

**The
Coalition**
of Voluntary
Mental Health
Agencies, Inc.

Coalition Briefs

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

Medicaid's HIPAA Extension Expires 12/29/04!

Providers who applied for an extension to New York State's Medicaid HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) deadline only have a few weeks remaining to test. Any electronic claims, coverage/benefit inquiries and authorizations submitted in legacy format after December 29th, 2004 will be rejected immediately. Allowable alternatives to the HIPAA complaint electronic transactions 837, 270/271 & 278 are ePACES (for all the transactions) and Omni 370 POS terminals (for 270/271 - UT's & 278 - authorizations).

Medicaid has also scheduled training sessions for the Phase II eMedNY Medicaid processing system. The deadline to register for a training session has been extended to December 14th. If you have not received the registration form you may call Michael Waytkus at 518-447-9332 to register. Phase II will include changes to various paper forms as well as changes in electronic transactions. □

Job Board

The Coalition's web site has a Job Board. All member agencies are encouraged to post openings. Go to www.cvmha.org and click on 'Job Board'.

Job #	Job Title
[1476]	Social Worker
[1481]	Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Liaison and Training
[1482]	Business Counselor
[1483]	Program Director
[1484]	Manager, Adult OP Prgm.
[1487]	Staff Worker Housing in Maintenance Unit

Coalition Executive Committee Brings Message to Albany

On November 29th, the Coalition's Executive Committee, joined by Lauri Cole of the New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, met with key officials in the Governor's office, Division of Budget, State Office of Mental Health and the State Assembly to offer them a preview of this year's budget advocacy.

Our message in all four meetings was the same: the community mental health sector desperately needs a trended rate factor for ambulatory Medicaid-funded programs and for supported housing. In addition, we need an immediate bump in the existing rates for these programs, and clinics that serve children need a differential rate that reflects the higher cost of providing services to young people.

The meetings went very well, and SOMH Commissioner Sharon Carpinello and her staff seemed receptive to our needs, acknowledging that quality services cost money to provide. In the weeks and months leading up to our February 8th Advocacy Day in Albany, we will be fine-tuning our requests and providing more detail on the need for a bump in clinic rates and for a children's clinic differential. □

The Bridge, Inc. Highlights Evidence-Based Practices

On Friday, December 3rd, **The Bridge, Inc.** in conjunction with the New York State Office of Mental Health held a conference at Hunter College School of Social work entitled: "Reports From the Field.... A Conference on Implementing Evidence-Based Services for the Mentally Ill in New York City." Paul G. Gorman, Ed.D., New Hampshire Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center; Dr. Lloyd Sederer, Executive Deputy Commissioner for Mental Hygiene for the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene as well as Barbara Cohn, Exec. Dep. Commissioner SOMH and her colleagues Paul Margolies and Anthony Salerno also spoke.

In the afternoon there were six break-out sessions, one for each evidence-based practice including one on supported employment (see

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Coalition Calendar

Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Celebration

December 16, 2004 3:30PM

Closed for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2004

Closed for New Year's Eve

December 31, 2004

NYWE Benefits Breakfast

January 11, 2005 9AM

Training on Medicare

January 19, 2005 2PM

Committee on Co-occurring Disorders

January 24, 2005 2:30PM

The Coalition's Annual Holiday Party

will be held on Thursday, December 16th @ 3:30pm @ 90 Broad Street. For more information and to RSVP, contact Meggan Christman at 212-742-1600x109. □

Coalition Briefs



Ways to Work and Recovery

Mental health providers participating in two New York Work Exchange projects shared their experiences and lessons learned in a workshop on December 8th. The session, "Ways to Work and Recovery: Practicing Rehabilitation and Recovery in an Integrated Setting," described the projects which focused on 10 community based clinical programs integrating employment and recovery related services into their programs.

Providers from St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center and **Fordham-Tremont** spoke about their organizational change experiences in the 'Work and Recovery' technical assistance project. They shared the challenges and successes experienced around shifting staff attitudes and program practices to reflect more recovery-oriented service delivery. Staff from **Brooklyn Bureau of Community Services, Riverdale Mental Health Association** and **Transitional Services Inc.**, presented on the results in the 'Ways to Work' demonstration project which required five CDTPs to graft employment services onto existing clinical services. This included a 27% employment rate for consumers in CDTPs that offered no prior supported employment services.

Newly posted documents for both projects include a 20 page curriculum used in the 'Work and Recovery' project that presents objectives, exercises, readings, and topic discussions. The Second Year Summary/Final Report from the 'Ways to Work' project examines employment, organizational, and programmatic data. Both documents are now available on the website at www.nyworkexchange.org.

NYWE Presents on Supported Employment Best Practices

Alysia Pascaris, Director of the New York Work Exchange, moderated a panel on Supported Employment Best Practices at the Evidence Based Practice Conference sponsored by **The Bridge, Inc.** and the New York State Office of Mental Health. The conference was held at Hunter College on December 3rd. Rita Liegner of **Riverdale Mental Health Association**, Marc Bagnara a consumer working at The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies, and Steve Dudasik of the Mental Health Association of New York City were among the panelists.

Together they highlighted the basic principles of supported employment as a viable evidence based practice and outlined how this practice successfully achieves improvement and enhancement in the lives of recipients of mental health service.

Upcoming January 14th Employment Specialist Technical Assistance Session

The New York Work Exchange will be sponsoring a second technical assistance session for employment specialists on January 14, 2005 from 9AM-12PM. This TA session is part of an ongoing series on supported employment practices facilitated by the Institute for Community Inclusion from Boston, Massachusetts.

The next 4-day employment specialist training will be held at the New York Work Exchange in April 2005. All mental health and employment providers are encouraged to attend and can obtain registration information from Deborah Short at 212-742-1122, ext. 235 or by visiting the web site at www.nyworkexchange.org.

Coalition Budget Advocacy Continues...

The Coalition is once again urging legislative leaders from both the Senate and the Assembly to restore the \$7.7 million in community mental health funding that was cut in the Governor's budget last year. While the legislature did accomplish a few objectives, including an override of the Governor's veto on the minimum wage and a tempered "reform" of the Rockefeller Drug laws, no action has yet been taken regarding the mental health restorations. NYC stands to lose nearly \$3.3 million if the Governor's veto is allowed to stand.

We encourage everyone to call Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, and the respective mental health chairs (Thomas Libous, Senate; Peter Rivera, Assembly) to let them know how important these funds are to the community mental health sector in New York City. □

Artist with Disability Recognized by NYC Comptroller

New York City Comptroller, William C. Thompson, Jr. honored six New Yorkers for their accomplishments at his 2004 Disability Awareness Month event held at City Hall on November 17.

Alberto Muneton, a young man with a developmental disability, who resides at a residence in the Bronx operated by **Services for the Under-served**, was selected and acknowledged by the Comptroller for his work as an artist. Alberto has had his art proudly displayed at his day program and in his residence, and showcased at conferences hosted by the New York State Association of Community Residential Agencies. He was also commissioned to do a painting for Kathy Broderick, Associate Commissioner of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, at the 25th anniversary of **SUS**, where she was honored.

SUS has operated residential and case management services for individuals with special needs since 1980, serving over 2,500 New Yorkers annually in communities throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens. □



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Who's New, Whose News and Who's Where

Urban Pathways

Urban Pathways, Inc. will be under new leadership as of the new year. Long-time Executive Director and Coalition Board member, Joan Ohlson will be resigning after a 14-year tenure. During that time, Urban Pathways has doubled in size and vastly expanded its range of services provided.

She will be succeeded by Frederick Shack who is currently Sr. Vice President of Client Services and Public Policy at HELP USA a national program that provides services to homeless individuals. In his present position his responsibilities include supervising the development and implementation of the agency's \$40 million annual operations budget. Prior to joining HELP in 1991, he was assistant executive director of a child welfare/mental health organization in Philadelphia. In addition to his post at HELP, Shack also serves on the Mayor's Task Force to End Chronic Homelessness. The Coalition welcomes Frederick Shack to the sector and wishes to thank Joan Ohlson for her commitment and advocacy. Best luck in all future endeavors, Joan.

NYC DOHMH Hellos and Goodbyes

The Coalition would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to Louis Josephson, Ph.D., Assistant Commissioner, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services at the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Josephson will be sorely missed as he has been a fierce advocate for children's mental health and was integral in the recent Mental Health Needs Assessment for Children in the Bronx.

We would also like to offer a slightly belated welcome to Jorge

Petit, M.D. who has taken on the position of Associate Commissioner in the Bureau of Program Services. Dr. Petit recently came to The Coalition with colleagues Peter McGarry and Gladys Ozoude to discuss the contracting process. Over the next several months the Bureau will be reviewing the process in an attempt to streamline requirements and automate renewal processes.

The Coalition would also like to extend our best wishes to Kimberly Gill, Assistant Director of the Office of Mental Health Disaster Preparedness and Response at DOHMH. Kimberly has been active in engaging the provider and advocacy community in the planning process since the office was established. Ms. Gill will be moving on to a position at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health at the Center for Public Health Preparedness, which is designed to serve as an academic and training resource for the public health workforce.

NY Service Program for Older People, Inc. Receives Award

Long-time Coalition Member **SPOP** recently received the American Psychiatric Association's 2004 Bronze Achievement Award for its Senior Outreach Program which provides mental health counseling to older adults throughout Manhattan. Nancy Harvey, Exec. Dir., accepted the award on behalf of **SPOP** at the APA's 2004 Conference in Atlanta. "It is an acknowledgment of our success in creating a unique program that meets the mental health needs of the underserved elderly. By offering counseling where older adults congregate, the program reaches seniors who would otherwise not receive help." □

Coalition Testifies on Social Work in Senior Centers

On Thursday, December 2nd, The Coalition's Executive Director, Phillip Saperia testified at an oversight hearing on social work in senior centers convened by the NYC Council's Sub Committee on Senior Centers. There is growing concern in the sector about a lack of adequate mental health services for a growing population of older New Yorkers.

In particular, The Coalition has been concerned with the lack of appropriate services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) seniors and has convened a taskforce to examine the unique needs of this population. This population faces a variety of challenges relating to the compounded stigmas of aging, mental health and sexual orientation. This makes them less likely to seek and receive services. In addition, there is currently no stand-alone Article 31 clinic anywhere in New York City specifically geared to the unique needs of LGBT seniors. □

Bridge Conference

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pg. 2) and one on Integrated Treatment for Dual Diagnosis which included members from The Coalition's Committee on Co-Occurring Disorders. Susan Buchanan from **Brooklyn Bureau**, Rob Brewster from **Riverdale MH Assoc.**, Sandra Foley from **Postgraduate Center**, Joyce Kvelson and Donna Ray from **FEGS**, and Elaine Schechtel from **BPC**, Clearway Center were joined in a discussion of challenges and strategies of implementation by staff from the **Lower East Side Service Center** including Dr. Martha Sullivan who moderated the discussion. □