



Coalition Briefs

F L A S H

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

Bloomberg releases FY'04 budget, cuts to DOHMH

Earlier today Mayor Bloomberg released his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2004 which includes substantial cuts across all city agencies. Noting that the \$2.9 billion budget gap reported in January has grown to \$3.8 billion, the budget has rolled into the base the original 'contingency cuts' of \$600 million. Waiting in the wings is another contingency cut of \$1 billion which could be enacted in the absence of state and federal help.

The FY'04 budget for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is down by more than \$119 million when compared to the 1/01/02 projections. Having already eliminated more than 500 staff positions, the department is potentially facing a cut of another 185 people if state and federal help is not forthcoming.

In addition to this loss of staff, the mental hygiene sector stands to lose \$12.7 million in direct services as part of the \$1 billion contingency cut. Although this amount is split between HHC and the voluntary sector, it comes at a time when the Division has been eviscerated by layoffs and attrition. It is too soon to determine the precise impact of the cuts to the department's infrastructure, but the Division will most certainly have substantially fewer people to maintain service levels in contracting, oversight, and administration.

In addition to fighting these cuts, The Coalition has embarked on new ground this year by endorsing proposals for revenue enhancements at the state and federal levels. Stay tuned for more developments on these as well as the details on cuts and potential cuts. For more information call David at x102