



# Coalition Briefs

## FLASH

**BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK**

## City Council against January cuts, but Bloomberg may cut more mental hygiene

Mayor Michael Bloomberg yesterday presented his latest proposal for New York City's FY 2003 budget. According to his projections, however, the picture is even more bleak than the plan he submitted in January. Although he conceded that tax revenues would be greater than previously thought, expenses were also greater.

In order to account for these additional expenses, Bloomberg asked all mayoral agencies to make provisions for cutting an additional 7.5%. This is also partly due to the decreased expectation that the more than \$1 Billion in savings will be realized through negotiations with the municipal unions, and relief from the State and the Federal government.

If, in fact, this relief is not realized, mental hygiene will be subject to additional 'contingency cuts.' These contingency cuts will bite \$5.8 Million out of the budget.

According to Bloomberg's budget, these cuts will be on top of the \$8.1 Million that were proposed in January. The City Council, under strong encouragement by Mental Hygiene Committee Chair Margarita Lopez, recently responded to Bloomberg's January plan by proposing to restore all of the \$8.1M in proposed Mental Hygiene cuts.

The City Council and the Mayor must now negotiate over the shape of the final budget. While the Council favors looking at additional revenue sources (which will require approval from Albany), Bloomberg is looking to cut more services and borrow additional money in order to balance the budget.

If all of Bloomberg's proposals are in the final budget, mental hygiene will be hit with a whopping \$12.9 Million in service cuts. ▣