



Commissioner's Newsletter to Providers **Quarterly**

Fall 2008



To improve the lives of New Yorkers by leading a premiere system of addiction services through prevention, treatment and recovery.

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

www.OASAS.state.ny.us



Dear Colleagues:

As we reflect on the outstanding Recovery Month celebrations that took place around New York, we also look forward to continuing the OASAS mission of leading a premier system of addiction services for prevention, treatment and recovery, even as we face the current fiscal challenges.

I want to assure you that the OASAS team - in partnership with you - is already at work to determine the best manner in which to manage budget constraints on our system, with a clear focus on continuing our mission.

It is our goal to provide the highest quality of care for those we serve while streamlining operations and managing costs. Through our combined efforts, I am confident our field will meet this new challenge, just as we have met past challenges together.

In recent weeks, Governor David Paterson met publicly with state leaders and called for a Special Economic Session of the Legislature for Nov. 18 to close a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall resulting from the turmoil on Wall Street. The Governor also announced that he will release the 2009-10 Executive Budget on Dec. 16, more than one month earlier than the Jan. 20, 2009 deadline. By accelerating the process, it will give the Legislature and the public additional time to review his plan, with the hopes of passing the final budget well in advance of the April 1 deadline.

While the fiscal concerns are an immediate priority, I want to encourage you not to lose sight of the essential work we do on behalf of the 2.5 million New Yorkers who are dealing with alcohol, drug or gambling addiction.

You will be hearing more from me and our agency on Communities of Solution, which we believe will be essential to better organize our system of care on a local level, particularly during these difficult fiscal times. **A Community of Solution** is a coordinated effort mobilizing the resources of government, prevention coalitions, treatment providers, recovery communities, advocates and business members to decrease addiction prevalence and increase recovery outcomes.

This approach maximizes community involvement and ownership of issues. It also increases the community's capacity for jointly reaching our goals of preventing addiction and increasing long-term recovery. In a difficult economy, these communities of solution will bring us all together to network, share information and find the best ways to enhance our system and its services. We will find creative ways to do more by working together, even when our financial resources are fixed or reduced.

We recently saw a landmark decision by the federal government when the President signed the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. This legislation was critically important to bring an end to inequity in health insurance benefits between addiction/mental health illnesses and medical /surgical benefits for group health plans with more than 50 employees.

In closing, I also want to acknowledge that October is National Disability Awareness Month, as well as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Oct. 11 was National Coming Out Day. We at OASAS want to join with you in recognizing these important areas as we move forward to strengthen our communities and our field in New York.

As always, I welcome all of your comments and suggestions which can be sent to me at Commissioner@oasas.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,
Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo
Commissioner

Mission Outcomes: Establish an effective, science-based program system which integrates prevention, treatment and recovery.

NY's First in the Nation Tobacco-Free Initiative

New York on July 24 became on the first state in nation to require that all of its more than 1,550 addiction services programs provide tobacco-free environments and offer treatment for nicotine addiction. The implementation date came after years of discussion and planning and a full year for providers to develop tobacco-free policies. OASAS staff are working with numerous programs to offer assistance and review of policies, strategize in problem solving and promote training. Training statewide is being offered through a contract with DOH. Nicotine Replacement therapy is also being offered to programs without charge. OASAS now has an internal team which meets weekly to assess and guide outcomes. An implementation team was also developed with OASAS and Therapeutic Communities of America, which had its first meeting in August.

Co-Occurring Disorders

OASAS-OMH Agreement - On July 31, Commissioners Carpenter-Palumbo and Office of Mental Health Commissioner Michael Hogan released a Memorandum of Agreement establishing integrated care as the preferred approach to treating co-occurring mental health and addictive disorders. Also released was a package of clinical tools for screening and assessing co-occurring disorders as well as a list of evidence-based practices to treat both disorders. During July, a kickoff meeting of the full **Subcommittee on Adolescents with Co-Occurring Disorders** (of the Co-Occurring Task Force) was chaired by Commissioners Carpenter-Palumbo and Hogan. A follow up meeting was held during August in which small workgroups were established to address the following areas: Clinical, Systems and Regulatory, Youth and Family Engagement, and Outcomes and Data. Draft recommendations are due in October.

As a result of these activities, **The New York State Health Foundation** authorized **\$3 million** to establish a **Center of Excellence for Co-Occurring Disorder**, which will assist OMH and OASAS providers in adopting the integrated approach to treating co-occurring disorders through technical assistance, learning collaboratives and training. The Foundation is expected to supplement this allocation with an additional commitment of **\$2 million** in provider-based grants to support the transition to integrated treatment. National Development and Research, Inc. (NDRI) has been awarded the contract for the Center of Excellence.

Problem Gambling Prevention/Treatment

OASAS awarded 12 new problem gambling prevention programs at the end of September, creating access to prevention services in 12 new counties and bringing prevention services to **32 counties overall**. OASAS awarded waivers to **eight outpatient chemical dependency programs** to admit and treat for problem gambling services, expanding access to care in an additional eight counties, **bringing the total to 25 counties**.

Treatment for Veterans

Capital awards totaling \$26 million were made to four providers to establish 100 new residential beds (25 to each provider) in Upstate New York. The four awardees were: 820 River St., Altamont, Horizon Village, Sanborn (Erie County), Samaritan Village, Ellenville, and St. Joseph's Rehabilitation, Saranac Lake.



Between 40 percent and 60 percent of the substance abuse treatment population has a co-occurring mental illness, while less than 10 percent receive treatment for both conditions.



OASAS is working with the state's Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the VA on reintegration weekends for returning Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans. Volunteers (counselors who are veterans) have been solicited from our outpatient clinics to be contacts for veterans in need of services and for use by Veterans Courts (currently in Buffalo and Rochester) and to serve as speakers at the reintegration weekends.

New York State sent a 13-person team to Bethesda, Maryland to participate in a SAMHSA-sponsored **Policy Academy on Returning Veterans and Their Families**. Eight other states and American Samoa participated in the Policy Academy process. The goal of the Academy was for each state and territory to develop a plan for how to respond to veterans and their families. The New York State Plan focuses on four major strategies: creating a permanent infrastructure for this population, facilitating engagement and involvement of returning veterans and their families, increasing the political and public will to serve veterans and their families, and developing cultural competencies and improving quality of services for veterans and their families.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

In September, the two initial implementation sites for the FASD Prevention Project (Odyssey House and Palladia) began admitting women into "Project Choices" and plans are under way to expand additional treatment sites in 2009. The FASD project is designed to implement evidence-based practices in women's residential treatment programs.

The Commissioner sent correspondence to five manufactures and distributors of early pregnancy test kits in September, requesting that these companies include a warning label on the package informing women not to consume alcohol during pregnancy.

The SAMHSA FASD Center for Excellence will provide technical assistance to conduct a series of regional trainings across the state in Spring 2009 to educate mental health professionals regarding FASD and how outcomes can be improved for those dually diagnosed with FASD and mental health disorders. This is a collaborative effort with NYS Office of Mental Health.

Advances in Treatment Services

A "**One Outpatient System**" meeting was held in July to explore the creation of one outpatient system of care to streamline outpatient services and promote the integration of all addiction medications – including methadone – within outpatient services. The group consensus was that a one-outpatient system must be piloted or a prototype must be designed and tested. The pilot should happen at the beginning phase of implementation of Ambulatory Patient Groups (APGs). A number of concerns were raised including possible siting issues, Medicaid reimbursement and performance.

Methadone Transformation Advisory Group (MTAG) forwarded its recommendations to the Commissioner to transform the methadone treatment modality into a patient-centered, recovery-oriented outpatient service, with a strong capacity for medication-assisted treatment. The \$248 million methadone treatment system serves a population of nearly 40,000 patients in New York. The recommendations include: incorporating the methadone regulations (Part 828) into the OASAS outpatient regulations (Part 822) as a first step in creating a single outpatient system of care; implementing ambulatory detox for uncomplicated opioid detoxifications that do not require hospital stays; and introducing more individualized treatment, including buprenorphine treatment and more differentiated phases of treatment.



Traumatic Brain Injury - OASAS organized a Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council to plan for screening and treating the TBI patient. With one TBI unit at Blaisdell ATC, OASAS is now working to develop two new TBI units at ATCs. Other priorities include training and data collection for this critically important treatment initiative.

Statewide Regional Health Coordinator Forums will be held this Fall. These sessions are to provide guidance to Health Coordinators on HIV/AIDS, further assess existing Health Coordinator functions/roles within the treatment programs, and move toward developing a guidance document for providers and Health Coordinators which would refine the role of Health Coordinator.

Housing - Supportive Living Residential Beds - Proposals are being reviewed from a Planning Supplement to establish 100 new Community Residential or Supportive Living Beds on Long Island.

Provider Engagement and Performance: Develop a "gold standard" system of service provision.

Technology Workgroup - The Technology Work Group will sponsor during the fourth quarter of 2008 a "Best Practices" Webinar for all OASAS providers that will feature OASAS providers that have successfully implemented technology, discussing how they did this, what best practices they can recommend and what pitfalls they have encountered. Providers will have an opportunity to participate in the Webinar and submit questions to the panelists. The date for the Webinar will be announced shortly and will be communicated to all providers.

Administrative/Regulatory Relief Workgroup - Major topics discussed in September were changes that occurred (e.g., membership structure; new subcommittees established -- Patient Rights, Residential Services for Youth, Inpatient, Residential, Case Record Review [to develop a guidance document for providers to utilize and reduce/streamline case record paperwork], and Core Competency/Regulatory [to further plan training for counselors on evaluation, treatment planning and progress notes]); plans for the comprehensive revision of Part 822 outpatient regulations; and strategies to be incorporated to build upon and increase the momentum developed thus far.

Survey of Evidence-based Practice (EBP) Adoption - OASAS received a 90 percent program response rate to the 2009 Local Services Plan survey on EBP implementation. The data is currently being analyzed. OASAS has developed an instrument to verify EBP implementation by those programs that reported that they are sustaining, (the highest level of implementation stages), the use of at least one EBP. Phone calls will be completed during September and October with a sample of those providers.

Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention - State Infrastructure (STAR-SI) – Seven new NYC programs were recruited as STAR-SI providers, bringing the current total to 17. New providers include: AREBA Casriel, Inc., Interfaith Medical Center, Samaritan Village, Inc., Seafield Services Inc. (Brooklyn), Staten Island University Hospital, The Educational Alliance, and The New York Foundling. Counties are being recruited to assist in the maintenance of programs that are using the NIATx approach. In addition, planning continues for the pre-conference symposium on NIATx methodology to increase client access and retention in treatment that will be conducted the first day of the ASAP annual statewide conference which will be held in January 2009 in NYC. Overall STAR-SI providers have seen a 25 percent increase in admissions across agencies (baseline through May, 08).

The CDC estimates that 5.3 million Americans live with disabilities due to brain injury and that 67 percent of people in rehabilitation for brain injury have a previous history of substance abuse.

To date, five **Gold Standard Partnership and Dialogue on Treatment Forums** were held with more than 350 provider representatives in attendance. Five other regional forums are being planned.

Leadership: Be the state resource on addiction and lead the nation in the field of chemical dependence.

NY's First-Ever Recovery Conference

More than 400 participants attended the state's first-ever recovery conference, held Sept. 14 and 15, during Recovery Month, as proclaimed by Gov. David Paterson. Dr. Wesley Clark, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; Dr. Deni Carise, director of the Treatment Research Institute and Dr. Michael Flaherty, executive director of the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions, joined Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo as keynote speakers. The event was also highlighted by awards presented for the Recovery Arts Festival, which was displayed throughout September in the concourse of the Empire State Plaza. Recovery month activities also included the 5th Annual Run for Recovery at the Empire State Plaza on Sept.16, when more than 1,000 runners and onlookers gathered to celebrate Recovery from addiction.

Media Campaign - Stories of Recovery: Real People. Real Stories was also launched during the Recovery Conference, highlighting the stories of individuals who are in recovery from alcoholism, drugs or gambling. The media campaign will continue in the next 12 months as OASAS promotes the recovery through the media to reduce stigma and raise awareness.

Underage Drinking

OASAS responded to the **Amethyst Initiative**, a movement which began recruiting college and university presidents in an effort to provoke national debate regarding the drinking age. A press release was issued on Aug. 29 outlining the facts as to why lowering the drinking age would endanger public health and safety. In addition, the Commissioner mailed a letter to each college and university president in New York State regarding the negative impact of underage drinking and encouraging collaborative efforts to develop and maintain healthy environments for our students. An internal agency workgroup has been formed to address the issue and recommend further prevention efforts as applicable.

The **Governor's Advisory Council on Underage Alcohol Consumption** met on July 17 and Sept. 4. This advisory council is charged with studying and analyzing information regarding underage drinking consumption and will play a key role in guiding New York State efforts to address underage alcohol use. The Council is responsible for submitting an annual report to the Governor, Majority Leader of the Senate and Speaker of the Assembly regarding its activities. The next scheduled meeting of the group is Nov.18.

The Prevention Network will be holding a one-day **Underage Drinking Summit** on Oct. 23 Syracuse and OASAS prevention staff are currently working with OJJDP Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center staff to coordinate youth leadership training at the summit.

Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

The Commissioner and OASAS staff attended an SBIRT Leadership Conference at the White House in September. OASAS will be collaborating with Albany Medical College on its \$300,000 SAMHSA SBIRT grant to train student physicians.



2008 | **NYS VOICES FOR RECOVERY**
Real People. Real Stories.




Commissioner's
Quarterly

Problem Gambling

Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo received two awards at the National Council on Problem Gambling. The first was the National Media award for New York State multi-media campaign focusing on underage gambling and problem gambling in black and Hispanic males ages 18-29. The Commissioner also delivered a keynote speech at the 10th annual NY Council on Problem Gambling Conference on Sept. 17 and 18 in Albany.



Advisory Council

New York State Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services -

The Advisory Council met in August in Albany. The council was presented with three new regulations for review and comment: Crisis Services (Part 816); Addiction Professional Credentialing (Part 853) and Incident Reporting (Part 836). The council also voted to hold the meetings for 2008-2009 in Albany to reduce the cost of travel and lodging for both the members of the council and agency staff.

Constituent Outreach

In September, over 30 representatives of stakeholder groups from throughout the state participated in a meeting to discuss federal priorities and legislative issues. The meeting provided an opportunity for the agency to update these constituency groups on the 2008 Legislative session. This was also an opportunity to discuss initiatives of interest for the agency, including the efforts to place a moratorium the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) regulations on upper payment limits (UPL); social host legislation and community detox. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the stakeholder groups to present initiatives of interest and areas where the agency could collaborate on issues.

Inter-agency Collaboration

Inter-office Coordinating Council

In August, the IOCC released a **Progress report from People First Forums** that described implementation of nearly 50 actions in response to the five People First Forums. There are two over-arching goals for the actions taken to date: First, to enable people with disabilities and family members to more readily navigate the existing service systems, and second, to systematically eliminate structural, financing and regulatory barriers to access and services coordination that exist in the service system.

OASAS Comprehensive Statewide Plan 2008-2012 was released on Oct. 1 to: Inform stakeholders of OASAS directions and destinations; Enable counties and providers to develop initiatives and programs that are aligned with OASAS directions and destinations; Inspire innovation and change at all levels of the addiction service system; Encourage collaboration with other service systems to meet the unique needs of individuals and families; Facilitate program and policy changes and improvements.

Public Safety – Criminal Justice

Edgecombe- Since opening April 1, Edgecombe has admitted 241 parolees. Of the 181 parolees discharged, 166 completed most or all treatment goals and were referred to community-based outpatient treatment.



Erie County Re-entry - Through Aug. 26, Spectrum Human Services had assessed 182 inmates at Orleans and seven Orleans releases at the Buffalo Parole Office. Of these, **133 were released to Erie County, with 92 currently in treatment and receiving care coordination services.**

Road to Recovery - There are **325 patients engaged in the Road to Recovery program.** RtR has served 875 patients since its inception. During August, a RtR case managers meeting was held at OASAS. District Attorneys from six counties have expressed an interest to DCJS in expanding the Road to Recovery program to their counties (Cayuga, Fulton, Livingston, Jefferson, Wyoming and St. Lawrence).

Public Welfare – Employment

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)/Employment Services - Treatment Bureau is offering guidance to all 90 treatment providers and 13 vocational providers statewide with OASAS funding to deliver vocational rehabilitation and employment preparation services.

Talent Management : Become a "Profession of Choice" for attracting, selecting and developing talent.

AddictionsCareerResources.org is the new URL purchased for use as an internet-based Talent Management Website. This new Web site is envisioned to become a central focus of the Talent Management Committee's efforts and serve as a live bulletin board for sharing information and promoting the addictions field as a "profession of choice." A Regional Recruitment Center is being started to provide a gateway for attracting talent to the current field of 35,000 paid and volunteer addictions professionals.

Institute for Professional Development in the Addictions (IPDA)/Northeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center

(NeATTC) Leadership Institute was held in Johnson City Aug. 25-29. The Leadership Institute is a six-month mentorship program which offers a unique opportunity for emerging leaders within the addiction field to expand their horizons and cultivate those skills that will help them transition into leadership and management positions. OASAS provided a \$1,000 scholarship to each of New York's 16 participants.

On Sept. 15, OASAS participated in the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State, Inc.'s (ASAP) annual **Addictions Professionals Day** reception and dinner at the Crowne Plaza in Albany. Awards were presented to the CASAC of the Year [Eric Hutchinson from Samaritan Village], CASAC Trainee of the Year [David Kayode from NYC Department of Homeless Services] and CPP of the Year [Carol Carter from Sunshine Prevention Center for Youth and Families] at this important event. The January ASAP Conference will feature a Talent Management Institute.

Credentialed Prevention Professional/Credentialed Prevention Specialist Staffing Requirement

- The new Local Services Bulletin (LSB) issued Sept. 24 introduces **for the first time** prevention credential and staffing parameters for community and school-based prevention programs. The staffing requirements contained in the LSB, which are the product of the Prevention Credentials Board, ASAP's Prevention Committee and the Councils on Alcoholism of NYS, Inc. (CANYS), will go into effect in September 2010 and are expected to revitalize interest in OASAS' prevention credentials.

Twenty-five candidates were selected for the **OASAS Talent Pool.** The professional development program was kicked off at the Recovery Run in Albany on Sept. 16.

Talent Management Institute
Becoming a Profession of Choice
* Pending HRCI Credit for SPHR/PHR *

Target Audience:
Human Resource Professionals,
Learning & Development
Professionals, Agency
Administrators, Executives
& Managers

Institute Objectives:
Full day session that focuses
on implementing Talent
Management Strategies
for the field of
addiction.

**2009
January
27**
8:30 am -
5:00 pm

Cost
ASAP members: \$125
Non-members: \$150

AGENDA

8:30 am - 10:00 am	Marketing the Field of Addiction and Special Guest Speaker
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Organizational Wellness In Tough Fiscal Times
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Servant Leadership - Developing leadership strategies to move from a "Good Agency" to a "Great Agency"
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm	Succession Planning (panel format)
3:45 pm - 4:45 pm	Developing your Agency's Talent Pool
4:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Closing

Brought to you by the Talent Management Team, a collaborative between OASAS, certified providers, educational institutions and professional associations. Talent Management is our blueprint for attract, manage, develop and motivate our workforce as we move toward becoming a Profession of Choice. This Institute is being held in conjunction with the 36 Annual Conference of the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of NYS.



Training

On Sept. 10 to 12, the upstate **Co-Occurring Disorders Training of Trainers** was delivered to 30 participants in Albany. OASAS Training Unit staff and representatives from the Bronx Mental Health Court have partnered to deliver two 12-hour offerings of “Substance Abuse Treatment For Persons With Co-Occurring Disorders” on Sept. 16 and 17 and Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at OASAS’ New York City office.

Empire State College – Institute for the Study of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Program - OASAS welcomed this new academic partner to its statewide Talent Management efforts when it approved Empire State College’s proposal to establish three new certificate programs. The certificate programs include: a 300-hour certificate program which fulfills the educational requirement for the CASAC; a 250-hour certificate program for the CPP; and a 100-hour certificate program for the CPS.

Motivational Interviewing (MI) Train-the-Trainer – Thirty-five applicants will attend a Motivational Interviewing TTT that will be conducted in Albany Nov.10-13.

A three-day workshop, “**Cultural Competency in Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention: The Consciousness Raising and Affective Component**” will be held Oct. 21 – 23 at the OCM BOCES’ Rodax Building 2; 6820 Thompson Road, Syracuse.

Regional Presentations on Patient Rights - In April 2008, the New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) issued 14 NYCRR Part 815, which outlines patient rights for all OASAS-certified and/or funded providers. In cooperation with each OASAS Field Office, OASAS Patient Advocacy invites provider and OASAS staff to attend a regional presentation on the meaning, intent, and background of Part 815.

Prevention Trainings - OASAS Prevention staff and the Community Anti-drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)* will present the foundation of the NYS OASAS Prevention Framework and the strategic prevention process for the statewide Prevention Resource Center Initiative. For more information, contact Dr. Sarah Dakin at 518-457-4384.

Financial Support: A system with strong return on taxpayer investment and stewardship of resources.

OASAS Fiscal Review

In light of the state’s budget deficit, OASAS leadership is meeting with staff to determine best methods to reduce spending and find all possible efficiencies while maintaining delivery of services.

Detoxification Reform

OASAS is working with the Department of Health to implement the first step of detoxification reform on Dec. 1. The Bureau is working with treatment staff to develop a 48-hour bed assessment tool and training for hospitals. The Bureau is also developing budget proposals to encourage the development of community-based services.

Ambulatory Patient Groups (APG)

ASAS is continuing to work with the Department of Health, OMH and OMRDD and provider groups in the development of this new outpatient reimbursement methodology.

