



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 and Federal Policy Update

By Jeremy Darman

Lawmakers reconvened in Albany this week after Governor Paterson called a special session for Wednesday and Thursday in hopes that the few outstanding budget measures would be addressed, however both houses summarily gavelled in and out of session both days without taking up any legislation. While the Assembly has already passed the final unsettled budget bill- the revenue bill, the Senate has not been able to gather enough votes to pass a same-as version in their house since it lacks SUNY Empowerment Plan language coveted by a couple of holdout members in the Democratic Conference who are necessary to constitute a 32-vote majority. Some progress is being made on Empowerment Plan negotiations with the Senate and Assembly reportedly reaching a two-way agreement; however as late as this Friday afternoon the Governor has deemed the Senate's latest offering unacceptable, and more work appears ahead of them. The Senate is currently planning to return to Albany for session next Tuesday morning, August 3rd, though it is anybody's guess whether a three-way agreement on completing the budget is near.

While a second outstanding issue-an FMAP contingency plan-had also been complicating a final and balanced budget, recent news from

Washington may mitigate this issue by the time the Legislature returns: There finally appears to be some momentum toward an FMAP deal at the federal level. Senator Harry Reid, U.S. Senate Majority Leader, will be filing for closure today on an FMAP enhancement extension to be voted on as early as 5:30 pm this Monday evening- appropriating \$16 billion to extend the FMAP enhancement to the states beyond the current sunset of December 31, 2010. The FMAP extension had been held up for months on the grounds that the Senate would have been adding to the deficit under earlier FMAP funding plans; however the U.S. Senate Majority's latest effort provides for necessary funding (through the closing of international tax loopholes and a few other reductions in federal programs) and is expected to go for a vote on Monday August 2nd.

As always, I will keep you apprised of any actions occurring next week on FMAP and at the state level, understanding the importance of this FMAP extension in current fiscal year budgeting for all agencies receiving Medicaid dollars.

Mental Health Service Expansion for Youth in Brooklyn

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) announced a comprehensive solution to address the chronic need for community-based mental health alternatives in Brooklyn for children and their families, and the lack of intensive residential treatment in New York City for court-involved youth with mental health problems. Plans announced will:

- greatly expand community-based mental health treatment options and services for children in Brooklyn, improve early access to quality mental health care for children and their families, and avoid the disruption to families caused by the overuse of institutional care;
- provide intensive residential treatment in New York City for court-involved youth with mental health problems, thus avoiding the disruption to families caused by their transfer to upstate facilities; and
- expand mental health service capacity in other boroughs of New York City.

This investment is made possible through the reconfiguration of OMH services and the shift of OMH and OCFS resources.

The plan announced consists of three major initiatives. It will:

- Establish a new OMH-operated comprehensive children's mental health center that will serve more than 600 children in Brooklyn. This new center will offer state of the art community mental health programs including clinic services, counseling and family therapy, community-based brief crisis care for youth, intensive day treatment and family and home-based support. Located at Brooklyn Children's Center, these expanded services will be provided by OMH employees who currently provide inpatient hospital services to 36 children at the Center.
- Establish an OMH-licensed Residential Treatment Facility (RTF-JJ) for adolescents from New York City who are involved in the juvenile justice system and have serious mental health problems. Currently, many of these children are far from home in upstate facilities. The new 24-bed RTF-JJ will be located on the current campus of Brooklyn Children's Center, in a distinct space separate from the outpatient mental health programs.
- Expand children's mental health services in other boroughs of New York City. It will create a new State-operated mental health clinic at Bronx Children's Psychiatric Center, serving 250 children; and expand intensive case management services in Queens and in the Bronx. It will also add eight beds at Bronx Children's Psychiatric Center, add two beds at Queens Children's Psychiatric Center, and add two beds at South Beach Psychiatric Center on Staten Island.

The expansion is responsive to the goals of New York State's *The Children's Plan*. For further information go to: http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/News/2010/pr_brooklyn_services.html.

Community of Practice Planning Events

By Mat Roosa, Director of Planning and Quality Improvement, Onondaga County

The Community of Practice for Local Planners is offering another webinar in a series designed specifically for County Planners. All of us want to gather feedback from those we serve to help us steer our services in the right direction, but it is often difficult to gather this feedback. Join us for a webinar which will review a model from Onondaga County for conducting larger surveys that gather useful planning data from service recipients. The webinar titled, "The Customer is Always Right! Gathering and Using Useful Recipient Survey Data to Chart the Local Planning Course" is set for **Thursday, August 19th, from 11am to 12:30 pm**. The session will be most relevant to County Directors who maintain a direct role in planning or those members of their staff who carry out planning functions.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/840949552>

You will also want to mark your calendars for the second annual "Community of Practice" meeting that is scheduled from **10 am to 2:30 pm on Thursday, October 7th**. County Planners will have the opportunity to share best practices, including strategies for effectively using data to inform local planning and management. The agenda for this half-day session will include practical illustrations of how to use new data sources to support planning efforts; providing input on planning for key system and policy changes; and examples of planning strategies/techniques that have been successful in strengthening local practices. More details will be sent to local planners next month.

Please contact Mary Coppola, CLMHD Technical Assistance Manager, at 518-462-9422 or mc@clmhd.org with any questions about these events.

Spotlight on the Membership: Adam Karpati

Adam Karpati, MD, MPH, is Executive Deputy Commissioner for Mental Hygiene at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Mental Hygiene Division is responsible for policy and programs around mental illness, alcohol and drug use, and developmental disabilities, as well as for the Early Intervention program for infants with developmental delays.

Since joining the Health Department in 2000, Adam has served in several capacities, including as an epidemiologist in the Division of Epidemiology, as Acting Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, and as Assistant Commissioner for the Health Department's Brooklyn District Public Health Office, a community-based initiative focusing on neighborhoods of high morbidity and mortality.

Adam is a physician, trained at McGill University's medical school in Montreal. He completed a residency in internal medicine at NYU Medical Center/Bellevue Hospital in New York City and training in public health and epidemiology in the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

Adam lives in Brooklyn with his wife and son. New York City isn't that far from his hometown, Montreal, so he is happy to have frequent access to proper Canadian versions of bagels and hockey.

Grant Mitchell Named Acting Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services

Westchester County, July 28, 2010

Westchester County Executive Robert P. Astorino announced that Dr. Grant Mitchell, the commissioner of Community Mental Health, will take on added duties as acting commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS). He will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Kevin Mahon, who has been commissioner for 12 years and is retiring July 29.

Mitchell, who is a board-certified physician in psychiatry and neurology, has been commissioner of Community Mental Health since 2007. As such, he oversees a budget of \$70 million. The department serves individuals and families affected by mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse. During Mitchell's tenure, several department programs have received awards and national recognition for improving the quality of care while reducing costs. Prior to his appointment as commissioner, Mitchell served as chief of Behavioral Health at Northern Westchester Hospital Center, where he was responsible for the management of all departmental activities.

In the course of his county work, he has already been involved with programs related to his new responsibilities with DSS. For example, he implemented an innovative care coordination program to improve healthcare and reduce costs in a population with high Medicaid expenditures and poor health outcomes.

"I want to thank the County Executive for his support and Commissioner Mahon for his leadership of the social services department," said Mitchell. "The focus of the Department of Community Mental Health has been on implementing innovative approaches to delivering services. I look forward to building on the successes of DSS."

NYSRA Rehabilitation Summit and Employment Institute

NYS Rehabilitation Association

The New York State Rehabilitation Association will hold its Rehabilitation Summit September 27-28, 2010 and its Employment Institute September 29, 2010 at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany, NY. Early registration deadline is September 7, 2010.

The topics offered at the Rehabilitation Summit have been designed to meet the needs of program managers and supervisors, rehabilitation counselors, direct support professionals, service coordinators, training professionals, CEOs & administrators, senior executives, clinicians, school personnel, and self-advocates/peers. Up to 15 CRC Credits will be offered.

The Employment Institute's topic will be Employment for People with Disabilities: Strategies, Positive Outcomes, and Change.

For a full agenda and registration information go to:

http://www.nyrehab.org/Email_Files/2010_Rehabilitation_Summit_Registration_Brochure1.pdf.

Deadline for HEAL-NY Phase 18 Grants Extended

The deadline has been extended one week to August 17, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. for the DOH HEAL-NY Phase 18 grants. For further information go to:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/funding/rfa/1006181048/index.htm>

5.07 Plan Hearings

In anticipation of the release of the Statewide Comprehensive Plans this fall, each of the three NYS mental hygiene state agencies are holding public hearings next month. These hearings are an opportunity for consumers, constituent groups, providers and counties to offer their comments about the draft plans and service system issues. To learn more about how to register for these hearings and provide testimony use the following links:

<http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/PIO/COMMISSIONER/5YRPLAN.CFM>

http://www.omr.state.ny.us/507plan/images/PH_Announcement_2010.pdf

<http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/planning/testimony/2010/meetings.html>

Suicide Prevention Across the Lifespan “A Day of Dialogue”

The Rensselaer County Suicide Prevention Task Force, with funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health, will host a collaborative planning event titled: *Suicide Prevention Across the Lifespan “A Day of Dialogue”* on Monday, August 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy. Keynote speaker will be Eric Weaver, creator/instructor of suicide and mental awareness programs *Emotional Safety and Survival* (law enforcement) and *Overcoming the Darkness* (clergy). There will be a panel of researchers from the University of Rochester and a panel of survivors of suicide loss and attempt. A World Café will be held. The World Café is a communication model designed to elicit collective dialogue from participants, to explore varying perspectives and to establish common goals for working collaboratively as community partners. There will be a \$5.00 fee to cover lunch.

To register for the event contact Jennifer Turner at 518-270-2807 or jturner@renesco.com.

Improving the Physical Health of Latinos and African Americans with Serious Mental Illness Webinar

The NYS Office of Mental Health Bureau of Cultural Competence will host its fifth monthly Cultural Competence Webinar titled *Improving the Physical Health of Latinos and African Americans with Serious Mental Illness* on Friday, August 27, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT. The webinar will be presented by Dr. Doris Chang of the NYS Psychiatric Institute (PI). To register for the webinar go to:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/219762353>.

TA-Ik: Recovery: An Investment in a Healthy Community Webinar

National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors

NACBHD will host a webinar titled *TA-Ik: Recovery: An Investment in a Healthy Community* on Thursday, August 12, 2010 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. EDT. This webinar will describe the evolution of the concept of recovery in the substance use and mental health fields and draw out important connections to National Health Reform. The speaker will be Steve Hornberger, MSW, from the National Association of Children of Alcoholics. To register go to: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/324719960>.

News

- **CMS announced \$2.25 Billion in grants to extend Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstrations.** These grants help to support community-based alternatives to institutional long term care. The new grant solicitation issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) encourages states not yet part of the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing (MFP) Demonstration to apply for grant funds. With passage of the Affordable Care Act, states already participating in the demonstration are afforded the opportunity to expand and extend their MFP grant program. In a letter sent to Governors, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Secretary Sebelius encouraged states to take advantage of the numerous community initiatives within the Affordable Care Act and leverage those options through active participation in the MFP demonstration. For further information go to: http://www.cms.gov/CommunityServices/20_MFP.asp.
- **Rite Aid Corporation and its 40 affiliates (RAC) have agreed to pay \$1 million to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced.** In a coordinated action, RAC also signed a consent order with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to settle potential violations of the FTC Act. Rite Aid, one of the nation's largest drug store chains, has also agreed to take corrective action to improve policies and procedures to safeguard the privacy of its customers when disposing of identifying information on pill bottle labels and other health information. The settlements apply to all of Rite Aid's nearly 4,800 retail pharmacies and follow an extensive joint investigation by the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the FTC. The HHS Resolution Agreement and Corrective Action Plan can be found on the OCR website at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/enforcement/examples/index.html>.

Please Note: The August 12th meeting of the MH Planning Committee has been cancelled. It conflicts with the IOCC meeting being held that afternoon.

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Meeting Calendar

Officers & Chairs Conference Call-8/11/10
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Developmental Disabilities-8/13/10
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 41 State St., Suite 505

Officers & Chairs Conference Call-9/8/10
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Mental Hygiene Planning Committee-9/9/10
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 41 State Street, Suite 505

Fall Full Membership Meeting-9/20-9/21/10
Renaissance Hotel, Syracuse, NY

No Executive Committee Meeting in September

Mental Hygiene Planning Committee-10/7/10
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 41 State Street, Suite 505

Developmental Disabilities-10/15/10
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 41 State St., Suite 505

Officers & Chairs Conference Call-10/20/10
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Chemical Dependency-10/25/10
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 1450 Western Avenue