



Coalition Briefs

FLASH

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

City Council Speaker names key leaders

While everyone knew that changes in the City Council Leadership were imminent, few predicted these. The latest word from City Hall insiders is that the new Health Committee Chair will be Christine Quinn from Manhattan. In a break with the past, Mental Health will be elevated to full Committee Status with its chair, Margarita Lopez, also of Manhattan. Both Councilmembers are veterans and have strong ties to the gay community.

A former Executive Director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, Quinn was elected to the City Council in 1999. She has served the City Council previously, having worked for Tom Duane as his Chief-of-Staff. Among the issues closest to her are those concerning tenants rights, women's issues, parks and the environment, education, and gay and lesbian civil rights. She also served as an active member of the Health Committee.

Margarita Lopez is also a veteran City Council Member and represents the 2nd district. She is the first openly lesbian Puerto Rican Council Member. She was elected to the Council in 1998 and has served on the Civil Service and Labor, Contracts, Women's Issues and Youth Services committees. Lopez has been active in a variety of issues including mental health. She previously worked with the Bowery Resident's Committee developing an innovative outreach program for homeless individuals with mental illness. She also served on the MacArthur Foundation's Advisory Committee on Mental Illness and the Law among other appointments dealing with Mental Health issues.

Congratulations to all the new committee chairs! We look forward to working closely with you in the coming months and years! ●