



# CLMHD News

July 3, 2009  
Volume 1 Issue 7

NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors - *An Affiliate of the NYS Association of Counties*  
99 Pine Street, Suite C100, Albany, NY 12207  
Website: [www.clmhd.org](http://www.clmhd.org) Email: [info@clmhd.org](mailto:info@clmhd.org) Phone: 518-462-9422

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Non-Billable Clinic Services Survey
- 1 Jeremy Darman to Join Conference Staff
- 2 Federal Salary Sharing Training
- 3 HHS Rescinds Medicaid Regulations
- 4 Revised Sensitivity Tool Training
- 4 NYSILC Recruiting Council Members
- 5 Update on Cross System Services for Youth
- 6 News
- 6 Meeting Calendar

## Data Collection Begins for Non-Billable Clinic Services Survey

*By Kelly A. Hansen*

Conference members received the final materials for the Non-Billable Clinic Services Survey today for the data collection period that will run until July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. A large number of county representatives and fiscal officers participated in the three training webinars and posed excellent questions. Your input was extremely helpful. The telephone helpline and e-mail support address are now activated to assist County Fiscal Officers with questions regarding the data collected from their County clinics and from County-contracted providers.

As you are aware, under the Office of Mental Health Clinic Restructuring process, the Conference is collecting data associated with services provided in the clinic which do not fit within the proposed clinic services descriptions and as such, will not be reimbursable by Medicaid under the new billing structure. Specifically, these services have historically been supported with deficit funding and/or COPS dollars.

As the dollars currently supporting these services are converted and redistributed through the clinic restructuring process, these public mental health services may no longer be sustainable as a result of loss of funding. In order to quantify and demonstrate the value of these services, the Conference has retained CCSI to conduct this survey.

This is an important project and it is critical that ALL counties participate in order to obtain statewide data. Many of these services are the foundation and first point of access to the community mental health system. The data from the survey will help quantify the dollar value of these services. Thank you again for your participation.

## Jeremy Darman to Join Conference Staff

The Conference welcomes Jeremy Darman who will begin July 8, 2009 as Director of Governmental Relations. Jeremy is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany. He holds a Master of Social Work and a Master of Criminal Justice.

*See Darman continued on page 2*

*Darman continued from page 1*

Most recently Jeremy worked as a Policy Research Associate for the National Association of Social Workers, New York State Chapter. His duties included lobbying, developing policy papers, and performing research on issues relevant to mental health, the social work profession, and other social justice issues. Jeremy was a Research Associate for Social Science Associates, working extensively in Oneida County on criminal justice issues. He also worked with young adults at Vanderheydan Hall in supportive independent living programs.

Members and staff welcome Jeremy to the Conference and look forward to working with him in the future.

## Reminder: Federal Salary Sharing Training

*By Mary Coppola*

The Office of Mental Health and the NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors will be hosting a training session on Federal Salary Sharing (FSS). The presentation will include: a review of the Federal authority, the administrative activities covered by Federal Medicaid, documentation techniques, and the mechanics of the OMH claiming process. Time will be reserved for questions and a discussion of current claiming activities. The goal of this session is to enhance counties' understanding of FSS and to look for ways to improve their processes.

To participate in this session you will need to be able to access your computer and telephone. OMH is making the arrangements for this webinar and will be providing the electronic link shortly. Counties are encouraged to let the Conference know if you plan to participate in this training session. A list is being maintained in our offices for distribution of the webinar electronic link as well as handouts following the training session as they become available.

If your county is interested in participating in this webinar on Wednesday, July 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. you can send a note to Mary Coppola at [mc@clmhd.org](mailto:mc@clmhd.org) to reserve a spot.

## Youth Aging Out Survey Results

*National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators*

In an effort to better understand and utilize state and local strategies and practices around youth residing in and aging out of the public child welfare system, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators' (NAPCWA) Youth Aging Out Workgroup developed a survey. The survey captures information in multiple issue areas related to youth so that states can access and utilize model programs and practices that have been implemented in other states. The survey was completed by either a child welfare director or a designated individual in each state.

To view the survey results go to: [http://www.napcwa.org/Youth/practice\\_areas.asp](http://www.napcwa.org/Youth/practice_areas.asp).

## HHS Rescinds Medicaid Regulations

*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, June 29, 2009*

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that the administration will rescind all or part of three Medicaid regulations that were previously issued and delay the enforcement of a fourth regulation. Each of these rules, in whole or in part, had been subject to Congressional moratoria set to expire on July 1, 2009.

"These regulations, if left in place would have potentially adverse consequences for Medicaid beneficiaries, some of our nation's most vulnerable people," said Secretary Sebelius. "By rescinding these rules, we can expect that children will continue receiving services through their schools, beneficiaries will be able to access all available case management resources to help them better manage their health care, and outpatient hospital and clinic services can continue to be covered in the most efficient manner."

The rescinded regulations are:

- A rule, published November 7, 2008, that would have limited the outpatient hospital and clinic service benefit for Medicaid beneficiaries to the scope of services recognized as an outpatient hospital service under Medicare. This rule was rescinded because CMS became aware that coverage beyond that scope could not be easily moved to other benefit categories, resulting in greater impact than previously anticipated.
- Provisions of an interim final rule published December 4, 2007, which would have restricted beneficiary access to case management services. These provisions appeared to, in practice, restrict beneficiary access to needed covered case management services, and limit state flexibility in determining efficient and effective delivery systems for case management services.
- A final rule, published December 28, 2007, that would have eliminated reimbursement for school-based administrative costs and costs of transportation to and from schools. The rescission reflects concern that the rule could limit the Medicaid administrative outreach activities of schools, and that the overall budgetary impact on schools could potentially impact their ability to offer Medicaid services to students.
- Delaying until June 30, 2010, the enforcement of portions of a regulation that clarified limitations on health care related tax programs so that CMS could determine whether states need additional clarification or guidance. CMS may also further review the potential impact of the regulation, and give additional consideration to alternative approaches.

**The NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors office will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.**

## OMH Hudson River Office to Host Training on Revised Sensitivity Tool

*By Kelly A. Hansen*

**WHAT:** Training on REVISED Sensitivity Tool  
**WHO:** Open to Counties in the Hudson River Region  
**WHEN:** Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> 2009  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**WHERE:** OMH Offices - 44 Holland Avenue Albany  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

Counties in the OMH Hudson River Region were notified via email of training scheduled on the revised sensitivity tool with Glenn Gravino of CCSI. This is an ideal opportunity for DCSs and/or Fiscal Officers to bring their laptops, CFRs and other materials for a working training on the revised tool.

At this time, this training is open to the 16 Counties in the OMH Hudson River Region. However, OMH has indicated that it will open up the July 24<sup>th</sup> training to counties in other regions as capacity permits. The Conference has strongly recommended to OMH that the agency offer this needed training in the other regions of the state to ensure that all counties have equal opportunity to be trained on this important tool. The Conference will keep members informed if subsequent trainings are scheduled.

## NYSILC Recruiting New Council

*DDPC E-Bulletin, July 2009*

The New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC) is a state council that has the responsibility to jointly develop the Federal 3-year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The council works on public policy, public awareness, technical assistance and training issues that impact Independent Living services and people with disabilities in New York State.

NYSILC is seeking up to three interested candidates to serve as potential volunteer appointments to the council. One of the openings will occur in the area of parent/guardian. At this time, NYSILC is at its capacity for Center for Independent Living (CIL) representatives to the council. **The council can benefit from individuals from other disability networks such as mental health and veterans with disabilities.** The council looks to maintain a diverse geographic, cultural/ethnic, cross-disability, age and gender representation. NYSILC must also comply with a Federal mandate and ensure that a majority of its members are people with disabilities. Individuals from Central New York, Long Island, the North Country, and the Lower Hudson Valley are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates should send a brief statement of interest and resume to NYSILC at [bradw@nysilc.org](mailto:bradw@nysilc.org) by July 17, 2009. It is preferred that materials be sent electronically because they are in an accessible format and can be shared during the review process. NYSILC will review the resumes. If necessary, the NYSILC Recruitment Subcommittee will schedule telephone interviews to help the decision making process. Interviews are structured to identify what each individual has to offer the council. NYSILC reviews the final recommendations with VESID by September 2009. The NYS Regents make the formal appointments in the fall, which become effective January 2010. Appointments are for three years with the expectations that all members attend four regularly scheduled meetings each year and participate on at least one committee of their choice. If you have any questions, contact Brad Williams at (518) 427-1060 voice or TTY. For additional information, visit the NYSILC website at [www.nysilc.org](http://www.nysilc.org).

## Update on Cross Systems Services for Youth

*By Laura Davis*

On Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioners' Committee on Cross Systems Services for Children and Youth held the second in a series of statewide regional forums. The Commissioners group is comprised of Commissioners from the following state agencies: OASAS, OMH, OMRDD, OCFS, SED, DOH, OTDA, CQCAPD, Division of Probation, and family and youth partners.

The intent of the forums is to provide updates from state leadership on current cross systems initiatives and an opportunity to dialogue on what partnerships work well and how those can shape NY State's system of care. These forums will continue across the state throughout the summer and fall; the next forum will be held in Batavia on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Deborah Benson, Director of the CCF stated that the Council is seeking input on what needs to be done to improve communications while avoiding information overload. These regional forums are an opportunity to offer suggestions. The Council on Children and Families has re-designed the CCSI "tier levels", which will now be referred to as "Child and Family Teams", "County Teams", and the "Regional Teams". Regional teams will interact with the state operations "Workgroup" that will meet at least monthly. This "Workgroup" will report to the Commissioners' Committee, which will meet quarterly. The Regional Teams, referred to as "RTATs" for Regional Technical Assistance Teams, will formalize the process when informal attempts at service resolution require further assistance.

The Commissioners (or their designees) indicated that they are interested in learning of specific regulations which might present barriers so that the state can try to create a more efficient, coordinated system. The Council reiterated that they have developed the "Innovations Project" which permits counties and providers to submit proposals to serve cross systems youth; the state has made a commitment to expedite the review process for state approval and to assist with the removal of identified barriers imposed by "cumbersome or unnecessary governmental structure." The Project's actions may involve negotiating regulatory waivers, providing technical assistance, streamlining requirements, or brokering other needed supports; funding requests should not be submitted as any part of a proposal. To learn more, or submit a proposal go to: [www.ccf.state.ny.us/InnovateHome.htm](http://www.ccf.state.ny.us/InnovateHome.htm).

At the Hudson River regional forum a copy of the "Guiding Principles" for the Commissioners' Committee on Cross Systems Services for Youth was shared. Eleven state agency commissioners and eight youth and family partners signed on to these guiding principles, which county directors and staff are asked to comment upon. The principles include supporting youth in their natural community in the least restrictive environment, and offering a full spectrum of services from health, education, and human services at their first point of contact, noting that the agencies share collective responsibility for ensuring that services help achieve the desired outcomes.

To view a chart that details the reformatted system of care and the Committee's "Guiding Principles", go to:

[http://www.clmhd.org/UploadedFiles/Resources/Commissioners%20XSystems%20CY%20committee\\_128910248426323485.pdf](http://www.clmhd.org/UploadedFiles/Resources/Commissioners%20XSystems%20CY%20committee_128910248426323485.pdf).

To view information on the Innovations Project go to:

[http://www.clmhd.org/UploadedFiles/Resources/The%20Innovations%20Project\\_128910385367743425.pdf](http://www.clmhd.org/UploadedFiles/Resources/The%20Innovations%20Project_128910385367743425.pdf)

## News

- Robin Siegal, Director, Albany County Department of Mental Health, and Katherine Maciol, Commissioner, Rensselaer County Department of Mental Health, were quoted in a June 26, 2009 article in the *Times Union* discussing the fact that treatment for persons with mental illness is often the better alternative to jail. The two illustrated successful diversions from jail to treatment in their respective counties. To read the article go to: <http://archives.timesunion.com/mweb/wmsql.wm.request?oneimage&imageid=8262747>
- OASAS, DOH's AIDS Institute and Center for Community Health, OMRDD, OMH and OCFS, in collaboration with CCSNYS, have created a free Board Member Training program. All board members (and Executive Directors or Chief Fiscal Officers accompanied by a board member) are welcome to attend. Upcoming trainings are scheduled for July through September in Mt. Kisko, Albany, Newburgh, NYC, and Poughkeepsie. Topics include Human Resource Issues, Legal Obligations, Fund Development, Strategic Planning, Accounting Basics, Ethical Decision Making, and more. For further information go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/org/101900344?s=1187745>.
- September 9, 2009 is the tenth annual Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Awareness Day. Events are held at 9:09, the 9<sup>th</sup> minute of the 9<sup>th</sup> hour of the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the year. The date and time is used to remind women not to drink during the 9 months of pregnancy. For further information go to: [www.FASDay.com](http://www.FASDay.com).

## Save the Date

The NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors fall Full Membership Meeting will be held September 21-22, 2009 at La Tourelle Resort, Ithaca, NY. For information on La Tourelle go to: <http://www.latourelle.com>.

### NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors Staff

**Kelly A. Hansen**      Email: [kh@clmhd.org](mailto:kh@clmhd.org)  
Executive Director

**Mary Coppola, DSW**      Email: [mc@clmhd.org](mailto:mc@clmhd.org)  
Technical Assistance Project  
Manager/Coordinator

**Laura Davis**      Email: [ld@clmhd.org](mailto:ld@clmhd.org)  
Committee Specialist

**Linda Tremblay**      Email: [lt@clmhd.org](mailto:lt@clmhd.org)  
Director, Communications & Special Projects

**Vicky Quinn**      Email: [vq@clmhd.org](mailto:vq@clmhd.org)  
Executive Assistant/Office Manager

**Jed Wolkenbreit**      Email: [jbw@clmhd.org](mailto:jbw@clmhd.org)  
Counsel

### Meeting Calendar

**Mental Hygiene Planning Committee-7/9/09**  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Location TBD

**Officers and Chairs Conference Call - 7/15/09**  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

**Chemical Dependency Committee - 7/20/09**  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 1450 Western Avenue, Albany

**Mental Health Committee - 7/20/09**  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m., 44 Holland Avenue, Albany

**Children and Families Committee - 7/21/09**  
8:45 - 10:15 a.m., 99 Pine St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Rm.

**Executive Committee - 7/21/09**  
10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 99 Pine St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Conference Rm.

**Mental Hygiene Planning Committee-8/13/09**  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Location TBD

**Veterans, Affairs Committee - 8/17/09**  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 99 Pine St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Conference Rm.