



Coalition Briefs

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

Come to our free conference

The New York Work Exchange invites all who are interested to attend a conference, *The Mission for the 21st Century: Employment Services for People with Mental Illness*. This all day conference will be held at the Brooklyn Marriott on June 20th beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. The conference will offer a variety of presentations and discussions to encourage and support the active inclusion of employment services in mental health programs.

The New York Work Exchange has just moved to its new location at 90 Broad Street. RSVP-s may not have been received. All RSVP-s have been confirmed. **If you did not receive a confirmation, please fax your RSVP in again.**

Ruth Hughes, Chief Operating Officer of the International Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, will be the opening plenary presenter. Her speech, "One size does NOT fit all," will address the problems inherent in the system-wide adoption of a single service model. She will focus on the usefulness of employing creative approaches that incorporate the best features of each model.

Other conference topics include;
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Assembly unanimously passes Medicaid buy-in

On June 5th the State Assembly passed the Work and Wellness Act of 2000 by a vote of 143-0. This unanimous vote is a clear indication of the broad-based bipartisan support for removing the systemic barriers that keep people with disabilities from joining the competitive labor market. 30 other States have already moved to implement the federal Work Incentives Improvement Act.

The effort now moves to the Senate where the withdrawal of Mayor Giuliani from the U.S. Senate race has provided an unexpected boost. Long Island Congressman Rick Lazio was one of the primary sponsors of the Work Incentives Improvement Act in Congress, so advocates for people with disabilities are hopeful that his Republican allies in the State Senate will work extra hard to implement his signature legislation in his home State before

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There's no place like home

The Coalition has moved into our new home at 90 Broad Street in lower Manhattan. After 28 years we have left the nurturing shelter of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services on West 57th Street and set out on our own. Our new space includes an instruction room for our Professional Learning Center, for New York Work Exchange trainings, and enough space to obviate the need for bunk desks. Our new contact information is as follows:

**90 Broad Street
New York, NY 10004
P: (212) 742-1600
F: (212) 742-2080**

We can be reached by subway on the N or R at Whitehall Street, the 4 or 5 at Bowling Green, the 1 or 9 at South Ferry or the J, M or Z at Broad Street. We are also just a short walk from the Staten Island Ferry terminal. Our web address (www.cvmha.org) and email addresses (mailbox@cvmha.org) remain unchanged. Coalition members are welcome to drop in for a tour whenever they are in the neighborhood.©

City budget nears completion

Unlike their counterparts in Albany City government officials are well on their way to an on-time budget. Although nothing is yet finalized the probable details of the final budget are emerging. The Coalition's allies on the City Council, particularly Mental Health Subcommittee Chair Una Clarke, Health Committee Chair Victor Robles and Finance Committee Chair Herbert Berman, have likely succeeded in restoring the \$3.05 million behavioral healthcare cuts proposed by Mayor Giuliani. In addition it appears likely that funding will be added by the City Council for the following:

- \$400,000 for a 'network of support' for SED kids in the child welfare system and their families. Money would be used to link abused and ne-

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Federal legislation would fund mental health services

On May 25th Senators Edward Kennedy and Pete Domenici introduced the Mental Health Early Intervention, Treatment, and Prevention Act of 2000 (S.2639). The bill was read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. The \$586 million proposal includes a number of far-reaching initiatives, includ-

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The New York Work Exchange has moved and is very excited to be setting up in its new space. The new address is:

**90 Broad Street
New York, NY 10004.
P: (212) 742-1122
F: (212) 742-2132**

We hope all Coalition members will come visit us in our new home. ©

Medicaid buy-in

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the November elections.

Governor Pataki is also on record as supporting changes to facilitate gainful employment for people with disabilities. On September 14, 1991 he said "...we need to build assurances into the system so that persons with disabilities who collect SSI or SSDI can work without fear of losing health insurance and other critical benefits."

Briefs readers are encouraged to contact Senate Majority Leader Bruno and Governor Pataki to express support for A.10159, the Work and Wellness Act. ©

City budget

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glected children to services, build necessary program capacity and provide case management.

- \$100,000 for a program to educate the families of emotionally disturbed children about mental illness and available treatment options.
- \$250,000 to provide respite care for developmentally disabled children.

Final agreement and signing are expected before the 2001 fiscal year begins on July 1st. ©

Parity: poised for passage?

With less than a week to go in New York State's legislative session, advocates are making a final push to bring mental health parity to New York. A legislative procedural motion may be able to break the logjam that has kept the parity bill (S.2089) trapped in committee. We understand that a motion to amend S.2089 will be inserted into a bill that will be brought to the floor for a vote. If that motion passes, Senators will have, at long last, the opportunity to vote on mental health parity. *Briefs* readers are encouraged to contact Senate Mental Health Committee Chair Tom Libous to urge his support of this procedural motion. ©

Managed care leads the way

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has published a study that shows that the competitive advantage of managed care may be slipping. People covered under managed care arrangements are no longer less likely to be admitted to a hospital than those whose care is not managed. According to AHRQ Director John M. Eisenberg, M.D., "These findings reflect the leading role that managed care has played in reducing costs and how the rest of the health care system has emulated these practices." ©

Member Notes

PSCH, Inc. is pleased to announce a certified MICA training series. The interactive training program will include presentations of actual cases and real-time assessments with peer critiques. Participants who complete the course will be issued a certificate indicating 45 hours toward CASAC credentialing or re-credentialing. The course meets on consecutive Tuesdays for 10 weeks starting August 1st from 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. For more information contact John J. Benitez, MA, CASAC at (718) 445-4700 x2602. ©

InfoScribeRx presentation

On June 26, 2000 The Professional Learning Center will host a demonstration of the InfoscribeRx System – a web based electronic medication information and prescribing system. The system includes the following features:

- Fully automated e-prescribing with formulary checking, drug-drug interactions, drug allergy screening, lab scheduling, injection scheduling and administration tracking.
- Medication histories and outcomes reports.
- Built in "flash survey" capability that allows pharmaceutical companies to offer providers compensation for participation in online data collection.
- Embedded query technology that enhance reporting capabilities by providing insight into physician reasoning at the point of prescribing, discontinuing, changing or switching medications.
- Online access to clinical resources, including a "Virtual Pharmacist" and peer consultation at the point of prescribing.
- Data integration with existing electronic patient records.
- Specialized tools for administrators, nurses, and administrative assistants.

This system is fully compatible with Anasazi Software, the vendor chosen by the Coalition's MIS Committee. As a special consideration for The Coalition, the \$1,000 installation fee will be waived for member agencies. The demonstration will be held at The Coalition's new home at 90 Broad St. at 3 p.m. Call Patricia Gallo Goldstein at (212) 742-1600 x.106 for more information or to RSVP. ©

Oops – Our mistake

We apologize for any confusion caused by an error in the May 19th issue of *Coalition Briefs*. In our article entitled "State budget process completed" we indicated that a \$5 million allocation would fund 490 family based treatment slots. If correct, it would have read, "an additional 100-125 slots will bring the State-wide total to 465-490." ©

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Federal legislation

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ing:

- Emergency mental health facilities for those communities that can demonstrate a lack of service capacity;
- Funding for mental health courts, which could assign defendants to inpatient or outpatient mental health care in lieu of incarceration;
- Training for law enforcement officers in how to appropriately respond to emotionally disturbed persons;
- Grants to provide fully integrated treatment for people with co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders;
- Funding for anti-stigma and suicide prevention campaigns;
- Mental illness awareness training for teachers and
- Research into the causes of noncompliance, including the creation of a panel to study both voluntary and involuntary outpatient treatment.

Another piece of proposed federal legislation that could impact the community-based mental health system is the Family Opportunity Act of 2000, introduced by Senators Charles Grassley, Tom Harkin, Jim Jeffords and Edward Kennedy.

The Act would enable parents of disabled children to buy Medicaid coverage for their child. The bill, modeled after the Work Incentives Improvement Act, would fund demonstration projects through 2006 at \$50 million per year. Funding is also included for "family-to-family information centers" that would help parents of disabled children access all of the benefits to which they are entitled at \$10 per annum through 2006. ©

CVMHA addresses "high need"

The Coalition presented comments to the proposed amendments of 14 NYCRR Part 506, Part 587, and Part 595 which were written to implement provisions of Kendra's Law. The proposed amendments expand the emergency provisions to apply to all "high-need" individuals including AOT programs. Although The Coalition supports the legislative intent of the regulations to provide priority care and treatment to persons requiring priority access to services, the expansion of the emergency provisions to persons defined as "high need" under the proposed regulations is problematic. The definition of "high-need" individual under the regulations is vague and excludes a broad range of consumers who should also receive priority access because they are high risk individuals. Further, the regulations provide no guidance as to what

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Honoring Celia Brown

On June 15th, 2000 The Coalition will present a Consumer Leadership Award to Celia Brown. Celia has been a leader in the mental health community since 1989 when she became involved with a Peer Specialist Project sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health. She was so successful in demonstrating the efficacy of consumer provided services that she was appointed Chair of the Consumer Advisory Committee at Bronx Psychiatric Center where she was once a patient. She was also integral to the creation of the "Peer Specialist" Civil Service title at the State Office of Mental Health, opening doors for others to follow her. There are now 39 Civil Service Peer Specialist positions in New York State and the program continues to be replicated across the country. Celia, meanwhile, has risen to the position of Director of Peer Specialist Services at the Office of Mental Health, a position that would not exist were it not for her advocacy and hard work.

We hope you will join us in honoring Celia Brown. Call Judeth Podell at (212) 742-1600 x.104 for more information. ©

Free conference

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"Using the ADA and TWWIIA to get people to work," "Symptom management in the workplace" and "What do we want? A consumer view of employment services."

A luncheon presentation on "Employment of people living with mental illness: a New York vision," will be given by Hon. James Stone, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health; Hon. Neal Cohen, MD, Commissioner of Health and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services; and Paul Doersam, Executive Officer, Social Security Administration.

The conference is free. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and coffee will be served. Lunch will be provided as well, and a cocktail reception will be held at 4:30 p.m. following the closing remarks.

If you would like more information about the conference or a registration form please call us at our new number (212) 742-1122 or fax us at (212) 742-2132. Hope to see you there! ©

Free information from DHHS

The Department of Health and Human Services has much free information regarding mental health available. The offered materials include A Catalog of Mental Health Material from DHHS Agencies, A Directory of Mental Health Resources and a packet of Fact Sheets on the Symptoms and Treatments for Mental Disorders. These documents come enclosed with the Executive Summary of *Mental Health: A Report from the Surgeon General*. Call (877) 9MHealth or write to Mental Health, Pueblo, CO 81009 to receive the free information. ©

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"High need"

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mechanisms providers would be required to establish in order to comply with the requirements to "ensure priority access" to service and how priority access is to be assessed and determined.

The Coalition will continue to participate in this discussion with

the Office of Counsel and contribute to the formulation of an appropriate definition of "high-need" individuals and will continue its efforts to have input in developing appropriate mechanisms or standards to assess provider compliance with ensuring priority access to services.

A copy of the Coalition's comments are available to you upon request. ©

The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies, the umbrella advocacy organization of New York City's mental health community, representing over 100 nonprofit community-based mental health agencies, seeks a bright, high-energy public policy analyst and advocate to help **The Coalition** accomplish its organizational and programmatic objectives.

The successful candidate will analyze State and City budgets, coordinate member and Board committees, critically evaluate policy initiatives and organize The Coalition's constituencies for public information and advocacy campaigns.

Applicants should have excellent persuasive and analytical writing skills, be computer literate, possess a comfort with numbers, be organized, deadline focused, capable of multi-tasking and possess a collegial manner and outlook.

Substantive expertise in one or more of the following policy arenas is a plus: mental health, managed care, substance dependence and abuse, healthcare, housing.

Preference will be awarded to candidates with an advanced degree in mental health, social work, law, and public/nonprofit administration and policy.

The Coalition is an affirmative action employer. Qualified candidates living with mental illness, are encouraged to apply as are those of every race, ethnicity and creed. Bilingual a plus.

Send resume and salary requirements to Director of Administration, **The Coalition**, 90 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004. ©

Weston United Community Renewal seeks Quality Assurance Manager. Must be motivated & results-oriented; responsibilities include updating policies & procedures, training, internal audits, compliance issues & consumer charts. Exp. in OMH, DMH & DHS audit req./ & MI residential programs a plus. Management level position reporting directly to ED. College deg. w/3 yrs. of related work exp. Comp. lit. Exc. written & interpersonal skills. Salary commensurate w/exp. Great benefits. Submit cover letter w/ salary req. Fax resume to: Joseph Wong, HR Manager (212) 316-0789. ©

Upcoming Events

June 15

Mental Health Awards at Pfizer

June 20

New York Work Exchange conference: *The Mission for the 21st Century: Employment Services for People with Mental Illness* at the Brooklyn Marriott

June 26

MICA Committee at The Bridge

InfoscribeRx presentation at CVMHA

July 4

Coalition closed in honor of Independence Day

— Help Wanted —

International Center For The Disabled announces new program initiative. This integrated outpatient venture will provide & coordinate transdisciplinary services for individuals w/chemical dependency & mental illness or other disabilities. ICD is currently seeking degreed rehabilitation professionals in Program Management-MS, Vocational Placement-CRC, CASACS Counseling & Peer Support-BS. Bilingual-Spanish professionals are strongly urged to apply. Please contact: **ICD-Human Resources**, 340 E. 24th Street, Attn: 6th Floor NY, NY 10010 or Fax (212) 585-6161 EOE. ©

Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service seeks Social Worker w/MSW (CSW pref.) to work in fast-paced CDT Program for MI & MICA adults. Duties include extensive counseling/case management and ind. & group therapy. Strong teamwork skills needed to work within multi-disciplinary treatment team. Send Resumes to: Ken Corgin, Program Director, Project Moving On, **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service** Fax: (718) 858-2967. ©

The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies seeks a director of high visibility start-up employment project for the mental health sector. The project will help to focus community based providers on the importance of employment as an integral component of treatment -- through training, information dissemination, research and job development.

Must have significant management and supervisory experience. Capable of developing and directing start-up enterprise. Superb interpersonal skills essential. Responsible for staff of educators, researchers and job developers.

Experience with vocational and employment opportunities for disabled populations, including mentally ill people, a plus. Salary commensurate with experience. Consumer applicants encouraged to apply. **The Coalition** is an equal opportunity employer. Send resumes to Search Committee, **The Coalition**, 90 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004. ©