



Coalition Briefs

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

State panel recommends adult home reform

A committee charged with examining the conditions in adult homes released their findings earlier this week. Created by Governor Pataki in response to April's *New York Times* series on conditions in adult homes, the committee included the Commissioners of Health and Mental Health, as well as consumers and advocates.

The panel looked at changes on two fronts—both those that could be implemented soon and those that would require additional time to implement. Of immediate concern is the physical safety and well-being of the residents, many of whom take multiple medications on a poorly supervised basis.

Short-term recommendations include: an assessment initiative to capture more complete information on patient demographics and care requirements; licensed supervision of medication distribution; implementation of Independent Case Managers/Service Coordinators to oversee the physical

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Calendar of events

Government Relations Committee	
September 30,	3:30 PM
Government Relations Committee	
October 22	3:00 PM
New York Work Exchange "Benefits Training"	
October 23-25	8:00-4:30
Membership Meeting	
October 24	3:30 PM
Committee on Co-Occurring Psychiatric and Addictive Disorders	
October 28	2:00 PM

Big Apple Circus—November 13

All meetings are at The Coalition unless otherwise noted. Please call for more information or to RSVP.

Coalition members receive honors for 9/11 services

The **Staten Island Mental Health Society** (SIMHS) earlier this month received a new award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Created to honor programs which serve and promote mental health among school-based children, the award for Exemplary School-Based Mental Health Program was given to SIMHS for the services they provided in the wake of September 11.

SIMHS has provided 9/11 related services to more than 350 children and adults in 37 Staten Island schools.

Meanwhile, Eli Lilly and Co. and Comprehensive NeuroScience, Inc. (CNS) recently announced the recipients of their Behavioral Healthcare Leadership Awards. The singular award for Leader in Time of Disaster went to **F.E.G.S.** which was cited for their rapid response to the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. Located less than a mile from 'Ground Zero', F.E.G.S. has been providing services since time of the disaster. The award was announced at a conference on Monday.

Congratulations to SIMHS and F.E.G.S.! □

NYU grad students to work with Coalition

The Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU, which administers Masters and Doctorate degrees in public administration, public health, and urban planning, has recently selected The Coalition as a client agency for a graduate student group project.

The "Capstone" project, as it is known, is a final, year-long project that students must complete in order to graduate. It is designed to be a culminating event which draws upon the education the students have received throughout the program.

The team will be comprised of six students, many of whom are majoring in health policy. They will examine salary and turnover issues in the community mental health sector by building on the highly successful Salary and Turnover Survey for 2000.

The Coalition is honored to participate in this project and looks forward to a working closely with the Wagner school. □

Teaching Tech

Project Renewal, a Coalition member, has created a program that helps mental health consumers and social services recipients enter the computer technology workforce. The "Next Step Computer Technician Training Program" teaches consumers how to build, repair, and configure computers in preparation for a national certification in computer technology.

Five days a week for 3 months, students will be in the classroom learning through hands-on exercises. By the end of the training, students are prepared to take the A+ certification exam. Upon completion of the coursework, Next Step places students in unpaid internships to further polish their skills. While interns get valuable real world experience, host organizations get free computer assistance for 3 months with no obligation to hire.

Students maintain contact with Project Renewal technology

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Cognitive Skills Training for Consumers in SE

This new project of the New York Work Exchange seeks to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of combining cognitive remediation interventions and supported employment services.

The primary goals of the study are to evaluate the feasibility of integrating cognitive remediation into community-based supported employment programs, and to collect preliminary findings of the effectiveness of cognitive remediation—including its impact on work outcomes such as job tenure, hours worked, wages paid, and job satisfaction.

Four employment programs in New York City providing employment services will be involved in the study.

For more information contact Alysia Pascaris at 212-742-1122 or at apascaris@nyworkexchange.org.

New NIMH Head Named

The National Institute of Mental Health announced earlier this month the appointment of Thomas R. Insel, M.D. as the new director. Dr. Insel comes to NIMH from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where he served as a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and as the Director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience. He has been at Emory since 1994 where he went after a 15-year stint at NIMH.

Dr. Insel has previously worked on such topics as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and the neurobiology of social behavior in animals. He will begin at NIMH in November. □

Work and Recovery

The New York Work Exchange will be offering tailored, on-site consultation to five selected NYC-based Continuing Day Treatment Programs. CDTF leadership, managers, program staff and consumers will be part of a team receiving consultation and technical assistance on “work and recovery”.

The Project is designed to promote consumers’ recovery and attainment of employment goals through the infusion of work-related and recovery-based concepts and activities.

For more information contact Alysia Pascaris at 212-742-1122 or at apascaris@nyworkexchange.org.

The WORKbook...now online!

Last week, the WORKbook—our consumer guide to NYC-based employment services—went live on the Work Exchange’s website: www.nyworkexchange.org. Search among the 115 entries and descriptions of mental health employment services across the five boroughs. Find out where services are located, what they have to offer, and how to contact them. □

Teaching Tech

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mentors to help make a smooth transition from the classroom to internship.

If you are interested in sending clients to the Next Step program, or having a graduate intern at your organization, contact Scott Williams, Program Coordinator, at (212) 620-0340 ext. 437, or scottw@projectrenewal.org. □

adult homes

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and mental health services for each individual; and the introduction of a Peer Bridger program to help promote the rehabilitation and recovery of the residents.

Regarding the long-term solutions, the panel concluded that many of the residents with mental illness would be better served by residential services which are administered by the State Office of Mental Health. Because there is currently a major shortfall in OMH bed capacity, the committee called for Governor Pataki to create more than 5000 new mental health beds of varying levels of intensity.

The report also asked that the services within the adult homes be augmented and scrutinized with additional oversight. Among the recommendations were the introduction of ACT teams, an increase to the Personal Needs Allowance of residents, creation of an advisory group to examine new models and monitor progress, and the strict enforcement of existing and newly created regulations. □

HSC’s Davis to head UL

Darwin Davis, Executive Director of the Human Services Council (HSC), recently announced that he will resign in order to become the President and CEO of the New York Urban League. Davis has headed the Human Services Council since 1996, and will officially resign as of September 30. A successor has not yet been named.

During his tenure as the leader of HSC, Davis has raised the profile of the organization by championing such issues as contract reform, the need for technology innovations in the entire non-profit human services sector, and the need for rate increases.

We wish Darwin good luck in his new position, and look forward to our continued partnership. Congratulations! □

Big Apple Circus
November 13
Call Judeth (x104) for tickets TODAY