



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,

This month we celebrate Women's History Month. The National Theme is "Women's Education - Women's Empowerment". Women now outnumber men in American colleges nationwide, the reversal of the gender gap is a very recent phenomenon. We understand the importance of education to continue to help us provide quality care and train the next generation of students to the addiction field.

Sincerely,

*Arlene González-Sánchez
OASAS Commissioner*

OASAS Celebrates Women's History Month

In observance of Women's History Month, OASAS sponsored a program for staff to learn about and honor women's achievements throughout history. This year's program was centered on the theme,



Kathleen Caggiano-Siino; Dr. Susan Scrimshaw; Margo Singer; and Mary Collier

"Women's Education - Women's Empowerment." Welcome remarks were provided by OASAS Executive Deputy Commissioner, Kathleen Caggiano-Siino, who spoke about

her passion for lifelong learning. She recognized the achievements of Marty Mann who is best known as one of the female pioneers of A.A., founder of the National Council on Alcoholism (NCA), and a lifelong advocate for the need for increased education and information on alcoholism. The featured keynote speaker was Dr. Susan Scrimshaw, President of The Sage Colleges. Dr. Scrimshaw spoke about her own life experiences as they relate to her growth as

Programs

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

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Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo



a leader. She touched the audience with inspiring stories of some of her life lessons, family role models, professional experiences, and how growing up in Guatemala has influenced her today. The program ended with the talented Joyce Robinson and Paul Noonan singing inspirational songs, "Song of the Soul," written by Cris Williamson and "Way Over Yonder," written by Carole King.

The program was organized by a committee chaired by Margo Singer. Committee members include: Dr. Sarah Dakin, Mary Collier, Loretta Gillen, Warren Moessner, Laura Perry, Tracy Shafir, and Lynda Valente.

U-Albany Hosts 23rd Annual Field and Career Fair Day

In conjunction with [Social Work Month 2012](#), OASAS participated in the 23rd Annual Field and Career Fair Day hosted by U-Albany School of Social Welfare, at their uptown campus on Wednesday, March 7. Mary Collier from the OASAS Clinical Services Unit spearheaded our participation for the third consecutive year. "This event provides an opportunity for OASAS to showcase our agency to students who are seeking second year MSW field placements for the 2012-13 school year," said Mary.

OASAS has been successful in attracting the interest of many second year MSW students to the addiction field. This year, Walt Davies from the OASAS Prevention Services Bureau, co-chaired this effort and Brenda Beardsley from Human Resources helped staff the booth to provide information about the civil service system. Currently, OASAS has two MSW student interns: Kirk Matefy in our Northeastern Field Office under the supervision of Susan Frohlich, LMSW, CASAC; and Ciany Nunez in the Bureau of Recovery Services under the supervision of Veronica Fernandez, LCSW, CASAC.

OASAS Commissioner Seeks New Members to Serve on the Nurse Advisory Panel (NAP)

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez is looking for new members to serve on the *OASAS Nurse Advisory Panel* ([NAP](#)). Those who have been selected will be announced during [National Nurses Week](#) in May.

The NAP is a group of addictions nursing content experts, experienced clinicians, researchers and managers convened to serve as a resource to the Commissioner on OASAS initiatives in New York State. Topics of special focus include, but are not limited to, education and training opportunities for nurses, evidence-based practices in addictions treatment, integration of basic and specialty components of addiction treatment, public relations and legislation related to nursing roles at OASAS and the scope of nursing practice as related to addictions nursing.

Commissioner Arlene
González-Sánchez



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The Nurse Advisory panel also seeks to provide leadership for change as practices and policies related to the prevention, treatment and recovery of New York State citizens evolve. Position statements will be key mechanisms to achieve this and will be developed initially on treatment of nicotine dependence and buprenorphine as used in clinical settings. It is expected that the panel will also consider the implications of policy development and implementation on nursing in addictions treatment facilities.

If you would like to apply please write a cover letter addressed to the Commissioner expressing your interest along with a resume and/or cover letter and send it to DeborahEgel@oasas.ny.gov. The appointment will be for three years and the committee meets three to four times annually. **The deadline for submission is March 30, 2012.**

Faces & Voices Listening Forum on Addiction Recovery Held in NYC

On behalf of Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez, OASAS Chief Operating Officer, Ramon Rodriguez participated as a listening panelist for the *Faces & Voices Listening Forum on Addiction*

Recovery. The forum was held on Saturday, February 25, 2012, at the Beth Israel Ambulatory Care Center in New York City to a "standing room only" audience. The positive energy in the room was infectious, while also

simultaneously emotionally draining, as testimonials were presented by gender and ethnically diverse individuals in sustained recovery. Listening to the myriad of challenges that the brave men and women have faced and are overcoming "one day at a time" proved to be a very moving experience for the attendees. Their enthusiasm and appreciation for their rediscovered life and their gratitude for the recovery programs that have guided them reinforces the value and critical importance of OASAS' core mission. Due to the critical lifeline recovery programs offer for the addicted population, a common thread weaved into every testimonial was the plea for additional funding for these types of programs.



Mr. Rodriguez had the privilege of sharing the listening panel with [Dr. H. Westley Clark](#), Director of SAMHSA and Dr. Adam Karpati, Executive Deputy Commissioner of New York City Department of Mental Health. Each of us offered brief remarks after all the testimonials were presented. Based on the feedback, our comments were well received and in some small way offered some hope to

pleas made by the recovery presenters.

Survey: Ten Percent of American Adults Report Being in Recovery from Substance Abuse or Addiction

Survey data released today by [The Partnership at Drugfree.org](http://ThePartnershipatDrugfree.org) and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services ([OASAS](#)) show that 10 percent of all American adults, ages 18 and older, consider themselves to be in recovery from drug or alcohol abuse problems. These nationally representative findings indicate that there are 23.5 million American adults who are overcoming an involvement with drugs or alcohol that they once considered to be problematic.

According to the new survey funded by OASAS, 10 percent of adults surveyed said yes to the question, "Did you once have a problem with drugs or alcohol, but no longer do?" - one simple way of describing recovery from drug and alcohol abuse or addiction.

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

ASAP 2012 Youth Summit to be Held at Albany Marriott

OASAS is proud to be a sponsor of the 2012 Youth Summit, Working Together to Support New York's Youth, hosted by the [Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State](#) (ASAP). The Summit will hold informative sessions focused on many of the challenges service providers and community organizations are facing today in providing comprehensive supportive services for our youth, young adults and their families. The opening plenary features Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez facilitating a discussion with her State government colleagues: Commissioner Mike Hogan from OMH and Commissioner Carrión from OCFS. It is not too late to [register](#) for this worthwhile event, held on March 22-23, 2012, at the [Albany Marriott](#), 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205. More information and registration is available [online](#).

OASAS Welcomes Documentary Filmmaker During Black History Month

As part of the observance of Black History Month, on Friday, February 24 OASAS welcomed keynote speaker Kobie Brown.

He produced a documentary film which is currently touring college campuses that offers a broad look at the movement which explores the causes, effects and possible solutions to father absence. During the lunchtime event, he provided a partial viewing of documentary "[From Fatherless to Fatherhood.](#)" The film provided examples of Black



men who are fostering quality relationships with their children, families and therefore, their communities. Furthermore, it is rooted in the real lives of men, women and children and buttressed by the opinions of (among others) multi Grammy-Award winning Gospel Recording Artist, Kirk Franklin, Dr. Steve Perry (CNN's Education Contributor), Pastor DeForest B. Soaries (CNN's Black in America: Almighty Debt) and Jeff Robinson (MBK Entertainment).

In the conversation about black families, the subject of fatherhood strikes a particularly sensitive nerve. The conversations are often underscored by an adoration for those who choose to be present or disdain for those who leave. Producer Kobie Brown highlights both sentiments in "From Fatherless to Fatherhood," a documentary that "explores the causes, effects and possible solutions to turning the corner on father absence," according to the film's website.

Through a series of interviews and narratives, Brown explores the impact of paternal absence and how some men are breaking the cycle by taking an active role in the lives of their children, despite not having fathers of their own.

This documentary, as an educational tool, provides a necessary avenue by which to begin these discussions and usher viewers towards a place of healing. In working with various organizations serving as hosts, "From Fatherless to Fatherhood" will be introduced to select market theaters for release during June 2012 surrounding Father's Day.

Kobie Brown is currently serving as Senior Director of Licensing and Business Affairs at Sony Music. In fulfilling multiple roles as a music executive, writer, songwriter, and producer, he has worked with songwriters Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, in addition to collaborating with Lauryn Hill. One of his current projects is the production of a documentary film entitled From Fatherless to Fatherhood, which explores the importance of effective fatherhood in the African-

American community. The documentary was inspired by Brown's recollection of a Morehouse college classmate's experience growing up without a father. According to Brown, he realized through his classmate's story, "the emotional, economic and spiritual strains created by father absence, and its impact on all communities."

Chautauqua Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council Announces 2011 Grand Poster Prize Poster Winner

Chautauqua Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council ([CASAC](#)) has announced that the 2011 Grand Prize winner for the Alcohol Awareness Month Poster Contest is currently being displayed on five large



billboards throughout the county. 2011 marked the tenth year for the Alcohol Awareness Month Poster Contest. The 2011 Grand Prize poster was designed by [Justin White](#), a Clymer High School senior. Shown in the picture is Justin White posing in front of one of the billboards located at the city line on Fluvanna Avenue; Jamestown. The 2011 theme featured in Justin's poster was "Live above the influence, think for yourself!"

The [2012 contest](#) is currently underway with the theme: "It only takes ONE to make a difference- I can be the one!" Information is available by calling the CASAC office at 664-3608, 366-4623, or can be found on CASAC's website, www.casacweb.org.

O-STARS

Joycelyn Woods M.A., C.M.A., is the Executive Director of the National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery ([NAMA-R](#)) in New York City. She was part of the founding committee for the National Alliance of Methadone Advocates (NAMA) in 1988. The organization changed their name to the National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery in 2009. She held numerous positions such as Membership Director, 1st Vice-President and Executive Director. She also presently works for the MARS Project which is a project of NAMA-R as the Project Coordinator.



Ms. Woods has a Masters Degree in Neuropsychology/Biological Psychology from Hunter College (1984) and her early work, which was published, included mapping on opiate receptors. She was the 2001 recipient of the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence's (AATOD) Richard Lane Methadone Advocacy Award.

She is an outstanding individual who not only volunteers and works in the field of addictions, but also has made a huge difference in the lives of many New Yorkers. She has been active for many years advocating for millions of persons who have suffered from addiction to opiates. The time she has devoted throughout her life has made such a positive impact on the Recovery Community. She has fought tirelessly to decrease the stigma and discrimination these patients face on a daily basis and she worked to be sure treatment is made available to endless numbers of addicts. Her work also reaches many patients in other states as well as NAMA is nationwide! She is very appreciated by the Recovery Community for all of the work she has done and will continue to do on their behalf.

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.

New AeroShot Inhaler Product

- Be aware, a new product, called **AeroShot**, went on the market late last month in Massachusetts and New York. It is a grey-and-yellow plastic inhaler containing 100 milligrams of caffeine powder, about the amount in a large cup of coffee, plus B vitamins. A single unit costs \$2.99 at convenience, mom-and-pop, liquor and online stores.

New Findings from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Regarding Oral Health

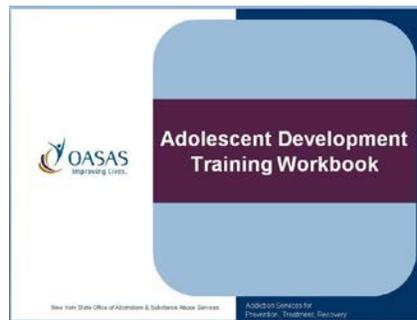
- Adult smokers are twice as likely as former smokers, and four times as likely as people who never smoked, to have poor oral health. The findings come from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC found 16 percent of smokers had poor oral health, compared with 8 percent of former smokers, and 4 percent of people who never smoked. The study also found 35 percent of current

smokers had three or more oral health problems, compared with 24 percent of former smokers, and 16 percent of people who never smoked. Tobacco use is a risk factor for oral cancers, periodontal diseases, and cavities, among other health conditions.

New Prescription Drug Misuse Policy Statement Issued

- The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) recently issued their new policy statement on prescription drug misuse. To read it, visit their [website](#).

OASAS Announces Release of Adolescent Development Training Workbook



OASAS is pleased to announce the release of the [Adolescent Development Training Workbook](#) aimed at providing information about adolescent brain development, physical, emotional and social development, trends in substance use, health and safety guidelines, and important things to consider when working with this

population.

This exciting new tool was developed as a result of information gathered during the Adolescent Cafes held statewide with adolescents in recovery, treatment providers, parents and other stakeholders. Written by a team of providers and staff from OASAS, this new tool offers general and specific information about this age group with a focus on important counselor qualities.

Following the review of the PowerPoint training and successfully completing the exam, four credentialing hours will be awarded. The Adolescent Development Training Workbook has been approved to satisfy initial credentialing and renewal requirements (CASAC Section 2; CPP/CPS Section 1).

OASAS would like to thank the following individuals for their contribution: Bill DeJoy, Conifer Park; Phil Lucien, Hope House; Joseph Madonia, Brooklyn Treatment Court; Paige Prentice, Horizon Corporation; John Venza, Outreach; Peggy Bonneau, OASAS; Sharon Davis, OASAS; Steven Kipnis, OASAS; and Steve Hanson, OASAS.

For questions and/or comments about this newsletter, please contact: Jannette Rondó, OASAS
Communications Director at communicator@oasas.ny.gov