



Commissioner's Commissioner's quarterly newsletter to providers **Quarterly**



David A. Paterson, Governor • Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo, Commissioner



Dear Colleagues:

This is our second quarterly newsletter, and the first under our new Governor, David A. Paterson. As this transition of government continues to unfold, I ask that all of you remain steadfast in dealing with the tasks at hand. I took part in Governor Paterson's first meeting with cabinet members, and his message to all commissioners was clear and precise: maintain the continuity of our work on behalf of New York State. As I have said to many of you, the mission of our agency is **as clear today as it was yesterday and as it will be tomorrow**: To improve the lives of New Yorkers by leading a premier system of addiction services through prevention, treatment, recovery.

Governor Paterson is well-versed on our issues and has worked closely with our OASAS team on a variety of initiatives. In fact, last year he helped OASAS launch its statewide "Underage Drinking: Not a Minor Problem – College Edition" campaign. I know that he will also be a tremendous partner on our upcoming ACTION initiative addressing addiction in the areas of Public Health, Safety, Welfare and Education.

You can be assured that OASAS and the field will continue to move forward **with the same goals today as yesterday and tomorrow** on behalf of the 2.5 million New Yorkers who are dealing with drug, alcohol or gambling addiction.

We at OASAS are now communicating with you via a more efficient and cost-effective electronic distribution system which resulted from our contacts with providers last summer. We will coordinate internally to economize on the number of e-mails you receive.

As our partners in One Field, you are each critical to the success of that mission and I would like to thank you for the great work you do every day. The best is yet to come for our field, and it is because of all of you. Keep up the good work, and please know how honored I am to call each of you a colleague.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo
Commissioner
NYS OASAS

Commissioner's
Quarterly

Provider / OASAS Partnerships

Collaborative Task Forces are a significant part of the work we are doing at OASAS on behalf of our field and those who need our services. There is too much to cover all of the outstanding work that is going on, but here are some highlights:

Gold Standard Partnership

OASAS and the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of NYS are holding regional forums to assist providers in building a foundation for excellence, increasing continuous compliance and Medicaid audit readiness, and developing “best practice” service approaches. The first regional “Gold Standard Partnership and Dialogue on Treatment” forums are scheduled for: Suffolk County on April 16; Rochester on April 25; Nassau County on May 5; and New York City later this spring.

Paperwork Reduction

Significant progress in this highly important area has already been reported, including the development of a draft unified patient progress report form, a redesign of the Part 822 Site Review Instrument with field input, posting of Outpatient Model Case Record Forms and a regulatory guidance document on the OASAS Website, and plans for the development of clearer reporting instructions to providers.

Talent Management

This group of about 70 is now working on a number of actions for this year, including: collecting data on salaries/benefits in the field to support recommendations for salary enhancements for the provider community; developing a career ladder “template” as a model for provider agencies; organizing “regional recruitment centers” to support the recruitment and placement of professionals; and establishing a Web portal and site for marketing talent management efforts. Learning Thursdays are also under way to provide professional development opportunities to the entire addictions field via a Web dialogue venue.

An Excellent New Initiative

Edgecombe Parolee Treatment Project

This is an exciting new partnership between OASAS, the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) and the Division of Parole (DOP). Edgecombe is currently a work release facility in upper Manhattan. It will be converted into a facility for parolees who are at risk of violating parole and returning to prison. The goal at Edgecombe is to identify the factors in the parolee’s life that caused the problem(s) and develop a plan for success. The parolee will be engaged or re-engaged in the treatment process, and appropriate referrals will be made to all needed services, with a community-based case management component providing follow-up and intervention. The program is opening April 21 with state employees and a Planning Supplement to secure a provider to operate the program is being released this month.

Inter-Office Coordinating Council

The report from the reinvigorated Inter-Office Coordinating Council is now available on the OASAS Web Site, which includes a link to the archived Webcast of the meeting, the first for the council in 18 years. More information is available at: <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/pio/collaborate/IOCC/index.cfm>.

“They call what we do public service for a reason: because it’s not politics. It’s not parties. It’s not power that counts at the end of the day. Those interests can vanish in a moment. It is the service that endures. It is service that is important. It is the service that is our mark. It is our measure. It is our record of performance.”

– Governor David A. Paterson

Local Plan Guidelines for Mental Hygiene Services

Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo (OASAS), Michael F. Hogan, PhD. (OMH), and Diana Jones Ritter (ORMDD) announced a comprehensive planning approach that will help local governments better coordinate services, as well as save time and taxpayer dollars. Using the OASAS Online County Planning System, there is now one unified system online system to improve services for those dealing with addiction, mental illness and developmental disabilities. More information is available at:

<http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/pio/press/03-07-08multneeds.cfm>.

OASAS/OCFS Plan of Cooperation

For the first time in 15 years, OASAS and the Office of Children and Family Services now have a written agreement on a plan for collaboration. At the recent conference titled, "Improving Outcomes for Families & Children: Solutions for Child Welfare & Chemical Dependence Systems," Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo and OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión signed a brand new OASAS/OCFS Plan of Cooperation. More information is available at:

<http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/pio/press/PlanOfCooperation.cfm>.

Governor's Advisory Council

The next meeting of the New York State Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services is in Albany on April 30.

OASAS 2008 Legislative Agenda:

The following proposals have been approved for consideration by the state legislature to enhance overall outcomes in one system of care. Descriptions of each initiative may be viewed on the OASAS Website at

www.oasas.state.ny.us/index.cfm?level=regulations#.

OASAS #01R-07 - Social Host (Host responsibility for underage drinking in their homes.)

OASAS #03R-07 – Inclusion of OASAS community residence program siting within the Padavan Site Selection Law protections.

OASAS #04R-07 – Eliminate the Medical Assistance (Medicaid) sanction for persons who are not in compliance with alcoholism and substance abuse identification and treatment requirements.

OASAS #07-07 - Elimination of sunset for the transfer of responsibility for Compulsive Gambling from OMH to OASAS.

OASAS #09R-07 – Expand the Interagency Geriatric Mental Health Planning Council to include Geriatric Chemical Dependence issues.

OASAS #10-07 – Revisions to the Statewide Central Registry mandated reporting requirements for persons who are credentialed by OASAS.

OASAS #11R-07 – Revise the provisions and incorporate the Advisory Council on Underage Alcohol Consumption in the OASAS operations.

OASAS #12 -07 – Revise the membership of the Governor's Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (Advisory Council) to include representatives for prevention and gambling.



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15 years, OASAS and
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Focused Business Activity

Streamlining Credentialing

Because of streamlining for the credentialing process, OASAS issued credentials to 800 new counselors in this first quarter, bringing the total number of CASACs statewide to approximately 6,700 - or an increase of 12 percent. Later this month, we will be requesting your nominations for CASAC of the Year, along with CPP/CPS of the Year and CASAC Trainee of the Year who will be honored on Addictions Professionals Day in the fall. Nomination forms will be sent soon and the deadline for nominations will be May 23.

OASAS Awarded \$1.2 Million to Prevent FASD

OASAS is implementing FASD interventions to prevent alcohol-exposed pregnancies in select OASAS intensive women's residential programs due to the \$1.2 million in funding from Northrop Grumman, a subcontractor to the SAMHSA FASD Center for Excellence. This funding will also enable OASAS to re-establish our FASD statewide Prevention Task Force and conduct FASD prevention.

Outcome Management - Practice Improvement

Beginning last summer, the Executive Team and top managers of OASAS have been working to develop a *Strategic Map* to help our field better identify its top priorities. We are pleased to report that our Map is coming to fruition.

As with any map, it begins with a statement of our five core *Destinations*: **Mission Outcomes, Provider Engagement and Performance, Leadership, Talent Management and Financial Support**. Fifteen teams of OASAS staff, many with direct provider participation, are leading each of the destination areas to help us achieve our **Mission: To improve the lives of all New Yorkers by leading a premier system of addiction services through prevention, treatment, recovery.**

Wellness

The countdown to Tobacco Independence for New York's addiction services system is on!

The Tobacco Free Services proposed regulation was approved by the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform and submitted to the NYS Department of State for publication in the March 12, 2008 edition of the State Register. The 45-day public comment period will run through April 26. Currently, OASAS staff has provided trainings, presentations, and workshops reaching 3,000 people. Additionally, over 2,220 people have accessed the OASAS on-line free training tools focusing on four tobacco related workbooks. We are working closely with the Research Foundation of SUNY's Professional Development Program as it develops the training curriculum as part of the Department of Health support for this initiative. Additionally, Learning Thursdays in April and June will include topics on tobacco. Questions regarding the tobacco-free regulation can be e-mailed to TobaccoFree@oasas.state.ny.us or to Peggy Bonneau at 518-485-2312.

Wellness news is now being sent electronically each month. If you haven't received it and would like to subscribe, contact OASAS at 518-485-1768.



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Media Coverage and Marketing OASAS

Multi-Media Problem Gambling Campaign

In recognition of the 6th Annual National Problem Gambling Awareness Week, March 9-15, OASAS developed a multimedia campaign addressing both the at-risk adult population and parents of adolescents. Visits to the OASAS gambling Web site materials quadrupled in March from the previous month to more than 3,700. All of the media elements can be viewed on the OASAS website at <http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/Gambling/index.cfm>.

In the News

- Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo on the OASAS prescription medicine cabinet inventory on WRGB, Schenectady and on WTEN in Albany regarding the SAMHSA national prescription drug abuse study.
- *Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Weekly* featured comments from Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo on why it's important to have specialized services for addiction from mental health disorders.
- OASAS Medical Director Dr. Steven Kipnis and the Blaisdell Addiction Treatment Center in the *Wall Street Journal* on addiction and traumatic brain injury.
- The Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* interviewed Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo on addiction services for seniors.
- The Albany *Times Union* and the *Associated Press* did reports on reforming detoxification services.
- The *Elmira Star-Gazette* Editorial Board interviewed Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo.
- Dr. Kipnis was featured in a segment on readily available inhalants in the home on Fox 23 News in Albany.
- *The Journal News* in Rockland County covered the Rockland County Drug Court Graduation and 10th anniversary of Rockland County Drug Court program.

Marketing:

OASAS began the new year with a new logo and tag line to reflect the positive energy, hope and strength of our services in prevention, treatment and recovery. The new imagery will be seen in print and web materials in the coming months.



A major marketing initiative is also being launched this spring for a stories campaign for recovery. In the coming weeks, OASAS will contact providers statewide to seek collaboration on building a NY Stories of Recovery Bank to promote the growing recovery movement, reduce stigma and increase public awareness on the successful recovery of thousands of New Yorkers.

The official launch of the campaign will be during September Recovery Month activities, including the month-long Recovery Arts Festival and the NYS Recovery Conference, Sept. 14 and 15 in Albany.



WRGB interviewed Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo regarding SAMHSA's national study on prescription drug abuse where we highlighted OASAS' recent Medicine Cabinet Inventory tool.

Commissioner's Quarterly

Upcoming

Addiction Medicine Series, “For Your Information”

OASAS is announcing a new educational tool called the “FYI in Brief,” a synopsis of an addiction medicine topic. A new “FYI in Brief” will be sent out monthly to all providers and CASACs as well as being posted on the OASAS Addiction Medicine website. The goal is to open dialog and inform the provider and counselor community on emerging, new or interesting articles and issues.

Co-Occurring Disorders Training

An exciting train-the-trainer opportunity is being co-sponsored by the Office of Mental Health and OASAS. Training will be held for those living and/or working in upstate New York in the fall of 2008. The training is scheduled for June 4-6, 2008 at the OASAS office at 501 7th Avenue, in the 8th floor conference room.

Applications are available at:

www.oasas.state.ny.us/workforce/training/oasastraining.cfm.

Opportunities for the Field

Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC)

The Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, of which OASAS is a member, is inviting applications for funding requests for the Federal Fiscal Year 2009 NYS GTSC Highway Safety Grant Program. Given the clear connection of OASAS-supported prevention and treatment services to preventing and reducing impaired driving among youth and adults, this presents a unique resource opportunity at both the local and statewide level.

Completed applications are due at GTSC by May 15, 2008. The announcement, application forms, data packets and other resources are available at www.safeny.com. Please feel free to consult your OASAS Regional Office for additional information.

Planning Supplements

Mid-Hudson Planning Supplement for Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment

An RFP to expand problem gambling prevention and treatment services in the OASAS Mid-Hudson Region is now available online. As a result of this Planning Supplement, OASAS expects to fund up to two problem gambling prevention and/or problem gambling treatment programs.

<http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/hps/state/documents/2008GamblingMH.pdf>.

Housing

There are two new Planning Supplements available for application from OASAS to our provider network. The first is for 100 beds in upstate New York for veterans, and is available on our Web Site at:

<http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/hps/state/documents/veterans2008.pdf>.

The second is for 100 beds on Long Island and is also available on the Web site at:

<http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/hps/state/documents/longisland0408.pdf>.

A new “FYI in Brief” will be sent out monthly to all providers and CASACs as well as being posted on the OASAS Addiction Medicine Website.

