



Coalition Briefs

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



Join The Coalition at Our 22nd Annual Mental Health Awards Reception

Join us as we honor NYS OMH Commissioner Sharon Carpinello, noted author Bebe Moore Campbell, and our very own Alan Siskind at The Coalition's 2006 Mental Health Awards on June 8, 2006. To buy tickets, please call 212-742-1600 ext. 104 or order through our secure order form at www.cvmha.org.

Supported Employment Services At Risk

Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment services, which are vital to mental health consumers pursuing employment, have been in constant jeopardy of being cut. The President's proposed FY 2007 budget includes a \$15 million cut which would eliminate Supported Employment services entirely and leave Vocational Rehabilitation dollars to states in the form of block grants. These changes could lead to devastating reductions in employment services.

On March 16th the Senate overwhelmingly approved the Specter/Harkin education amendment that proposes a \$7 billion addition to the federal budget. *(continued on pg. 2)*

Coalition to Bring Behavioral Healthcare Funding Concerns to DC

The Coalition will be going to Washington DC on Wednesday, May 3 to advocate for protection of federal funding for behavioral healthcare. We will be meeting with Senators Clinton and Schumer, as well as several Congress members and key staffers. We will be combining our efforts with members of the National Council for Behavioral Healthcare from around the country who will be convening in Washington for their Second Annual Hill Day next week.

We will seek to build relationships with our national representatives and will press Congress to preserve Medicaid, protect the Mental Health Services Block Grant and increase substance abuse appropriations.

Joyce Pilsner Steps Down as RMHA Executive Director; Brewster Named E.D.

After serving for over 34 years as Executive Director of the **Riverdale Mental Health Association, Inc.**, Joyce Pilsner stepped down on April 1, 2006. She is succeeded by Robert Brewster, who has served as Deputy Executive Director since 2000.

Joyce has long been a friend and supporter of The Coalition, serving on our Board of Directors for many years. She is a 2002 recipient of our Founder's Award. We are happy to report that Joyce will remain at RMHA as Director of Special Projects, and plans to continue her work with The Coalition.

We are excited to continue our relationship with RMHA under Robert's capable leadership.

Coalition to Host Mary Thornton CDP Presentation

Please join us at The Coalition on May 3rd from 9am to 12 noon, as we welcome Mary Thornton, BSRN, MBA, for a discussion of Continuing Day Treatment Programs and the need to "unbundle" services. Ms. Thornton will give an overview of all applicable regulations and share information directly obtained from CMS. A portion of the morning will be devoted to a discussion of "audit proofing" medical records through proper documentation and meeting the medical necessity requirements. Ms. Thornton will also focus on the use of "groups" in a CDP, and whether they meet the Rehab Option criteria. The cost of attending is \$50.00 per person. Please call Patricia Gallo Goldstein at 212-742-1600, or e-mail at patgg@cvmha.org to register or for more information. **This event is open to members only and registration is required.**

Monthly Membership Meeting to Focus on Corporate Governance

The 2002 introduction of Sarbanes-Oxley presented the already highly regulated nonprofit sector with the challenge of adopting a set of regulations designed for large publicly traded corporations. Attend The Coalition's membership meeting on **Thursday April 27th at 3:30 PM** to learn what the nonprofit sector has done to embrace the Sarbanes-Oxley regulations. We will discuss important changes which are likely to impact your organization. This seminar is a must for anyone who wants to stay ahead of the curve on corporate governance issues.

Coalition Briefs



The Coalition Web Site: Your one-stop shop for mental health news, advocacy and information. Visit today!
www.cvmha.org

(continued from pg. 1)

This amendment could provide additional funds to rehabilitation services and supported employment. The amendment will be brought before the House this summer.

On March 27th, a group of national disability organizations assembled to ask Congress to support increased funding for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment. Included in this group were the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation's Network of Employment, and the International Association of Business, Industry & Rehabilitation. Failure on the part of the House GOP leadership to deliver an overall budget blueprint on April 7th has placed elimination of Supported Employment on hold for the time being. This leaves room for advocacy efforts and reflects a lack of complete support for the President's budget. This tenuous situation will continue to play itself out in coming months as the budget is debated.

Training to Support Growth

What is the essence of a great training? This is a question we've been seriously considering at the Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery as part of our ongoing effort to improve the quality of trainings we offer agency staff.

We've all had the experience of attending a first-rate training. Such trainings may contain ordinary content, but somehow, through the alchemy of group process, an exciting collaboration ensues. New insights are gained and motivation is activated. We leave inspired to become change agents, determined to implement new practices that benefit consumers.

That's the energy the Center seeks to generate in its trainings. Specifically, we hope to be a catalyst, motivating staff to adopt best practices in rehabilitation and recovery, which we know lead to better outcomes for consumers. To that end, we strive to develop an atmosphere

of trust, positive regard, and mutual respect in our trainings. We feel this supports staff growth and teamwork.

We've also come to appreciate the importance of empowering staff to share the responsibility for learning. Accordingly, we now emphasize interactive lecture formats in which staff members have more breathing room to reflect, ask questions and get feedback from their colleagues. This approach is consistent with our belief that peer teaching can add great value to a training.

Taken together, these new approaches represent the necessary and sufficient conditions for a rich learning environment. To the extent that our trainers can help create these conditions, we feel confident that staff will be inspired to stretch and grow professionally. They will then be ready to integrate the knowledge and skills presented in our trainings. Most importantly, they will leave with the inner fortitude to persevere in the face of daunting challenges. This is essential, for their determined efforts are vital to the successful implementation of recovery-oriented services.

Coalition Now Accepting Credit Card Payments

The Coalition is pleased to announce we are now accepting credit cards! Use your MasterCard, Visa or American Express to pay for training events, educational materials (DVD, VHS, books), fundraising events, donations and membership dues. In most cases, payments can be made through our secure *online* order system at www.cvmha.org.

For example, you can purchase your tickets to the Coalition's 22nd Annual Mental Health Awards Reception using our online order system today. Just click on the banner on the top right hand corner of the screen and follow the simple instructions.



Aaron Vieira (back to reader), the Coordinator of Education and Training at the Coalition's Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery, leads a training on Psychiatric Rehabilitation with staff from the **Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services** at their CDT Program in Coney Island.

Coalition Calendar

Monthly Membership Meeting
04/27/06 3:30 PM – 5:30PM

Mary Thornton presentation on CDTU Unbundling of Services

For more information, or to register, please contact Patricia Gallo Goldstein at patgg@cvmha.org.

IDDT Training Session IX - Family Treatment with Kim Mueser

05/18/06 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

For more information on IDDT trainings, or to register, please see The Coalition's website.

Monthly Membership Meeting
05/25/06 3:30 PM – 5:30PM

Job Board

Coalition Members advertise for free on The Coalition's Job Board! Non-members may advertise for only \$50. Go to www.cvmha.org and click on 'Job Board' and then 'Add a Job.' Please note the addition of a dedicated Job Board for posting psychiatrist positions. View available positions anytime at www.cvmha.org.