



# Coalition Briefs

## FLASH

**BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK**

## **OMH Appoints Barbara Cohn Executive Deputy Commissioner**

Barbara Cohn has been appointed Executive Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Mental Health effective immediately, announced OMH Commissioner Sharon Carpinello Friday, June 25th. Ms. Cohn has served OMH as Deputy Commissioner, Special Initiatives, since July 2003. Prior to joining OMH, she was Senior Program Associate in the Office of the Governor, a position she held since 1995.

Ms. Cohn told The Coalition this morning, "I am truly honored by this appointment. It is a great privilege to be able to work with Commissioner Sharon Carpinello to promote evidence based practices, and to further enhance New York's high quality mental health system for children and adults. It's about the children, the families and the individuals."

During her tenure with the Governor's Office, Ms. Cohn was responsible for issues involving mental hygiene, and for the six State agencies that comprise New York's mental hygiene system. She worked closely with these agencies on budget and policy development. Of particular note for OMH, were the Enhanced Community Services Initiative, Kendra's Law, New York/New York II, as well as many other programs that have enhanced the quality of mental health services for children and adults with mental illness in New York State. A graduate of Union College, Ms. Cohn holds a law degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. ●