



Coalition Briefs

FLASH

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW

State supports three New York City SNPs

It's official. The New York State Office of Mental Health (SOMH) will support New York City's request for three (3) adult mental health Special Needs Plans (SNPs) in the City, a position The Coalition has long advocated. According to officials at OMH, the State is determined to bring out the first round of requests for proposals by late Fall. We read this to mean sometime close to or after the election in November. New York City will be in this first phase.

The timing of procurement for the New York City SNP has been a matter of some controversy in the voluntary community, although recent conversations between the State and potential contract bidders has brought out more consensus on timing than had previously existed. We expect that implementation of the SNPs will not happen until November of 1999, giving contract recipients the time to work out kinks in the financing methodology and to gear up for operation.

A third SNP for New York City will be gained either through dropouts from other county SNP applicants or by an Administration-sponsored program bill to add another authorized SNP to the six demonstrations currently prescribed

by law.

Rumors have been flying about problems in the central consortium of counties that have banded together to become a SNP entity. Several of the original county applicants have withdrawn from consideration, leaving only three of the larger counties (with approximately 80% of the eligible consumer population). These remaining counties are still deciding whether to go ahead with the SNP process on their own--perhaps joining a western consortium--or dropping out altogether. Originally the State planned to award one SNP each to an upstate central consortium of counties, a western consortium, Westchester county, Nassau-Suffolk counties and two SNPs to New York City.

City officials have long argued that New York City, with approximately 70% of the eligible adult Medicaid population, should be awarded at least three SNPs. The uncertainty upstate and even, we hear, in the other downstate counties, may lead to a surplus of available SNPs. Will the early procurement phase include counties other than the five of New York City? Stay tuned for the next report. ©