

The Tail That Wags the Dog

Panel Presentation

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Staten Island Mental Health Society

Serving the children and families of Staten Island since 1895.

➤ Offers:

- Three Mental Health Clinics and Related Programs
- 13 On-Site School Based Mental Health Clinic Satellites
- Two Children's Day Treatment Centers (150 slots)
- Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention
- MR/DD Article 16 Clinic

➤ Also:

- Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Program (ACS)
- Head Start and Day Nursery Programs (ACS)

The Staten Island Community

- Staten Island: A working class community
 - Population about 487,407 (7/1/08).
- Employed in:
 - Uniformed services (police, fire fighters, sanitation)
 - Health Care, Education, Social Services.
 - Public Administration
 - Construction

About Staten Island's Children

- Population Between 0 – 19 (2008)
 - S.I. = 26.6% Rest of NYC = 25.7%
- % of Families with Children Below the Federal Poverty Level:
 - S.I. = 10.9% NYC = 22.4%

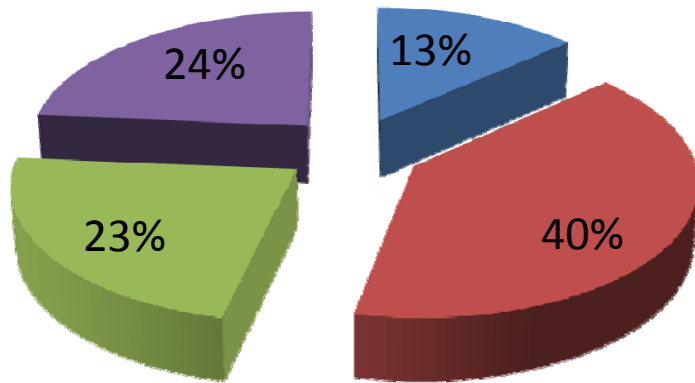
Mental Health Clinics

- During FY 2009:
 - 1773 Clients
 - 34,519 Visits

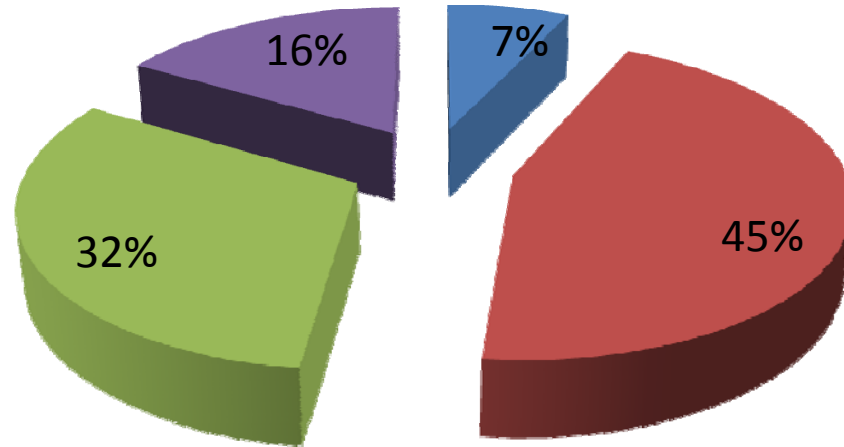
Medicaid	MMC	Private Insurance	P.I. + M/MMC	Totals
199	701	501	372	1773
11%	40%	28%	21%	100%

Insurance Breakdown

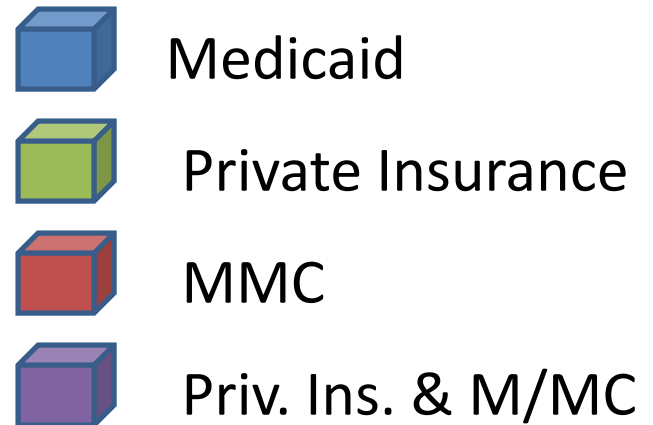
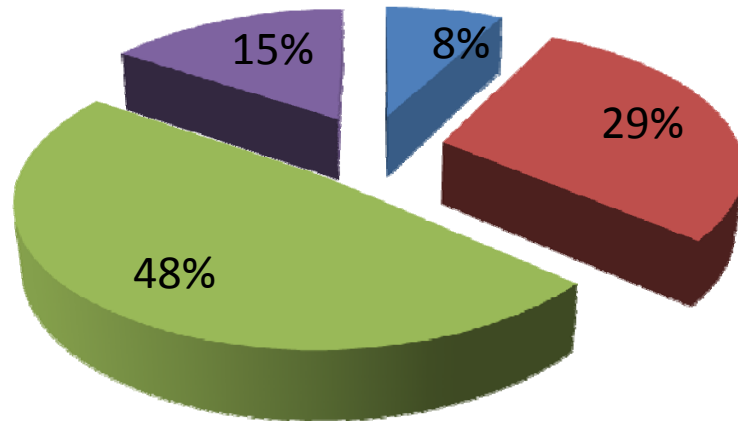
CHAIT CENTER



ONSITE SCHOOL CLINICS



SOUTH SHORE CLINIC



Discussion

- COPS replaced deficit funding – state used Medicaid to subsidize non-Medicaid patients
- Purpose to make up costs for services where insurance coverage was not sufficient or not available.
- OMH - New plan dependent on majority of users having Medicaid only; fixed distress pool
- Expectation: Bring unit cost to Medicaid level; accept Medicaid only – No Problem.

Discussion (cont.)

- **Reality:**
 - **Almost all NYS children have insurance coverage.**
 - **Many have Private Insurance and Medicaid(21%).**
 - **28% of clients have Private Insurance only.**
 - **For those with Private Insurance and Medicaid, Medicaid pays patient responsibility:**
 - **co-pay if in contract;**
 - **difference to Medicaid threshold if not in contract**
- **South Shore Clinic – Middle Class Area (P.I. = 63%)**
 - **48% P.I. only**
 - **15% P.I with M/MMC**

Discussion (cont.)

- Potential Strategies
 - Cancel Private Insurance contracts –
 - Hurts middle class families. May be the only way w/out COPS
 - Collect Medicaid rate from clients with PI only
 - They get reimbursed from carrier
 - Bill difference to Medicaid threshold for clients with PI and MMC
 - Reduce staff or close clinics to manage costs
- OMRDD/OASAS Examples

ACCESS TO CARE IS THE PROBLEM

The Myth of the Charity Pool

- For people with insurance, the charity pool will only reimburse for non-covered services offered on days covered services are not provided.
- Since all children have health insurance, the charity pool has little to no benefit.
- The charity pool dollars are available until the money runs out. Then what?
- What happened to the state obligation to provide mental health services to all who need?

New York State Mental Hygiene Law

Chapter 987 of the laws of 1977, effective April 1, 1978:

“Protecting the mental health of the people of the state, preventing the occurrence of mental illness, mental retardation and developmental disabilities, alcoholism and substance abuse and assuring that state residents afflicted by such disabilities receive appropriate care and treatment are matters of public concern.

“It is the policy of the state of New York that all of its residents who are disabled will receive services according to the individualized needs and, whenever possible, in their home communities to enable them to realize their fullest potential for self-fulfillment and independent living in society.”