



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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Governor Paterson Names Advisory Committee to Help Health Care Reform Cabinet

Office of the Governor, August 31, 2010

Governor David A. Paterson named 37 organizations to the Health Care Reform Advisory Committee, which will provide input to the Governor's Health Care Reform Cabinet on the implementation of federal health care reform in New York State. The Advisory Committee includes organizations representing health care providers, consumers, businesses, organized labor, local governments, health plans and health insurers, and health policy experts.

The Advisory Committee will advise the Cabinet on reform provisions and ensure stakeholder and public engagement in all aspects of federal health care reform. It will support the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act. In addition, Advisory Committee Workgroups will be created to focus on specific issues and additional organizations with

expertise will be asked to join those work groups. A series of public forums across the State will also be held to provide opportunities for further stakeholder input.

The Health Care Reform Cabinet is responsible for:

- Identifying deadlines for the completion of interim or final steps necessary or desired to comply with the provisions of federal health care reform;
- Determining those provisions of federal health care reform with which the State must comply and those that are optional, and evaluating whether participation in optional programs is appropriate;
- Assessing the State's capacity to carry out those provisions of federal health care reform that affect or potentially affect the State;
- Identifying any changes needed to State statute, regulation, policy or procedure in order to implement such provisions, and facilitating the achievement of such changes as necessary;
- Communicating with the federal government, local governments, other states, health care providers, and other stakeholders as advisable or necessary; and
- Providing public outreach to educate individuals on the implementation of the reforms as necessary.

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To view the list of organizations participating on the committee go to:

<http://www.state.ny.us/governor/press/083110HealthCare.html>. The Conference will be working closely with NYSAC and pursuing other avenues to assist in bringing county issues to the forefront for consideration.

Governor Paterson Announces NY Bridge Plan

Office of the Governor, August 30, 2010

Governor David A. Paterson announced a new temporary statewide insurance option for uninsured legal residents who have medical conditions. This new plan, called the NY Bridge Plan, is New York's version of the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan that was created under federal health care reform. The NY Bridge Plan provides health insurance coverage at a lower price than other options currently available in the individual market. Through the NY Bridge Plan, premiums will be \$362 per month for residents of upstate counties and \$421 per month for residents of downstate counties. A list of upstate and downstate counties is available in the NY Bridge Plan brochure at: http://www.ghi.com/nybridgeplan/assets/nybridgeplan_brochure.pdf.

The NY Bridge Plan covers a broad range of services, including primary and specialty care, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, and prescription drugs, as well as assistance from professional nurses and caseworkers to help members manage chronic conditions and maintain overall health. Coverage for a pre-existing condition begins right away, with no waiting period. Eligibility for this program is not based on income. To be eligible to apply, individuals must:

- Be a legal U.S. resident;
- Be a resident of New York State;
- Have a pre-existing medical condition;
- Not have had health care coverage for the last six months.

Applications are available now. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. If the NY Bridge Plan reaches capacity, a waiting list will be established. Coverage will be effective October 1, 2010, and will be available until January 2014, when more health insurance coverage options become available through a new Health Insurance Exchange.

For further information and an application go to:

http://www.healthcarereform.ny.gov/preexisting_condition_plan/.

3rd Annual New York Recovery Rally

The 3rd Annual New York Recovery Rally will be held September 25, 2010 in Randall's Island Park Icahn Stadium, New York City. The rally is designed to celebrate recovery from addiction and raise awareness of the importance of prevention, the benefits of treatment and the reality of recovery. Festivities will begin at 8:00 a.m. The Odyssey House 5th Annual "Run for Your Life" will take place at 10:00 a.m. and the "Recovery Celebration Walk" will be held at 11:00 a.m. The afternoon will feature live entertainment, key speakers, and family activities. Registration is free.

For further information and an application go to: <http://www.iamrecovery.com/rally/>.

Spotlight on the Membership: Suzanne Goolden

Suzanne Goolden, MHA, CTRS, CASAC, has been Director of Community Services in Franklin County since September 30, 2009. From 1987-2009, Suzanne worked at St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center inpatient addiction treatment facility, in Saranac Lake, NY as an activities director, addiction counselor, senior counselor and served as Inpatient Director for the 58 bed facility from 2000-2009. Prior to her employment with St. Joseph's, she worked as a therapeutic recreation specialist with individuals with developmental disabilities for Citizen Advocates and the Adirondack ARC.

She has been a CARF program surveyor for the past five years. From 2002 to the present Suzanne has been an adjunct faculty member for North Country Community College teaching one class per semester. Suzanne holds a Bachelors Degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY and a Masters Degree in Healthcare Administration from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. Her hobbies include cross country skiing, canoeing and horseback riding.

The OASAS Housing Vision

NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

OASAS believes that safe, affordable housing and stable living-wage employment are fundamental to successful long-term recovery. The vehicle to help individuals, families and communities facing addiction and homelessness is Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), nonprofit-operated affordable housing, supported by on-site services. PSH programs are the means by which New York State is able to give hope to individuals, families and communities in recovery.

Individuals and families who have been homeless or are at risk of homelessness are in most need of PSH programs. Other types of housing that are available to those in need include emergency housing and transitional housing.

In February 2010, OASAS published a monograph titled, *Addiction, Homelessness and Permanent Supportive Housing: How New York Supports Individuals, Families and Communities in Recovery*. The monograph is necessarily technical and complex. OASAS hopes that it is informative and attests to the importance of permanent supportive housing as a key element of long-term recovery. OASAS wants the monograph to inspire similar efforts elsewhere, so that more permanent supportive housing becomes available to individuals, families, and communities in recovery. To view the monograph go to: <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/publications/pdf/Addiction%20Homelessness%20and%20Permanet%20Supportive%20Housing%20Monograph.pdf>. For further housing information go to: <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/housing/index.cfm>.

Ticket 101: Integrating Ticket-to-Work to Maximize PROS' Employment Outcomes

NYAPRS, NY Makes Work Pay, and the NYS Office of Mental Health will hold an additional Ticket 101 webinar titled *Ticket 101: Integrating Ticket-to-Work to Maximize PROS' Employment Outcomes* on September 27, 2010 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. The webinar will provide an overview of the new Ticket-to-Work and how it can work for a PROS program. For further information contact Oscar Jimenez at oscarj@nyaprs.org, 518-436-0008 x21 or Mira Bowin at mirab@nyaprs.org, 518-436-0008 x18. To register go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Ticket101Sept27>.

The Children's Plan in NYS/Cultural Competence Webinar

The NYS OMH Bureau of Cultural Competence (BCC) will hold its 6th monthly cultural competence webinar on September 13, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. titled *The Children's Plan in NYS: Cultural Competence is Discussed*. Kristin Riley, Deputy Commissioner, Division Director, NYS OMH Division of Children and Family Services, will discuss the NYS Children's Plan and how cultural competence matters in this planning.

There are no certificates provided for the webinar presentations, but attendance confirmation can be provided if requested. To register go to:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/780968137>. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar & Instruction. If you have any questions contact Hextor Pabox at 518-408-2059.

Mandatory Pension Contributions will Jump in the Next Two Years

Times Union, September 2, 2010

According to State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, mandatory pension contributions for the state as well as municipalities (including cities, towns and counties) will jump 37 percent within two years thanks to a drop in the value of the recession-battered pension fund. That will likely mean higher property taxes, deep cuts, or a combination of the two.

The percentage of their payrolls that governments will have to pay toward pension benefits will rise from an average of 11.9 percent to 16.3 percent for the payments due in February 2012. For further information go to: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Pension-fund-drop-tax-rise-642726.php>.

News

- A Geriatric Mental Health 101 webinar will be held Monday, September 13, 2010 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. ET. Presenter will be Michael B. Friedman, LMSW, Honorary Chair of the Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York. The webinar will give an overview of mental health issues affecting aging adults, discuss effective interventions and talk about the relationship between treatment options and public policy. Participants will learn how to identify sound policy initiatives that can help older adults with mental health issues remain in their communities. To register go to: <http://www.mhaofnyc.org/advocacy/geriatric-mental-health-alliance-of-new-york/upcoming-events.aspx>.
- The Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT), Chicago, Ill. and the Drummond Group Inc. (DGI), Austin, Texas, were named by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) as the first technology review bodies that have been authorized to test and certify electronic health record (EHR) systems for compliance with the standards and certification criteria that were issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services earlier this year. Announcement of these ONC-Authorized Testing and Certification Bodies (ONC-ATCBs) means that EHR vendors can now begin to have their products certified as meeting criteria to support meaningful use, a key step in the national initiative to encourage adoption and effective use of EHRs by America's health care providers. Applications for additional ONC-ATCBs are also under review. To learn more about the ONC-ATCBs recently named visit www.cchit.org and www.drummondgroup.com. For more information about the ONC certification programs visit <http://healthit.hhs.gov/certification>.

News continued

- According to an AP story, thousands of soldiers suffering from PTSD have been given a potent antipsychotic called Seroquel over the last nine years. Several soldiers and veterans have died while on the medication, raising concerns among some military families that the government is not being upfront about the drug's risks. They want Congress to investigate. For further information go to:
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2010/08/30/drug_prescribed_for_pts_d_raises_concerns/.
- The Recovery to Practice Resource Center will hold the second webinar of its 2010 series titled "What Recovery Means for Acute Care" on Thursday, September 16 from 3:00 - 4:40 p.m. EST. Participation is free of charge and is open to providers, consumers, family members, policy makers and all others interested in learning about advancing recovery-oriented practice. To register go to:
<https://www304.livemeeting.com/lrs/8000963084/Registration.aspx?pageName=mlw22tf5gbcsrcxqn>.
- In a new study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Urban Institute researchers John Holahan, Genevieve Kenney and Jennifer Pelletier provide a detailed look at the demographics and health characteristics of the new population now eligible for Medicaid under reform. Although the question of healthier vs. sicker depends largely on the Medicaid participation rates under reform, the authors found that those who enroll under ACA are likely to be healthier than nondisabled adults currently enrolled in Medicaid particularly after the initial start-up period. As to the associated costs, the authors find that new adult enrollees are likely to be more expensive to cover than those who will remain uninsured, but less costly than those now using Medicaid. To view the report go to:
<http://www.rwjf.org/coverage/product.jsp?id=68128>.
- Researchers at the Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc., and Mathematica Policy Research recently completed a policy brief supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that looks at the effects of covering low-income, childless adults in Medicaid by examining existing state programs that cover this population in search of potential insights on the new expansion population. To view the policy brief go to:
http://www.chcs.org/publications3960/publications_show.htm?doc_id=1261143.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the first round of applicants accepted into the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program. Nearly 2,000 employers, representing large and small businesses, State and local governments, educational institutions, non-profits, and unions have been accepted into the program and will begin to receive reimbursements for employee claims this fall. Created by the Affordable Care Act as a bridge to the new health insurance Exchanges in 2014, the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program provides \$5 billion in financial assistance to employers and unions to help them maintain coverage for early retirees age 55 and older who are not yet eligible for Medicare. Businesses and other employers and unions that are accepted into the program will receive reimbursement for medical claims for early retirees and their spouses, surviving spouses, and dependents. Savings can be used to reduce employer health care costs, provide premium relief to workers and families, or both. The program ends on January 1, 2014 when State health insurance Exchanges are up and running. For more information about the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program and an interactive map displaying the employers that have been accepted into the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program please visit:
http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/early_retiree_reinsurance_program.html.

News continued

- Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam and other areas will have an easier path to access quality health care and qualify for disability compensation under a final regulation that was published on August 31, 2010 in the Federal Register by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The new rule expands the list of health problems VA will presume to be related to Agent Orange and other herbicide exposures to add two new conditions and expand one existing category of conditions. The final regulation follows Secretary Shinseki's determination to expand the list of conditions for which service connection for Vietnam Veterans is presumed. VA is adding Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease and expanding chronic lymphocytic leukemia to include all chronic B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia. The regulation is available on the Office of the Federal Register website at: <http://www.ofr.gov>.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) awarded a contract to Achaogen, Inc. of San Francisco to develop an antibiotic that could be used against possibly two types of bioterrorism as well as common infections that are becoming resistant to antibiotics. The planned antibiotic, ACHN-490, would be a broad-spectrum antibiotic to treat plague and tularemia infections, both of which are possible bioterrorism agents. The antibiotic also could treat many infections that are becoming resistant to antibiotics. Antibiotic-resistant infections include some of the infections people get when they are hospitalized, including pneumonia from prolonged use of a ventilator and urinary tract infections from using a catheter for an extended period of time. Also under the contract, the company will conduct studies to show that the new antibiotic is safe for children, the elderly, and other special populations.
- The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and government, community, public health, and law enforcement partners are holding a nationwide prescription drug "take-back" day on September 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Collection sites around the country will take any expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs for safe, legal, and environmentally friendly disposal. To view collection sites in your community go to: <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/takeback/>.

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Meeting Calendar

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
Crowne Plaza Syracuse 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

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

Children and Families Committee-10/26/10
8:45 - 10:15 a.m., 41 State St., Suite 505