



Coalition Briefs

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

COPS recoupments planned

SOMH plans to recoup 1995 COPS overpayments during 2000. They are in the process of drafting a letter to all COPS providers indicating the estimate of the overpayment and the method by which it will be recovered. Coalition members will receive a memo from Executive Director Phillip A. Saperia shortly with details. For more information contact Joshua Rubin at extension 17 or jfrubin@cvmha.org. □

Lobby Day — February 15

Once again this year The Coalition and the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare will make a joint pilgrimage to Albany to make our case to key legislative and executive branch officials and staff people. This annual exercise is a crucial part of our advocacy strategy; there is no substitute for face-to-face meetings. All Coalition members are encouraged to attend the lobby day. Please contact Joshua Rubin at extension 17 or jfrubin@cvmha.org for more information. □

DOI ruling may threaten IPAs

Coming on the heels of a "Risk Sharing and Payment Mechanisms in Managed Care" presentation by Larry Berg, Ph.D., Esq., where staff from member agencies raised many concerns related to forming or joining an Independent Provider Association (IPA), the Department of Insurance has announced the possibility of requiring IPAs to put up reserves equal to 12.5% of the capitation revenue they receive from insurers. In effect this requirement puts IPAs on the same financial footing as HMOs directing agencies to annually set aside thousands of dollars in an escrow account. (Continued on page 2)

Big budget battles begin Seeking structural solution

The Governor's January 11th budget proposal served as a starter's gun in the race for budget priorities, and The Coalition, along with allies in the mental health community, is out of the blocks and running. The main prize we chase is a structural change to the mental health funding system that will enable rates and grants to increase regularly and predictably. For too long reimbursements have stagnated while expenses have climbed. We are dismayed that almost every other sector of the health care community's rates increase while mental health rates remain at mid-1980's levels.

During this fiscal year the community mental health sector will be pushing for an inflation pacing adjustment for both personal services and other-than-personal-services for the **ENTIRE** mental health provider community. In addition, we will be advocating for an additional adjustment for non-contract agencies that were left out of the 1997 2.5% partial adjustment and whose rates remain the lowest of all program rates. All the while, however, we will be primarily pushing to change the system of service funding.

This year will also see a push to finally obtain presumptive Medicaid eligibility for people with severe mental illness who are released from inpatient psychiatric facilities, jails and prisons. Other items high

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MIS Technical assistance

On December 30, 1999 the vendor analyses and final recommendations of the MIS Technical Assistance Program (MIS/TAP) were mailed out to the entire membership. The MIS/TAP was initiated at the request of member agencies, which sought information and assistance in finding high-performance vendors/products. The production of these reports fulfills the program's initial objectives: to identify member agency needs and MIS requirements, educate the membership about technology, and in the end select the best fit vendors/products for the broad membership.

At the simplest level, these reports are the equivalent of a consumer's report, which frees our (Continued on page 2)

States receive Olmstead directive from HCFA

On January 14th HCFA's Timothy M. Westmoreland, Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations and Thomas Perez, Director of the Office of Civil Rights, sent a letter to all State Medicaid Directors informing them of their responsibilities resulting from the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision. Primarily, States must have a "comprehensive, effectively working plan for placing qualified persons with disabilities in less restrictive settings, and a waiting list that moves at a reasonable pace not controlled by the State's endeavors to keep its institutions fully populated." For copies of the entire letter contact Joshua Rubin at extension 17 or jfrubin@cvmha.org. □

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State budget

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on The Coalition's priority list include: expansion of children's mental health treatment services, pilot MICA case management programs, additional support for people with mental illness returning to the workforce, an indefinite extension of the Community Reinvestment Act, mental health insurance parity, a lifting of the Medicaid mental health cost-neutrality cap, restoration of the shared staff positions cut in last year's budget and a technical amendment to the MTA ½ Fare Fairness Act of 1999.

On many levels, Governor Pataki's budget proposal is a great start. He made good on his promise to infuse the mental health care system with desperately needed new services. \$125 million worth of new case management, housing and children's services will help address the crisis in capacity that has left 'no room at the inn' for people in desperate need. He also found funding for the care coordination that will make Kendra's Law more than an unfunded mandate.

Governor Pataki deserves commendation for adjusting the Reinvestment year VI funding levels to represent the actual numbers of bed closures. This commitment to the community-based system is admirable and appreciated. Furthermore, his inclusion of a small cost of living adjustment for some mental health care providers is welcome evidence that our appeals are being heard.

Despite satisfaction with the Executive's proposal, there is much work yet to do to ensure the well being of the voluntary mental health care community. We have already entered into discussions with key legislative and executive branch officials and staff people, but success requires your help. Keep an eye on your fax machines because Action Alerts will soon start flowing. Additionally, Coalition members are urged to attend our annual lobby day on February 15th. □

Upcoming Events

January 21	Special Membership Meeting: 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
February 8	PLC: Ethics and the Risk of Professional Misconduct and Malpractice at CSS
February 10	Finance Committee at CVMHA Board of Directors at CVMHA Government Relations Committee at CVMHA
February 15	Coalition Lobby Day in Albany
February 21	President's Day — Coalition closed
February 22	TOP meeting for current NYC users at FPWA
February 24	Membership meeting at CVMHA
February 25	PLC: NCQA 2000 and You at CSS
March 9	Finance Committee at CVMHA Executive Committee at CVMHA
June 15	Mental Health Awards at Pfizer

Conferences coming

The Coalition is very excited to be co-sponsoring two conferences with the New York State Office of Mental Health. On **January 27th** the New York Work Exchange will be co-sponsoring **Housing and Employment for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders: Are We Meeting the Challenge?** at the Brooklyn Marriott. This conference is free. Call (212) 675-3803x302 for more information. On **April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th** we are co-sponsoring the **5th Annual Mastering the Key Connection: Clinical training conference on trauma in the public mental health system** at the Crowne Plaza in New York. The conference will cost \$175 before March 2nd, \$225 afterwards so you are encouraged to register early. Call (212) 254-0333x515 for information. □

DOI on IPAs

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count. This level of financial commitment may prove to be too burdensome for some Coalition member agencies. Through The Coalition's Professional Learning Center, Larry Berg is still available for on-site consultations with our member agencies. Call Patricia Gallo Goldstein in order to schedule an appointment with Dr. Berg. □

MIS

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membership of costly and time-consuming research and allows individual member agencies to buy a product if they so choose.

However, we are currently negotiating with the two finalists to undertake a group purchase in order to increase savings. Clearly, the larger the group the greater is the potential savings. Based on a small estimated number, one of the vendors has already modified its prices. **If you are interested in possible participation in a group purchase, please notify us as soon as possible. Your expressed interest does not bind you in any agreement but allows us to negotiate with vendors.** Please contact Patricia Gallo Goldstein at extension 12 or patgg@cvmha.org for more information. □

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— Help Wanted —

No parity at UnitedHealth

According to a report by Open Minds, UnitedHealth Group, which manages behavioral health benefits for 17 million Americans, has given doctors final say over care decisions except in mental health treatment. The company defends their decision by claiming that extending authority to mental health providers would escalate costs too much because of the lack of objective determinations about what type of psychiatric care is needed. Questions or comments about the policy can be directed to Saul Feldman, CEO, United Behavioral Health at (415) 547-5200. □

Community Access seeks Program Director to oversee 12 & 15 bed transition congregate programs & 50 bed supported program. Participates in intake, supervises & trains staff, ensures compliance w/ policies & regulations (incl. Review of charts, incident reporting & carries 24 hr. pager. Strong clinical, organizational & interpersonal skills; an ability to work w/multi-dept. teams; & flexibility to respond to change req. MSW pref. Salary in low 40's depending on exp. Send resumes w/cover letter & salary history to: **Community Access**, HR Dept., 666 Broadway, 3rd Fl., NY, NY 10012; Fax: (212) 780-1412. □

Victim Services seeks an exp. Administrative Director for a mental health clinic servicing primary & secondary victims of crime & abuse. Will work on increasing service levels & revenue, strengthening delivery model & intensifying outreach & marketing activities. CSW pref. Knowledge of DMH/OMH regs. req. F/T & P/T CSW Therapist positions also available. CSW req. Span. & Russian speaking needed. Fax resume & cover letter to N. Arnow @ (212) 577-3897 or send to **Victim Services**, 2 Lafayette St., 3rd Fl., NY, NY 10007. □

Member Notes

The **Institute for Community Living** will host a Grantsmanship Training Program at 40 Rector Street from March 6-10, 2000. Information about the program is available at www.tgci.com or by calling Pamela DePompo-Klein at (212) 385-3030x110. □

Community Access seeks Entitlements Specialist to assess the income needs & direct entitlements (e.g. social security, public assistance, food stamps, & Medicaid) for clients. Exp. w/ entitlements & advocacy pref. Salary in low 30s. Exc. Benefits. Send resume w/cover letter & salary history to: **Community Access**, HR Dept., 666 Broadway, 3rd Fl., NY, NY 10012; Fax: (212) 780-1412. □

The **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service** in New York City is seeking a Director of Foundation and Government Funding. The outstanding candidate will be a team player and bring demonstrated skills in communication, critical thinking, conceptualization of social service programs and supervision. Successful experience in managing ambitious public and foundation grant-seeking required. Interested candidates should forward resumes to Eva Toth, DRG, 104 East 40th Street, Suite 304, NY, NY 10016, FAX (212) 983-1687 or e-mail etoth@drgnyc.com. □

Seeking MSW social worker for multiagency welfare to work project. Responsibilities include clinical and employability assessments, staff training and consultations. Excellent benefits and competitive salary. Send resume and cover letter to: Director of Human Resources, **ClearView Center**, 500 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12206. E.O.E. □

The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies, Inc. seeks an Administrative Assistant for the New York Work Exchange. Requires a very high level of computer literacy, exceptional writing and communication skills, excellent analytic abilities and good interpersonal skills. Must be well organized and be able to manage a variety of simultaneous tasks and projects. No experience necessary but be prepared to provide wrap-around support. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume with cover letter to Norman Council, 120 West 57th Street #1014, NYC 10019. □

Health services coordinator (Part time): Direct care position in residential treatment setting for mentally ill adults in Cohoes. Duties include one on one and /or group training on issues such as: proper nutrition, health and fitness, coordination of medical appts, transportation to scheduled appts. Qualified applicant will possess knowledge of basic nutrition, health and well being, driver's license, a min of 2 years experience in Human Services and/or 2 yr degree in related field. Computer familiarity a plus. 18 hours/week, no weekends. Please send resume and cover letter to: Director of Cohoes Residence, **ClearView Center, Inc**, 30 Johnston Ave, Cohoes NY 12047. **ClearView Center** is an equal opportunity employer. □

Victim Services seeks Director of Sexual Assault Intervention & Advocacy. Sr. manager w/ MSW, MPA or JD to manage programs for sexual assault victims incl. 3 child advocacy centers, statewide TA/resource center; & community-based sexual assault crisis services. Exp. in service delivery & knowledge of response to sexual assault pref. Innovative approaches to achieving goals through change & interagency collaboration pref. Fax resume to J. Barker @ **Victim Services**, (212) 571-0912. □