



Coalition Briefs

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

OMH State Plan published

The State Office of Mental Health recently released a five-year plan for the development of the mental health system. Touted as a fulfillment of its obligation under Section 5.07 of the State's Mental Hygiene law, the plan provides a broad overview of the services that are currently available.

Although the law mandates a planning process which includes recommendations from counties,

(Continued on page 2)

Dan Still honored at Coalition

Retired DOHMH executive, Dan Still was honored at a Coalition function on December 4th where he was given a Professional Achievement Award which touted his ability to build bridges between the public and the voluntary sector. Most recently serving as the First Deputy Commissioner, Dan has worked on mental health issues for the City for more than 30 years.

Widely respected in the mental health sector, Dan will continue to serve the mental health community as a consultant to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

We wish him luck in his new endeavors and look forward to continuing to work with him. □

Calendar of Events

Work Exchange/New York Clubhouse Employment Workshop

January 8, 8:30AM

HIPPA Training

January 10, 9:30 AM

Work Exchange: Benefits Breakfast

January 14, 9:00 AM

Children's Committee

January 15, 10:00 AM

Government Relations

January 16, 3:00 PM

Reinvestment II to be decided today!

In a move that bodes well for the continued vitality of the community mental health sector, the New York State Senate early last week sent the Reinvestment II bill to the Governor for his signature. Legally, Gov. Pataki has until today—Dec. 20th—to veto the bill. If he takes no action on the legislation, it will become law at the end of the day.

Officially called the "Community Mental Health Support and Workforce Reinvestment Program," Reinvestment II will capture for the community mental health sector savings from the elimination of beds in state psychiatric hospitals and from the reduction in expenditures from facility closure.

This legislation is based on the landmark 1993 law known as the Reinvestment Act with a few major changes. The original legislation funded new programs in the community—Supported Housing, clubhouses, and other recovery-oriented programs. According to the language in this new iteration, funds will be used for, "workforce related activities, including recruitment and retention initiatives and training programs, and other general programmatic activities to help ensure a stable mental health system."

Even though the legislation was passed by both the Legislature back in May, the Senate has been holding on to the bill as a courtesy to the Governor. He is being strongly encouraged to sign the bill by consumers, providers, and advocates State-wide including The Coalition. □

Adult homes plan unveiled

Late last month, the State of New York announced that a plan had been developed to deal properly with the residents of adult homes. A series of *New York Times* articles brought to light the treatment of people with mental illness in New York's adult homes.

The initiatives include mandates for greater oversight, increased penalties for infractions, an up-tick in the frequency of spot inspections, and improvements in care coordination—all recommendations made by a blue-ribbon panel.

While no mention was made on the issue, the Governor's next budget is expected to address the creation of 6000 beds also part of the panel's recommendation.

This initiative also created an a complaint hotline which residents or service providers in the homes can call. The toll-free phone number, 1-866-893-6772, will be posted publicly in all adult homes. □

Free HIPAA training for Coalition members

The Coalition is pleased to announce free HIPAA Privacy training for Coalition member agencies. Beginning in January, The Coalition will offer a "train the trainers" model to help members meet their obligations under the HIPAA Privacy Rule to train employees by April 14, 2003.

Agencies can send up to 15 people, staggered across nine training sessions. Participating agencies will get copies of the presentation materials, a teacher's manual, and a privacy test to use in their own in-house HIPAA training efforts. Video tapes of the presentation will also be available for purchase.

Additionally, a special training session for designated Privacy Officers will be held in February. To find out more information, contact Gilad Rosner at (212) 742-1600 x210, or grosner@cvmha.org. □

Coalition Briefs



Work and Recovery Project Begins

The New York Work Exchange will launch the Work and Recovery Project this month, an initiative aimed at improving employment opportunities and outcomes for mental health consumers attending Continuing Day Treatment Programs (CDTPs) in New York City. Participating agencies include F.E. G.S., Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center, New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, and Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center.

The four CDTPs will receive expert consultation and technical assistance focusing on employment and recovery-based concepts and activities. The project will be implemented in four phases over a two-year period. The phases include: site assessment, curriculum delivery, consultation to service provision and treatment planning, and follow-up support and networking. Leadership from the participating CDTPs will meet to discuss the experience, what was learned, and plan for next steps. For more information about this project, visit our website at www.nyworkexchange.org or contact Director Alysia Pascaris at 212-742-1122 x201.

CR and SE Services study

Participants in the Cognitive Remediation and Supported Employment Services study will be receiving two full days of training in December by Dr. Susan McGurk from Mt. Sinai Medical School, principal investigator for the research project.

The New York Work Exchange has undertaken this study to

evaluate the effects of cognitive remediation and supported employment services for consumers with mental illness. There is increasing evidence to support the view that individuals with psychiatric disabilities experience difficulties in the work setting due to cognitive impairments.

Participating New York City mental health supported employment programs will explore the feasibility and effect of offering cognitive remediation interventions in supported employment services. Participants will be using neuropsychological evaluations and computer-based interventions designed to address cognitive skills such as memory, speed in handling tasks, and problem solving.

Website Renovated

Please visit the new and improved New York Work Exchange website at www.nyworkexchange.org. Learn more about our exciting programs and projects such as the Work and Recovery Project, Cognitive Remediation Study, Ways to Work Demonstration Project and many more. Access The WORKbook: a guide to NYC Mental Health Employment programs and perform electronic searches on-line. View our Program of Study for course offerings on numerous topics regarding providing effective employment services for consumers of mental health services. Check out our job listings sections for job announcements in the mental health employment or human services field. The fyi section includes important information, resources and timely reports that are of interest to the mental health community. The Funding Sources section provides a list of federal, state and city agencies and funding websites. Access TRAIN, a database of NYC help programs, and perform customized on-line searches for educational/vocational, childcare, and substance and alcohol abuse treatment programs. □

State plan

(Continued from page 1)

providers and consumers, there was no apparent effort to include these important stakeholders. As a result, the report lacks much of the specificity which could be useful in divining the trends and usage changes which are vital to a genuine planning process.

As with more recent plans, this one focuses instead on more philosophical approaches to mental health services like the ABCs of mental health (accountability, best practices, and coordination of care).

It also devotes substantial attention to descriptions of service models and stages of implementation—irrespective of the target population or need for the service.

Unfortunately, detailed information is largely lacking from the document. In particular a planning document of this type would be most useful if it included such information as:

1. Detailed service utilization by type of program, type of agency and geographic areas;
2. Total expenditures by type of program, agency and geographic areas;
3. Three year trended service data describing changes in service utilization;
4. SOMH's plans for changes to State hospital facilities operations for Reinvestment planning.

The Coalition remains hopeful that, by engaging all stakeholders, a common, comprehensive State plan can be developed. A copy of the Coalition's testimony can be obtained from our website at: <http://www.cvmha.org> □

SAMHSA unveils MICA report

Earlier this month, the SAMHSA delivered a report to Congress on co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disorders. The detailed report looks at the state of research on people with a dual diagnosis, as well as funding and administrative barriers to the provision of quality care. In addition to a description of evidence based treatments, the report offers a 5-year blueprint for federal action. The report can be obtained at: http://www.samhsa.gov/news/cl_congress2002.html □