



# CLMHD News

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NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors - *An Affiliate of the NYS Association of Counties*  
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## State Budget Update: Additional \$750 Million Shortfall in 2010-11 Budget Projection

*By Jeremy Darman*

Governor Paterson announced this week that New York State now faces an additional \$750 million shortfall for the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget. This brings the future fiscal year budget gap from \$7.4 to \$8.2 billion. The gap is the product of decreased revenue projections from the Personal Income Tax (\$550 million), an expected increase in state share Medicaid spending (\$400 million), and unexpected positive revisions to the 2010-11 fiscal year budget projections, including decreased spending trends in other areas of the budget (-\$200 million).

The Governor has stated that an updated budget plan addressing the additional gap will be revealed in his 21-day amendments which are due for release this Tuesday January 9. The Conference will monitor the Governor's additional plans for addressing the budget gap and will notify membership to all relevant provisions of the Governor's 21-day amendments. If you have any questions you may contact Jeremy Darman at the Conference. To view the Division of Budget press release on the additional \$750 million shortfall, go to:

[http://www.budget.state.ny.us/pubs/press/2010/pressRelease10\\_deficitFeb03.html](http://www.budget.state.ny.us/pubs/press/2010/pressRelease10_deficitFeb03.html).

## OMH to Offer Training on Uncompensated Care Data Submission

Under the OMH Clinic Restructuring Project, Article 31 free-standing clinics will be authorized to seek reimbursement for uncompensated care through the DOH Indigent Care Pool. The state has yet to receive approval from CMS to allow mental health clinics to be included in the pool. However, in anticipation of approval, OMH notified clinics in July of 2009 that in order to be eligible for reimbursement from the pool in 2010, clinics needed to begin collecting data on uncompensated care visits. Clinics MUST submit this data in order to be eligible for uncompensated care reimbursement. OMH is converting from the current paper data collection process to an electronic process through the Mental Health Provider Data exchange. (MHPD).

OMH is offering two identical training sessions: Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday, February 11, 2010. Both sessions run from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

To register for the webinar go to:

[www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/mhpd/uncompensated\\_care\\_training.html](http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/mhpd/uncompensated_care_training.html).

## County Planners-Save the Date for Training Webinar: Using OASAS Medicaid Data for Planning

The County Data Needs Sub-committee will host a webinar on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 3:30 P.M. The focus of this training webinar will be on introducing the OASAS Medicaid Recipient Summary Report with practical illustrations of how this report can be used to inform local planning. Information on how to register for this webinar will be sent to local county planners shortly.

## Senator Hannon to Chair Medicaid Fraud Task Force

*Office of Senator Dean Skelos, February 2, 2010*

In an effort to strengthen the state's efforts to fight Medicaid fraud, which is driving up spending and taxes at the state and local levels, Senate Republican Leader Dean Skelos announced the creation of the Senate Republican Task Force on Medicaid Fraud. He appointed Senator Kemp Hannon (R-C-I, Garden City), to serve as Chairman.

The task force will hold hearings this month in Albany and in Nassau County and issue recommendations prior to the April 1st budget deadline. Along with Senator Hannon, the task force includes Senators George Winner (R-C-I, Elmira), Charles Fuschillo (R, Merrick), Michael Nozzolio (R-C, Fayette), Mike Ranzenhofer (R-C-I, Amherst), Hugh Farley (R-C, Schenectady), Martin Golden (R-C, Brooklyn) and Vincent Leibell (R-C-I, Patterson).

Despite the fact that they are on the front lines of the Medicaid program, county officials are saying the state inhibits their efforts to stop fraud at the local level. In fact, the 2009-10 state budget approved by the Governor and legislative Democrats eliminated the eligibility requirements for face-to-face interviews, finger-imaging and asset tests for applicants for Medicaid that are conducted by counties. The interviews are intended to ensure accountability in the system, but will no longer be required as of April 2010.

Chemung County Executive Thomas J. Santulli, President of the New York Association of Counties, said, "We need to have all levels of government working together so that scarce public funds are used as they are intended to be. Our counties know what works in the program and what doesn't, and there may be areas of fraud and abuse. Recently, New York City and forty-two New York Counties obtained a victory in federal court against 13 pharmaceutical manufacturers for fraudulent pricing through the Medicaid Program. These types of actions continue to demonstrate the relevance and importance of county governments insuring the integrity of the Medicaid Program in New York."

For further information go to: <http://www.nysenate.gov/press-release/senate-republicans-tougher-medicaid-fraud-effort-needed-stop-abuse-and-save-tax-dolla-0>.

## Veteran's Mental Health Training Initiative

The New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the Medical Society of the State of New York, and the New York State Psychiatric Association, are sponsoring a comprehensive statewide training initiative to ensure that New York's mental health workforce is prepared to identify and address military-specific issues in light of New York State's significant military population. The initiative consists of a full day conference held in five locations across the state. Topics will include military culture, screening and assessment of combat specific Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and substance abuse, as well as family issues related to deployment and re-entry. The training events will also provide information regarding the benefits, resources, and services available to support New York State's returning soldiers, veterans and their families. Continuing education credits from NASW-NYS and the NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services will be offered. This training initiative is funded through a grant from the NYS Legislature.

*Veterans continued on page 3*

The next training will be held April 23, 2010 at Fordham University-Lincoln Center Campus, Lowenstein Academic Building, 60<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue, New York City. RSVP Deadline is March 12. Registration is \$25 per site. For further information and to register for the event go to: [www.naswnys.org/tiglance.htm](http://www.naswnys.org/tiglance.htm).

## NYS Interagency Taskforce on Autism Releases Final Report

By Laura Davis

The NYS Interagency Taskforce on Autism's report was released this week, offering 13 long term recommendations as well as a multitude of short term steps New York State can take to move forward during a challenging economy. Eleven state agencies worked together to examine supports for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in New York. This report is a culmination of findings provided from various state agency public forums throughout 2007, the OMRDD Autism Platform released in 2009, and regional forums and an online survey by the Taskforce in 2009.

The top priority identified is the need to provide services to individuals with autism, particularly special education services and behavioral management training. Access to specialists with expertise in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) was also noted as very important. Parents, teachers, doctors, direct support staff, and emergency responders identified that they need better information on autism, behavior management, and evidence based treatments as well as information on how to connect to services, including crisis respite services.

State agencies need to consider services for individuals across their lifespan. The Governor signed legislation that requires DOH to issue best practice protocols for universal screening of children at 18- and 24-month primary pediatric care visits, and those are to include the use of the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers screening tool. For students aging out of the educational system, there is a need for closer coordination of transitional services. The Taskforce also recommends that OMRDD should continue to evolve the development of a statewide ASD intensive treatment center for adults with severe behavioral challenges which would include clinical/medical monitoring and intervention with a goal of returning individuals to their homes.

The full report includes details from the online survey results and lists state services offered for individuals with ASD. The full report will be posted on the OMRDD website.

## RFI Issued for Participation in *Project CHOICES*

*NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services*

In 2008, the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) was awarded Federal funding by Northrop Grumman to implement "*Project CHOICES*," an evidence-based initiative designed to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) with women of child-bearing age enrolled in substance abuse treatment.

This five-year project began in February 2008 and will conclude in May 2012. Over this project period, there will be a total of eight sites participating in *Project CHOICES*. OASAS is now soliciting interest from certified treatment providers for Year III. They are recruiting providers who annually enroll and serve at a minimum, 40-45 women between 18-44 years old who are in treatment for a minimum of six months. Applicants not chosen to participate in Year III will be considered for funding in 2011 (Year IV).

For further information on the components of Project CHOICES go to: <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/fasd/documents/2010RFI-FASD-A1.pdf>. For an application go to: <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/fasd/documents/2010RFI-FASDNG.pdf>.

## CLMHD Legislative Day

The annual NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors Legislative Day will be held Tuesday, March 2, 2010 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY. A save the date notice was sent to the membership by email on January 20. If you have not already done so, please RSVP to Vick Quinn as soon as possible at [vq@clmhd.org](mailto:vq@clmhd.org) to let her know whether you will be able to attend.

The morning agenda will include presentations from Division of Budget staff and members of the Legislature. In the afternoon members will have the opportunity to visit with regional legislators. If you need to schedule a visit with your legislators, please contact Jeremy Darman at [jd@clmhd.org](mailto:jd@clmhd.org). Additional details on the Legislative Day will be sent to the membership as we get closer to the event. **Your participation in the Legislative Day is an important part of the Conference's Legislative advocacy activities.**

## Teen Marijuana Use Gradually Increasing After a Decade of Decline

### *Monitoring the Future*

The Monitoring the Future study has been conducting an annual, nationwide survey of adolescents' drug, alcohol, and cigarette use and related attitudes since 1975. Student participants report their drug behaviors across three time periods: lifetime, past year, and past month. The recently released 2009 survey included a total of 46,097 eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders in 389 secondary schools. This year's survey yielded the following results related to teen substance use:

After a decade of steady decline, **marijuana use** among adolescent youth has been gradually increasing over the past two years (three years among 12th graders). Marijuana use over the past year was 12 percent among 8th graders, 27 percent among 10th graders, and 33 percent among 12th graders.

- Two key beliefs about **marijuana** that can be very influential in affecting use are also in decline—the degree of risk associated with marijuana use and the degree to which teens disapprove of marijuana.
- The uptick in marijuana use has caused the proportion of young people using “any illicit drug” to rise slightly over the past two years.
- **Tobacco use** among adolescent youth has continued to decline—with just 11 percent of high school seniors reporting cigarette use (however, rates of decline have slowed and use of **smokeless tobacco** among 10th graders rose slightly).
- **Teen alcohol use** rates, which have been in long-term decline, appear to be slowing down and bottoming out.
- **Prescription drug use** among adolescent youth has leveled off by and large after several years of rising rates.

The Monitoring the Future study is based out of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. For more information about the 2009 Monitoring the Future study, please visit <http://monitoringthefuture.org/>.

## News

- OMRDD has released its budget briefing booklet for 2010-2011. Their new budget, while facing the realities of difficult budget challenges, continues to meet the call to focus on expanding service opportunities to “put people first.” The new budget emphasizes being more efficient and focusing available resources on OMRDD's core mission of maximizing supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The full budget briefing book is available on OMRDD's Website at: <http://www.omr.state.ny.us/wt/publications/2010-11BudgetBriefingBooklet.pdf>.

## News continued

- *Can Electrically Stimulating the Brain Improve Mental Health?* is the title of a blog recently posted on the Huffington Post website by NYS Office of Mental Health Medical Director Lloyd I Sederer. Dr. Sederer states that there are a variety of proven and promising electrical (or magnetic) techniques that affect the brain-from those with virtually no side effects, nor an invasive procedure, to those that are surgical in nature. These techniques offer an alternative to psychopharmacological (medication) treatments that could be safe and effective ways of improving mood and anxiety disorders or reducing insomnia and stress. For further information go to: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lloyd-i-sederer-md/can-electrically-stimulat\\_b\\_443517.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lloyd-i-sederer-md/can-electrically-stimulat_b_443517.html).
- **Autism Speaks** has published a list of "2009's top 10 scientific achievements" in autism research. With input from Autism Speaks' Scientific Advisory Committee, Autism Speaks science staff culled through thousands of publications to arrive at their choices. While many of these may not have achieved a large amount of publicity, each of them advanced the way people think about autism in some important way. To view the list go to: [http://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science\\_news/top\\_ten\\_autism\\_research\\_events\\_2009\\_main.php](http://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science_news/top_ten_autism_research_events_2009_main.php).
- *Practical Strategies for Addressing Medication Safety Issues* will be presented by the Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York and the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity of Hunter College on February 18, 2010 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Hunter College School of Social Work Auditorium, 129 East 79<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC. This presentation will provide the critical skill needed for practitioners working with older adults to identify overlooked medication safety issues, address the unique health/mental health needs of older adults and collaborate with multiple practitioners. A second presentation, *Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Older Adult Veterans* will be held March 1, 2010 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Hunter College School of Social Work Auditorium, 129 East 79<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC. This lecture presentation will provide an overview of the unique mental health needs of older adult veterans. To make a reservation for the Medication Safety Issues presentation go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/560868573>. For an event flyer go to: <http://www.mhaofnyc.org/media/1686/practicalstrategiesmedicationsafety.pdf>. To make a reservation for the Older Adult Veterans presentation go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/560869576>. For an event flyer go to: <http://www.mhaofnyc.org/media/1683/mhholderveterans.pdf>.

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### Meeting Calendar

**Officers Conference Call-2/10/10**  
 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
**Mental Hygiene Planning Committee-2/11/10**  
 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 41 State St., Suite 505  
**Officers & Chairs Conference Call-2/17/10**  
 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
**Developmental Disabilities-2/19/10**  
 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 41 State Street, Suite 505  
**Chemical Dependency Committee-2/22/10**  
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 1450 Western Avenue  
**Mental Health Committee-2/22/10**  
 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., 44 Holland Avenue  
**Children and Families Committee-2/23/10**  
 8:45 - 10:15 a.m., 41 State St., Suite 505  
**Executive Committee-2/23/10**  
 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 41 State St., Suite 505  
**CLMHD Legislative Day-3/2/10**  
 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Empire State Plaza Meeting Rm 5