Masters degree with minimum two years exp. in related field. Responsibility includes interviewing, evaluating and developing rehabilitation plan for mentally ill population. Assess skills and develop program for vocational training and placement. Knowledge of MICA population and bilingual a plus. Computer literate. 40K with benefits. Fax resume to: Joseph Wong, HR Manager, **Weston United Community Renewal** (212) 316-0789.©

Upcoming Events

March 7	PLC: Federal and State Laws Which Impact on Providers in Managed Care at CSS
March 9	Finance Committee at CVMHA Executive Committee at CVMHA
March 23	Membership meeting at CVMHA
March 24	PLC: Time Effective Treatment for Children, Adolescents and Families at CSS
March 27	MICA Committee at The Bridge
March 30	TOP Instrument Training at FPWA
March 31	Medical Manager software demonstration at FPWA
April 4	PLC: Patients' Bill of Rights at CSS
April 5	Community Environmental Center presentation on building insulation at PRFI
April 7	Anasazi software demonstration at CVMHA
April 12	PLC: Open Minds presentation on case rates at FPWA
April 13	Finance Committee at CVMHA Executive Committee at CVMHA
June 15	Mental Health Awards at Pfizer