



Coalition Briefs

A SEMI-MONTHLY UPDATE ON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

DMH Y2K contingency plan

Despite the City's confidence in its Y2K preparations, the Department of Mental Health, mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services has put a contingency plan into place. During December 1999 the Office of Fiscal Services will process a supplemental advance payment, equal to 1/24th of the adjusted net contract budget, to voluntary agencies under contract with DMHMRAS. This, along with the half month's advance included in the first advance payment agencies received, will provide a one month cash flow.

In addition, the Office of Fiscal Services will process the payment of contract funds pertaining to the October 1999 monthly fiscal summary before the January 1, 2000 due date. Agencies that have not yet submitted the monthly fiscal summary document due November 30, 1999 are encouraged to do so immediately. Contact Larry M. Morales at (212) 219-5400 if you have any questions. ▣

Surgeon General releases landmark study

On December 13th, 1999 U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher released what is sure to become a landmark study of mental health, mental illness and mental health care in America. In nearly 460 pages Dr. Satcher makes a case so compelling that it will be nearly impossible to ignore.

The statistics with which Dr. Satcher leads off the report should focus attention from the start. Nearly one in five Americans is affected by a mental disorder in any given year. About 15% of all adult Americans, and 21% of the children and adolescents use mental health services in a given year. Direct costs of mental health services in America total nearly \$100 billion per year and indirect costs reach nearly \$80 billion. In the U.S. mental disorders account for more than 15% of the overall burden of disease, more than all forms of cancer combined. Worldwide, only cardiovascular conditions cost more years of lost healthy life than mental illness.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING:
Stigma against mental illness can be harmful to you and everyone else.

Dr. Satcher makes very clear what we in the mental health community have long understood; that the stigma associated with mental illness is "an excuse for inaction and discrimination that is inexcusably outmoded in 1999." Disturbing though is his debunking of the notion that a better understanding of mental illness will lead to a concurrent decline in stigma. Despite a greater understanding of mental illness and its causes, "the perception of people with psychosis as being

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New AOT Numbers

DMHMRAS has released new contact names and numbers:

- To receive the forms necessary to file an AOT petition call (800) 527-7474.

If you are developing a treatment plan or providing case management, but are unable to access the necessary services contact the appropriate borough office:

- Manhattan, Jane Plapinger (212) 442-5000
- Bronx/Queens, Patricia Harrison, Ph.D. (212) 219-5500
- Brooklyn/Staten Island, Dimitra Risueno, Ph.D. (718) 643-4620

Investigations of those for whom court orders have been sought are conducted by HHC facilities under contract with the Department:

- Queens, Elmhurst Hospital; Ron Hooks (718) 334-3547
- Bronx, North Central Bronx Hospital; Dr. Scott Rogge (718) 519-2475
- Manhattan, Bellevue Hospital; Dr. Kaufman (212) 562-4073
- Brooklyn/Staten Island, Woodhull Hospital; Michael Chambers (718) 963-8337
- Attorneys who have legal questions should call (212) 788-3300. ▣

Norman Council to direct NY Work Exchange

The Coalition is proud to announce the appointment of Norman Council as Director of the New York Work Exchange, a new employment project of The Coalition. Norman hails from the Matrix Research Institute in Philadelphia where he has served as Director of Development. He has a twenty-year career as a practitioner, administrator, trainer and consultant in behavioral health care. ▣

WIIA through Congress

The Work Incentives Improvement Act (WIIA) has passed both houses of Congress and awaits an anticipated signature from Bill Clinton.

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Surgeon General's report

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dangerous is stronger today than in the past." All this despite the fact that, "the overall contribution of mental disorders to the total level of violence in society is exceptionally small."

Dr. Satcher also makes clear what the costs of stigma are. "Nearly two-thirds of all people with diagnosable mental disorders do not seek treatment," and one of the primary barriers is stigma. Stigma also affects the public's willingness to fund mental health care. While 15% of the burden of disease results from mental disorders, less than 10% of the health care dollars are invested in treatment for mental illness, and the percentage has declined over the last decade.

Chapters in the report include:

- The Fundamentals of Mental Health and Mental Illness, which includes sections on multiculturalism, consumer and family movements and recovery.
- Children and Mental Health
- Adults and Mental Health
- Older Adults and Mental Health
- Organizing and Financing Mental Health Services
- Confidentiality of Mental Health Information: Ethical, Legal and Policy Issues
- A Vision for the Future, which includes sections entitled:
 - Continue to Build the Science Base
 - Overcome Stigma
 - Improve Public Awareness of Effective Treatment
 - Ensure the Supply of Mental Health Services and Providers
 - Ensure Delivery of State-of-the-Art Treatments
 - Tailor Treatments to Age, Gender, Race, and Culture
 - Facilitate Entry Into Treatment
 - Reduce Financial Barriers to Treatment

We applaud Dr. Satcher and this administration for their efforts to bring mental health and mental illness to the forefront. No other Surgeon General or administration has been as clear and consistent a voice for people with mental illness as these. We await with tremendous anticipation the policy and funding changes that will be the natural outgrowth of a report of this magnitude, including complete behavioral health care parity, sufficient funding of existing mental health services, increases in system-wide capacity for adults as well as children and adolescents, aggressive campaigns to combat stigma, programs to cover the uninsured and adequate funding for research into the causes of and cures for mental illness. ▣

**The Board and staff of The Coalition would like to thank
our friends for all their help in this century.
We look forward to working together in the next.
We wish you and yours a happy holiday season
and a joyous new year.**

Save the dates

The Fifth Annual Mastering the Key Connection Conference will be held from April 2-4 at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan. Judith Herman, MD from the Harvard Medical School and Laura Prescott, founder of Sister Witness International, will deliver the keynote addresses. Workshops will feature nationally renowned experts on trauma and mental health. The Coalition is a proud co-sponsor of this event. For more information call (212) 254-0333x515. ▣

Labor study

The New York State Department of Labor is conducting a research demonstration funded by the Social Services Administration to demonstrate that when the necessary supports are made available to people with significant disabilities and their employers, they can succeed in competitive employment. Beginning in January 2000 pilot projects will begin in New York City and Erie County. Randomly selected SSI recipients will receive mailings inviting them to participate in the project. Participants will receive extra services and supports. For more information call Lisa Drake at (518) 485-2628. ▣

Scholarships available

Eli Lilly and Company is accepting nominations for the Lilly Reintegration Scholarship to enable people with schizophrenia and related schizophrenia-spectrum disorders to get the vocational and educational skills they need to reintegrate into their community. Eligible applicants must be diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizophreniform or schizoaffective disorder, be currently receiving treatment, and be actively involved in rehabilitative or reintegrative efforts. Applications are due by January 31, 2000 and can be requested by contacting lillyscholarships@ims-chi.com or (800) 809-8202. ▣

W/IA

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ton. This crucial legislation will allow people with disabilities to return to the workforce without losing their benefits. Congratulations and thanks to all those who worked to get this important bill through. ▣

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— Help Wanted —

Member Notes

The Robin Hood Foundation renamed its awards in honor of John F. Kennedy Jr. who was a member of their Board. At a ceremony on December 7th, they honored **Queens Child Guidance** social worker Rosa Pardo for her work with the Infant Parent Program. ▣

The Association for Rehabilitative Case Management and Housing has found its way across the river. Beginning in 2000, the agency will expand into the Bronx and Queens. Scattered site apartments in the Bronx and a CR-SRO in Queens Village will be **The Association's** first ventures outside Manhattan, and will complete a five-fold expansion since 1993. ▣

Responding to the Daily News

Although the Daily News failed to publish the letter Coalition Executive Director Phillip A. Saperia sent in the wake of their editorial push for re-institutionalization, they did publish a letter from Treasurer Peter Campanelli. We reprint that letter here for those who missed it:

Manhattan: I found your November 28 editorial "Put balance in mental health" to be a valiant attempt to explain and solve a very complicated problem - although it fell far short of the mark. The problem we face in providing service in communities to adults who are seriously mentally ill is years of misdirecting massive funds to state hospitals and acute-care centers when 95% of seriously mentally ill people are in communities.

In our booming economy, it is hard to imagine that we cannot find the wherewithal to provide services to our children to help them grow into productive adults and also help those who are adults live safely in the communities of their choice.

As treasurer and board member of the Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies, I can say that it is not a union of mental health workers, but rather a federation of agencies whose common mission is to ensure that the city's mental health system is accessible and appropriately responsive.

Peter C. Campanelli, **Institute for Community Living** ▣

Sky Light Center in Staten Island seeks two Rehabilitation Counselors who will participate in service coordination, job placement management, apt. program support & in-house unit work. Requires strong interpersonal communication and time management skills. Min. of a BA in social services req. w/ exp. a +. Exc. Benefits w/ salaries beginning in mid-twenties. Send resumes to: 307 St. Marks Place, SI, NY 10301; or fax to 718-720-2601. Consumers encouraged to apply. ▣

Weston United seeks a Social Worker with CSW and psychiatric & MICA exp. Will supervise casework staff, coordinate intake referrals & interviews, interface w/ community agencies, & provide direct clinical services to a chronically mentally ill & homeless pop. Knowledge of Dept. of Homeless Services, compliance standards & supervisory exp. pref. Competitive salary & benefits. New grads encouraged to apply. Fax resume to: **Weston United**, Joseph Wong, @ (212) 316-0789. ▣

Weston United seeks Bilingual Clubhouse Director for new E. Harlem clubhouse for Spanish speaking MICA pop. Will participate in start up and overall management. Progressive supervisory & management exp. w/ a track record in TE program development desired and 3 yrs. in psychosocial environment. Masters preferred. Computer literate. Salary \$40-45K w/ benefits. Fax resume to: **Weston United**, Joseph Wong @ (212) 316-0789. ▣

Brooklyn Bureau of Community Services has a job opening for a Social Work/Supervisor. Will provide staff supervision and discharge planning, therapy/counseling, group work & case management to adults w/ mental illness and MICA diagnosis. Complete all case record documentation for closed cases, and oversee case record review for quality assurance. CSW w/ 2-3 yrs. post masters exp. incl. supervisory exp. req. Contact: Ken Corbin @ (718) 310-5805 or Fax to: (718) 858-2967. ▣

Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service has opening for a Senior Social Worker for CDT program. Will provide supervision to intake social worker & oversee intake procedure. Provide therapy/counseling, group work, case management & case record documentation to adults w/mental illness & MICA diagnosis. Participate in program committees w/ interdisciplinary team. CSW w/ 2 yrs. post MA exp. in supervision & working w/ MICA pop. req. Salary commensurate w/ exp. Contact: Ken Corbin @ (718) 310-5805. Fax: (718) 858-2967. ▣

Upcoming Events

December 24	Coalition closed in honor of Christmas
December 31	Coalition closed in honor of New Years Eve
January 3	Coalition building closed
January 6	Committee on Children and Families at CVMHA
January 11	PLC: Risk Sharing and Payment Mechanisms at CSS
January 13	Finance Committee at CVMHA
	Executive Committee at CVMHA
January 17	Coalition closed in honor of Martin Luther King Day
January 21	PLC: Provider Liabilities and AOT at FPWA
January 24	MICA Committee at the Bridge
January 27	Conference: Housing and Employment for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders at Brooklyn Marriott
	Membership meeting at CVMHA
June 15	Mental Health Awards at Pfizer