



Coalition Briefs

FLASH

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

City head of mental hygiene named by Frieden

Dr. Lloyd Sederer, a noted practitioner and researcher, has been named the Executive Deputy Commissioner for Mental Hygiene by Commissioner Dr. Thomas Frieden. Dr. Sederer is currently the Director of the Division of Clinical Services at the American Psychiatric Association and has worked as the Medical Director of McLean, a teaching hospital at Harvard.

Well published, Dr. Sederer has written books on a variety of topics. Many discuss both clinical and diagnostic services, as well as outcomes measurement—no doubt areas he will focus on in his work for the Department of Public Health. In addition to numerous other awards and distinctions, he was also given an Exemplary Psychiatrist Award by NAMI.

Dr. Sederer will also take over at a particularly interesting time for the department. Last September, New Yorkers voted to fold the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Department of Health into a newly created Department of Public Health. Although the merger is imminent, it will not officially take place until July 1st—around the time Dr. Sederer will come on board.

On behalf of all the providers in New York City, the Coalition extends Dr. Sederer a hearty welcome! We look forward to working with you!▣

Bush appoints head of mental health commission

Last week, President Bush appointed Michael Hogan, Ph.D., as the new chairman of a Presidential Commission which will investigate public mental health systems. According to the executive order which created the commission, the goal will be “to conduct a comprehensive study of the United States mental health service delivery system, including public and private sector providers, and to advise the President on methods of improving the system.” It is hoped that the findings will provide a framework for all levels of government to provide effective coordinated services to adults with serious mental illnesses.▣