



Coalition Briefs

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

Three SNPs in RFP

The Coalition has succeeded in its campaign to have at least three Adult Mental Health Special Needs Plans designated for New York City. The Request for Proposals (RFP) just released by the State Office of Mental Health indicates that 3 SNPs will be procured for the City, to serve a city-wide geographic area.

The RFP appears on the SOMH website, which can be reached through the "Links" section of The Coalition's website at www.cvmha.org. Letters of intent to bid must be submitted by August 2nd, and an Offerers' Conference will be held in Albany on Thursday, September 13th. The proposal deadline is December 16th, and the "target" date for contract signing and start-up for City SNPs is July 2001, which is six to nine months later than the similar target for Upstate and Westchester-area SNPs.

Our very preliminary review of the rates set forth in the RFP makes us wonder whether New York City's rates have been somewhat unfairly disadvantaged, in comparison to those for other areas of the State. ▣

DOJ study of prisons

According to a study released by the United States Department of Justice on July 11th 16% of the prison population in America (283,800 people) has a severe mental illness. Furthermore, prisoners with mental illness are almost twice as likely as other inmates to have been homeless, abused, or chemically dependent prior to their incarceration. Inmates who struggle with mental illness end up sending on average more than 15 months longer incarcerated than their counterparts. These same inmates are repeat offenders who fall into a cycle of incarceration, homelessness and chemical dependence. ▣

State budget process comes unstuck Mental Hygiene table reaches preliminary agreement Leaders approve dollars for mental health housing

After agreeing to revenue figures last week that are approximately \$1.1 billion above the Governor's proposal, the legislature is, for the second time in history, convening conference committees to determine where the additional money is to be spent. The legislature's clear focus is on health and education, with a particular eye to restoring the Governor's cuts in those areas. Money has been allocated to the committees as follows (in millions):

Health	\$355
Education	\$360
Higher Ed.	\$150
Mental Hygiene	\$15
Public Protection	\$10
Economic Development	\$10
General Government	\$10
Transportation/Housing/Environment	\$10
Human Services	\$10
General Conference Committee	\$170

After numerous meetings the Mental Hygiene conference committee, chaired by Assemblyman James Brennan and Senator Tom Libous, has reached a preliminary agreement on how to allocate the \$15 million available. This recommendation will be taken into consideration by the General Conference Committee, and may change there. The numbers below represent that tentative agreement:

Office of Mental Health

Children's services	\$2,050,000
Shared staff restoration (at least 66 positions)	\$2,530,000
Psychiatric residency slots restoration (restores 9 of 18 cut positions)	\$400,000
Case management (not ACT teams)	\$1,500,000
Healthcare proxies and advanced directives (education and outreach)	\$1,000,000
Supported employment	\$402,500
Nathan Kline Institute	\$235,000
Community services	\$883,500
<i>Total</i>	<i>9,001,000</i>

Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

Treatment services	\$2,500,000
Community service initiative	\$850,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$3,350,000</i>

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State budget moves rapidly

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Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Community services	\$1,374,000
Youth opportunity program	\$900,000
Epilepsy foundation	\$300,000
Chaplain services	\$50,000
Total	\$2,624,000

Office of the Disability Advocate \$25,000

The General Conference Committee, making all decisions about capital funding, has apparently agreed to spend \$50,000,000 on housing for people with mental illness. This money would be used to fund part of the housing initiative proposed by Assemblyman James Brennan earlier this year. We are concerned that the money seems to be for buildings alone with no services, but we are very pleased at the recognition by the legislative leaders of the tremendous need for housing for people with mental illnesses.

The legislature now needs to put the budget into bill form and vote on it, and the Governor must sign it, so expect at least a week to pass before the budget is finalized. □

Service Coordinator, **The Children's Aid Society** seeks someone for Adoption & Foster Care Services Dept. & for Early Intervention Program. Responsibilities include identifying needs of families w/ special needs children under the age of 3, coordinating evaluations and assisting families in finding service providers. You will also be responsible for the development and maintenance of Individual Family Service Plans. Qualified applicants must have a BA in Health & Human Services field or BSW, good working knowledge of child development, good organizational & documentation skills, good working knowledge of community-based resources for families and children. Bilingual (Span./Eng) Salary \$25.5K-\$39K. Send Resume to: Ms. Catherine Lynch - Tel. No. 212-949-4969, Early Intervention Coordinator **The Children's Aid Society** 150 East 45th St., NY, NY 10017. □

Social Worker, **Hudson Guild** seeks someone for Counseling Department who will be responsible for hands-on supervision and developmental functions of a small after-school program. Primary focus will be running this program for SED adolescents. Position is F/T w/ flexible hrs. (early evenings and some Saturdays). Candidates must have CSW & specific exp. working w/ SED teens, preferably within a recreational setting. Supervisory exp. and bilingual Span./Eng +. Comprehensive benefits package. Salary commensurate w/ exp. Please send resume to: Human Resources/Social Worker **Hudson Guild** 441 W. 26th St., NY, NY 10001 or fax to: Human Resources/Social Worker (212) 268-9983. □

MICA Specialist, **Riverdale Mental Health Center** seeks a specialist to provide evaluations, individual & group treatment to caseload of MICA clients. Responsibilities include supervising case manager and providing MICA training to clinic staff. Also req. to provide administrative oversight, monitor productivity, develop and expand linkages w/ other community-based programs serving MICA clients in West Bronx. Qualifications include MSW or Ph.D., NYS Certificate/Licensure. Min. 3 yrs. Post-degree exp. w/ adult MICA clients including seriously mentally ill. Spanish speaking req. CASAC pref. Strong clinical and administrative skills a plus. Excellent salary and benefits. Send resume to: **Riverdale Mental Health Center**, 5676 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471 or fax to: 718-548-1161. □

Sociotherapist, **The Children's Aid Society** seeks sociotherapist to join staff at Therapeutic Foster Boarding Home Program. The sociotherapist is the primary hands-on staff person working w/ the foster parents to maintain an environment in which the child can develop interpersonal skills and behavior. Qualifications include a BA in the social sciences, demonstrated ability to work effectively w/ youngsters w/ special needs, exp. in working w/ a team, availability to provide crisis intervention 24/7. Spanish speaking a +. Salary \$25.5K-\$39K. Send Resume to: Ms. Catherine Connelly, TFBH Supervisor, **The Children's Aid Society** 150 E. 45th St., NY, NY 10017. Phone: 212-949-4891. □

MBHO enrollment rises

According to statistics recently released by Open Minds over 72% (176.8 million) of the 244 million insured Americans are enrolled in Managed Behavioral Health Organizations. This figure represents only a minor increase of 1.9% over last year's figure of 149 million. This contrasts with the 107% increase from 86.3 million in 1993. Magellan Health Services continues to dominate the market with a 36.6% market share. □

— Help Wanted —

Social Worker: **The Children's Aid Society** seeks someone for Adoption & Foster Care Services. Responsibilities include supervision of children, management of the case assignments & utilization of agency & community resources for the treatment of children and families. Also responsible for providing services for the reunification of children w/ their parents.. Qualifications include BSW/BA Degree (w/ some caseload carrying exp.) or MSW. Knowledge of the Foster Care Adoption field. Excellent oral and writing skills, good organizational skills, flexibility and ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, basic computer literacy and bilingual (Eng./Span.) pref. Salary \$25.5K-\$44K. Send Resume to: Marilyn Johnson, Director of Permanency, **The Children's Aid Society**, 150 E. 45th St., NY, NY 10017. Phone: 212-949-4899. □

Social Worker: **The Children's Aid Society** seeks social worker for Homefinding Unit of Adoption & Foster Care Services. Responsibilities include recruitment, handling initial inquiries from prospective parents, conducting orientation sessions for new applicants, processing homestudies, maintaining records and written summaries within deadlines. Must attend Unit mtgs, participate in in-service training projects and seminars. Qualifications include BSW/BA (w/ some homefinding exp.) or MSW; knowledge of the Foster Care/Adoption field; excellent interviewing & assessment skills; excellent oral and writing skills; flexibility and ability to work under pressure. Bilingual (Span./Eng) May be required. MAPP certification a +. Salary \$25.5K-\$44K. Send resume to: Ann McCabe, Administrative Director, Adoption/Foster Care Services, **The Children's Aid Society**, 150 E. 45th St., NY, NY 10017. □