



NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES  
*Addiction Services for Prevention, Treatment, Recovery*  
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor      Arlene González-Sánchez, Commissioner

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## OASAS Communicator

*Dear Friends,*

*On Tuesday February 14, 2012, I testified at a joint hearing of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means*

*Committees regarding the 2012-2013 Executive Budget Proposal. I presented a*

*statement about the impact of the proposed budget on OASAS and the field of the addiction, and answered specific questions posed by members of the*

*Legislature. Further, I expressed that the Governor's budget supports significant and fundamental reforms that will strengthen the oversight of care provided to individuals in institutions and community residences.*

*The OASAS budget also allows us to maintain support for critical prevention, treatment and recovery services that are core to our system of care. Some of the important points that I covered in my testimony included:*

- *OASAS together with DOH and OMH is implementing a program that will allow providers who hold licenses from two or more of our agencies to operate under a single set of operating standards. Providers with licenses from the three agencies will receive one oversight visit.*
- *OASAS will continue to measure the performance of our provider system through the statewide treatment Scorecards. They are available on the OASAS website and are accessible to the public.*
- *OASAS continues to implement the Enhanced Oversight and Monitoring Initiative (EOT). This includes an ongoing review of all monitoring activities, with the goal of improving coordination of OASAS' oversight systems - both programmatic and fiscal.*



## Quick Links

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### OASAS Mission:

*To improve the lives of New Yorkers by leading a premier system of Prevention, Treatment, Recovery.*

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Governor  
Andrew M. Cuomo

- In an effort to address chronic homelessness and the needs of the New York City Homeless Families, OASAS recently announced awards to open 75 permanent supportive housing units in New York City, as part of the Nyny III initiative.
- To help veterans access the best care possible in return for the sacrifices they have made for our country:
  - OASAS is aggressively working to double the number of residential beds for veterans.
  - OASAS has been awarded a five year, \$8.3 million federal grant to provide screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) for substance use disorders -- one of the target populations are the 100,000 service members, veterans and their families stationed at Fort Drum.

The webcast of my presentation can be viewed through the New York State Senate's [website](#).

Arlene González-Sánchez  
OASAS Commissioner

## Governor Cuomo Announces Opening of Capitol Exhibit Honoring African-American History in New York in Recognition of Black History Month

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo [announced](#) on February 15 the opening of a new



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Capitol exhibit honoring prominent African-American New Yorkers in recognition of [Black History Month](#).

Governor Cuomo opened the exhibit with former Governor David Paterson and former Comptroller H. Carl McCall, two of the 29 New Yorkers who are

profiled. Conveying the 400-year history of the state's African-American community, the exhibit tells the stories of prominent New Yorkers who were chosen for their significant contribution to the state's heritage.

The Black History Month exhibit is part of an ongoing effort to highlight New York's history at the Capitol, which began earlier this year with the restoration of the Hall of Governors and museum-quality



Commissioner Arlene  
González-Sánchez



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Webpage:](#)  
for links and phone numbers to  
OASAS program experts.

This newsletter is produced by  
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display of many of the state's archival treasures.

The individuals featured in the exhibit include:

- Frederick Douglass, Abolitionist and early civil rights leader
- Harriet Tubman, Abolitionist and early civil rights leader
- W.E.B. DuBois, Early civil rights leader
- Mary Talbert, Early civil rights leader
- Sojourner Truth, Abolitionist and early civil rights leader
- Langston Hughes, Author
- James Baldwin, Author
- Toni Morrison, Nobel and Pulitzer Prize Winning novelist
- Lena Horne, Musician and actress
- Louie Armstrong, Musician
- Marian Anderson, Musician
- Phillip Randolph, Labor Organizer
- Dr. Charles Drew, Physician and Inventor
- Madam C.J. Walker, Entrepreneur
- Percy Sutton, Businessman
- Roscoe Brown, World War II Tuskegee Airman and Bronx Comm. College President
- Aeriwentha ("Mae") Faggs Starr, Olympic runner
- Jim Brown, Football player
- Jackie Robinson, Baseball player
- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Basketball player and author
- Governor David Paterson, First African-American Governor
- H. Carl McCall, First African-American elected to statewide office
- David Dinkins, First African-American mayor of New York City
- Shirley Chisholm, First African-American female Congresswoman
- Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., First African-American from New York elected to Congress
- Edward A. Johnson, First African-American elected to the State Legislature
- Bessie A. Buchanan, First African-American female elected to the State Assembly
- Constance Baker Motley, First African-American female elected to the State Senate
- Julius A. Archibald, First African-American elected to the State Senate

There are also many objects on display such as Harlem Hellfighters Hat, unit patch and lapel pin; a letter from Langston Hughes to W.E.B. DuBois; Jim Brown rushing trophy from Syracuse University; 1921 edition of The Crisis with Langston Hughes' first published poem; etc.

For more information on the individuals and objects featured in the exhibit, visit <http://hallofgovernors.ny.gov>.

To read the Governor's Black History Month [Proclamation](#) or to learn

more about Black History and notable African-Americans, visit the OASAS [website](#).

### Commissioner Attend's FOR-NY Advocacy Day

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez welcomed participants to *Friends of Recovery's (FOR-NY) Advocacy Day* which was held on February 7, 2012 at the Emmanuelle Baptist Church in Albany. The other presenters for the day included Father Peter Young; members from the New York State Senate; Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings and others. The program also included sessions such as "Advocating for Recovery" and "The Language of Recovery".



The 2012 *FOR-NY Advocacy Day* also highlighted the benefits that recovery has on our society as a whole and provide an opportunity for community members to advocate for the professional care and



NYS Senator Diane Savino, NYS Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz and OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez

community resources that support those in recovery to assure that they can lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Since one out of every 10 Americans have an addiction and seven others are impacted at school, work and home, the Advocacy Day helped to stress the importance of prevention resources, effective quality

treatment and recovery supports recognizing that with quality, evidence-based resources, people recover and recovery benefits everyone! To learn more about FOR-NY, visit their [website](#).

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Held for New Chautauqua Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) Location

Chautauqua Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on February 8 in recognition of their new location in the Sprinchorn Building on 501 West Third Street in Jamestown, New York. Included with the ceremony was also a press conference announcing a year-long awareness campaign, "Marijuana- The Real Deal". Using the slogan, "Keep off the Grass", Executive Director, Patricia W. Munson said the Council Board and staff decided to target this year's education campaign to provide realistic and researched information on marijuana to the county. According to Ms. Munson, "With increased use and interest in marijuana, it is important for the community to learn more about the drug. The research-based PRIDE Survey done by CASAC in our county's middle and high schools last winter showed an increase in the number of students who felt that it was not harmful to use marijuana. Marijuana use in our county's youth starts at about 13.7 years old."



Present at the event was the Chautauqua County Executive, Gregory J. Edwards; the Director of Chautauqua Community Hygiene Services, Patricia Brinkman; CASAC Board President, Arnold Zdrojewski and other Board members; CASAC staff; and many members of the community. The day was a great success and enjoyed by all that attended.

## OASAS Commissioner Attends Patient Recognition and Empowerment Day



Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez spoke at the 21st Annual Patient Recognition and Empowerment Day on Friday, January 27, 2012, at the South Bronx Mental Health Council, Inc. in the Bronx. The Commissioner congratulated those who were graduating from the program and spoke about

the importance of celebrating the milestones in our lives. There were around 100 people who attended the event; and, in addition to the graduates and their families, included representatives from

community programs and government agencies as well as elected officials.

The mission of the South Bronx Mental Health Council is to promote prevention efforts among their patients and the community; treat, rehabilitate and reintegrate the patient with the community; and to advocate for human rights and the empowerment of our patients and their families. They primarily serve the dually diagnosed population and operate two OASAS-certified outpatient programs.

### **OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez Awards \$1.875 Million for Permanent Supportive Housing for Families in New York City**

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez recently announced the first round of Permanent Supportive Housing grants for families, a component of the New York/New York III Homeless Initiative. The program model includes rental subsidies up to HUD Fair Market Rental rates for two- and three-bedroom apartments; intensive case management services; job development and employment counseling services; and clinical supervision of the direct service staff. The fully annualized amount of this first round is \$1,875,000, which will support 75 families.

The target population for this initiative is chronically homeless families, families at serious risk of becoming chronically homeless and other currently homeless families in which the head-of-household has a substance use disorder.

To read the entire press release, visit the OASAS [website](#).

### **O-STARS**

Congratulations to Dr. Steven Kipnis, New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Medical Director, for recently being chosen as one of two recipients of the President's Award from the New York Society of Addiction Medicine ([NYSAM](#)). The President of NYSAM, Dr. Norm Wetterau, selected Dr. Kipnis for his work on [Prescription Drug Misuse](#). He received the award a couple of weeks ago during NYSAM's annual meeting in New York City.

As the Medical Director of NYS OASAS, Dr. Kipnis provides vital medical direction across all sectors of the agency, while emphasizing the important roles health and wellness play in maintaining a successful recovery. Dr. Kipnis received his M.D. from the University of Miami School of Medicine and continued his education with a residency and fellowship in Internal and Pulmonary Medicine at Nassau County Medical Center. He is board certified in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine and received his certification in Addiction Medicine from the American Society of

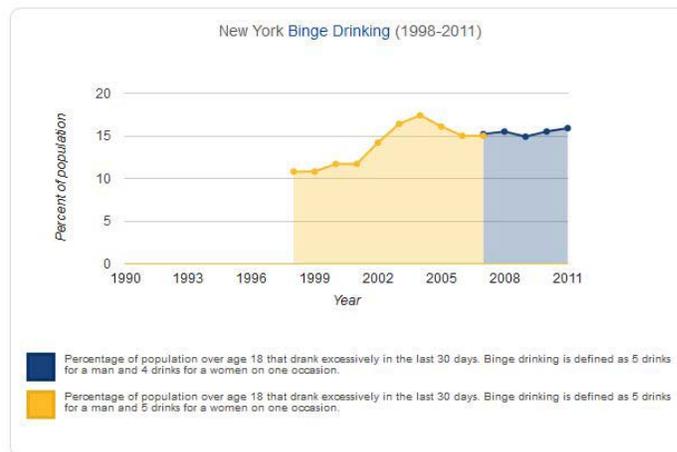
Addiction Medicine in 1990, with recertification in 2000. Dr. Kipnis was elected to Fellowship status in the American College of Physicians in 1996 and received his Fellowship from the American Society of Addiction Medicine in 2003. He was appointed to the faculty of Albany Medical College as a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine in July 2005. Dr. Steve Kipnis is also one of the nation's leading experts in addiction medicine and is committed to helping patients in the OASAS system live healthier lives.

### OASAS Medical Corner

Dr. Steven Kipnis, OASAS Medical Director

*The OASAS Medical Corner will be an ongoing part of each edition of the Communicator newsletter. It is intended to provide timely information regarding educational events, new research and/or updates that can lead to better performance by the field. Addiction Medicine is a dynamic and relatively new specialty and this column will help to filter some of this information.*

### Binge Drinking on the Rise in New York State



Adult binge drinking in New York State is creeping back up to 2004 levels, reflecting a disturbing national trend. The [January 2012 edition of CDC's Vital Signs](#) notes that more than 38 million US adults binge drink. Moreover, this problem hits New Yorkers square in the wallet, with the costs of excessive alcohol consumption equaling about \$746 per person, or \$1.90 a drink, in the US in 2006. These costs include health care expenses, crime, and lost productivity.

### Recurrent Acute Kidney Injury Following Bath Salts Intoxication (*American Journal of Kidney Diseases. 59 (2) (pp 273-275), Feb 2012*)

"Bath salts" are becoming recognized as a frequently abused and highly addictive substance that can be obtained legally in some areas. These agents contain stimulant compounds, such as methylenedioxypyrrrovalerone and mephedrone, that have been

associated with sympathomimetic effects and psychotic features, such as paranoia, delusions, agitation, and confusion. They may have a benign course; however, intoxication with these agents may lead to severe cardiovascular and neurologic complications and death. This is a case report of recurrent acute kidney injury associated with repeated bath salts intoxication. The patient, who presented with neurologic and cardiovascular symptoms and signs, also developed rhabdomyolysis, hyperuricemia, and metabolic acidosis as part of the clinical presentation. Bath salts intoxication should be included on the list of substances that can cause acute kidney injury and other metabolic abnormalities.

### **First Suboxone Town Forum Held in Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County**

During the end of 2011, OASAS received numerous complaints from stakeholders in St. Lawrence and other nearby northern counties concerning questions and community problems related with Suboxone.



St. Lawrence County has a substantial opiate problem which appears to be primarily associated with OxyContin and other pain related pharmaceuticals.

Suboxone is a medication that is indicated for the treatment of opioid dependence and it is the first medication approved for office-based treatment (i.e., private physicians with the appropriate waiver, DEA "X"-number, can prescribe this medication to their patients.). It appears that an unintended consequence of this flexibility is that there seems to be a high demand on the street for this medication in certain parts of the state, particularly in rural areas. Subsequent to the original complaints, conversations were held between staff from OASAS, St. Lawrence County CDS and the Seaway Valley Council for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Prevention Council.

In response, a meeting/forum with area stakeholders was held on January 19, 2012 largely to gather information in order to identify potential problem(s) associated with Suboxone, as well as look at action steps that the group can take in problem solving. Forty-five individuals attended the meeting and another 20+ individuals participated through teleconferencing representing treatment and prevention providers, state and local government, physicians actively prescribing and interested in prescribing, drug courts, probation, and health care providers (e.g., OBGYN.)

It provided an open forum for local substance use disorder (SUD) professionals to voice their concerns and pose questions related to the

current utilization of Suboxone in the community - Suboxone diversion, patients admitted into treatment indicating that Suboxone was a reason for entering SUD treatment, and Suboxone further fueling unemployment, and an increase in criminal activities, etc. were discussed and described.

It was also recognized that a series of meetings were needed to fully determine action steps to be taken; towards this end, the next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2012, and meetings will be scheduled every 2-3 months for 2012 with additional requests for consumers as well as the DEA be included amongst the participants. It was also proposed that the Suboxone issue be included in the upcoming Northern Tier Providers Coalition Annual Conference in the Fall of 2012 as a pre-conference item.

### ***Better Outcomes Tuesdays Begins March 6!***

The OASAS Bureau of Treatment is pleased to announce a new learning opportunity and format: *Better Outcomes Tuesdays*. This interactive session will feature providers who will present on the implementation challenges and solutions relative to the adoption of Evidence-Based Program and Practices (EBPs).

The *first* session will be held at OASAS locations in Albany and New York City on **Tuesday, March 6 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.**

It will feature two presenters from Samaritan Village in Queens: Janetta Astone-Twerell, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation and James Hollywood, LCSW, Assistant Vice President of Residential Services. The presentation is entitled, *The Real Deal about Evidence - based Practices (EBPs): A Provider's Practical Perspective*. It will focus on implementation issues relative to Motivational Incentives; Thinking for Change; and Motivational Interviewing. Subsequent to each session, OASAS will convene monthly conference calls with attendees to continue to share learnings and facilitate EBP implementation.

Space is limited. You can register through Debi McKay at [debimckay@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:debimckay@oasas.ny.gov). Registration must be completed by March 1, 2012.

To learn more about *Better Outcomes Tuesdays*, visit the OASAS [website](#).

### **Save the Date: Idols for Prevention Concert to be Held**

This is your chance to see your favorite American Idol contestant and support a great cause. There will be a concert held to benefit the Suffolk Coalition to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Dependencies, Inc. and the Islip Drug Education Awareness Coalition featuring former American Idol contestants Leah Laurenti and Robbie Rosen.

The [event](#) is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Islip Middle School located at 211 Main Street in Islip, New York.

The cost for the tickets is \$20 Adults and \$10 for students, seniors and children. A *Meet and Greet* is also available for \$5 extra. Also available are \$30 VIP tickets which include preferred seating, drink and snacks and meet and greet after the concert.

For tickets and/or more information, contact the Suffolk Coalition at (631)366-1717 or [barbara@preventionli.org](mailto:barbara@preventionli.org).

### Children of Alcoholics Week is February 12-18

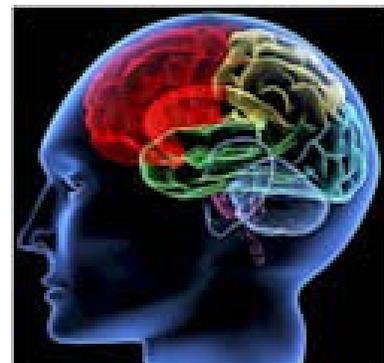


Children of Alcoholics Week is an annual, national observance that recognizes the damaging effects of alcoholism on children. Often, the people hurt most by alcohol abuse don't even drink. They are the children of alcoholics. The 2012 campaign theme is "A Celebration of Hope and Healing."

During [Children of Alcoholics Week](#), we can each help by spreading the word that children living with addiction in the family need the support of caring adults. A special [toolkit](#) has been created by the [National Association for Children of Alcoholics](#) to help initiate educational support programs for substance abuse treatment staff who plan to offer support groups for children.

### Fourth Annual Addiction and Brain Injury Conference to be Held in NYC on March 16

[Brain Injury](#), also known as "the silent epidemic," is often undiagnosed or unrecognized despite its prevalence. Research demonstrates a high co-morbidity rate between substance abuse and brain injury. Consequently, professionals working in the addictions and mental health fields are likely to encounter clients who are not aware that they have a brain injury.



This fourth annual addiction and brain injury conference is sponsored by NYS OASAS, the Brain Injury Association of NYS and ICD-International Center for the Disabled. It will be held on Friday, March 16, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City. The conference will be in the Podell Auditorium which is on the first floor of the Bernstein Pavilion and is located on 1-9 Nathan D. Perlman Place between 15th

and 16th Streets and between First and Second Avenues.

This training is FREE of charge and will help participants to understand the causes of brain injury such as falls, motor vehicle crashes, assault, domestic violence, blasts, anoxia, stroke, and tumor. Participants will also learn about brain injury and substance abuse as an unknown dual diagnosis, the prevalence of brain injury among people with substance abuse, and treatment strategies to improve outcomes.

You must register via email to attend. Please e-mail your name, your agency and phone number to: [Nainmartinez@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:Nainmartinez@oasas.ny.gov).

Registration must be completed by March 9, 2012. CASAC credits are also available.

### **Counselor Education Department at the College at Brockport Receives Additional State and National Accreditation**

The Department of Counselor Education at the [College at Brockport](#), has achieved New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) approval and accreditation from the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC). The Department of Counselor Education is already nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and internationally recognized by the International Registry of Counselor Education Programs (IRCEP). The new OASAS and NAADAC accreditations extend to all three of the Department's masters program in counseling: Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, and College Counseling. These new accreditations reflect a collaborative effort between the Departments of Counselor Education and Health Science to improve the training opportunities for all counselors working in addictions.

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For questions and/or comments about this newsletter, please contact: Jannette Rondó, OASAS  
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