



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,

April marks Alcohol Awareness Month, a nationwide campaign intended to raise awareness of the health and social problems that excessive alcohol consumption can cause for individuals, their families, and their communities. This year's Alcohol Awareness Month theme is Together, We Can Stop Underage Drinking! This theme goes to the heart of the problem of underage drinking-youth alcohol use is a problem of our society.

Sincerely,

*Arlene González-Sánchez
NYS OASAS Commissioner*

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Held for The Resource Training and Counseling Center in Brooklyn

On Friday, March 30, 2012, The Resource Training and Counseling Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the addition of their new Part 822 outpatient program at 449-39th Street, in Brooklyn. Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez provided brief remarks to approximately 100 guests, praising the staff for their hard work and dedication to the field. Commissioner Sánchez attributed the programs 18-year growth, from one to six locations across the state, to Donna Mae DePola's leadership and enormous sense of humor. Other speakers included remarks by Donna Mae DePola, President/CEO; Dona Rae Pagan, Vice President/COO; Christine Quinn, NYC Council Speaker; Nydia M. Valazquez, Congresswoman; Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President; and Sara M. Gonzalez, NYC Council. Immediately following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the Center provided a reception and offered tours of the new facility to their guests. The new Counseling Center, which



OASAS Commissioner
Receives El Diario La
Prensa's Signature
Destacadas Award

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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

opened their doors on January 3 of this year, was established as a result of an identified need for services in the region.

The Resource Training Center was founded in 1994 by Donna Mae DePola. The Center is among the most successful programs in the state to offer training and professional development opportunities to the criminal justice population. As one of New York State's largest CASAC education programs, they have served more than 9,000 students seeking a career in chemical dependency treatment.

21st Annual Queens Social Work Recognition Day Reception Held in Queens

After leaving the Resource Training Center Ribbon Cutting



Ceremony in Brooklyn, New York on Friday, March 30, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez was the keynote speaker at the 21st Annual Queens Social Work Recognition Day Reception held in Queens. The Commissioner addressed the group about her career as a social worker, why social work is a meaningful

profession, and her vision for OASAS, among other topics. The Commissioner's presence was appreciated and well received.

This annual recognition day event is held each year to recognize and award the innovative work being done by local social workers in the community. It is sponsored by the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare; the United Way of NYC; the National Association of Social Workers (NYC Chapter); and the Queens Borough President since its inception.



Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez



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Available
24 hours / 7 days
Toll-free, anonymous and
confidential

Visit the [OASAS Contact Us Webpage](#):
for links and phone
numbers to OASAS program
experts.

This newsletter is produced
by the NYS OASAS
Communications Bureau:

Jannette Rondó
Dora Ricci
Laura Perry
Diane Moxham
Elizabeth Dunn

Mental Health Association of NYC Welcomes Commissioner to OASAS HOPEline Call Center in New York City

On Monday, April 16, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez visited the OASAS [HOPEline](#) headquarters at the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA of NYC). During the visit, the Commissioner toured the HOPEline call center, listened on a few follow-up calls and spoke with staff and MSW student interns. MHA of NYC is currently under a five-year contract with OASAS to provide our HOPEline services which operate 24/7, 365 days a year and in more than 140 different languages. All HOPEline calls are toll-free, anonymous and confidential.



The purpose of the HOPEline is to provide callers with referral information for substance abuse and problem gambling services throughout New York State. All HOPEline operators are master's level clinicians who are specifically trained in substance abuse and problem gambling, assessments, crisis and suicide interventions. As part of our contract with MHA of New York City, they host eight MSW student interns from NYU and Hunter College of Social Welfare every year as a field placement. The interns work two days a week answering the HOPEline and one-day a week at an OASAS certified substance abuse or problem gambling agency.



The HOPEline receives on average 1,300 calls per month. Callers are offered to participate in a follow up call within 48 hours to check in and see if they have followed up on the referral and/or if there are any issues preventing this from occurring. The follow-up coordinators are trained in utilizing motivational interviewing to assist callers in following up with their referral. Caller satisfaction rates average 95 percent; many stating that they found the HOPEline helpful and would refer someone for help.



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To learn more about the [HOPEline](#), visit the OASAS website. You can

also help to spread the word about the HOPEline by printing and displaying a [flyer](#) that is available on the OASAS website.

OASAS Establishes Web Presence for Access to Recovery (ATR) NY SOARS Initiative

The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) is pleased to announce the new web presence dedicated to OASAS' [Access To Recovery New York Service Opportunities for Accessing Recovery Successfully \(ATR/NY SOARS\) initiative](#).

ATR/NY SOARS is a \$13.1 million grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) which is currently administered by OASAS. This Federal initiative provides electronic vouchers to adults with substance use disorders to help pay for a range of community-based and faith-based recovery support services. All services are designed to assist recipients to remain engaged in their recovery while promoting personal choice; person-centered care; independence; employment; self-sufficiency; and stability.

ATR/NY SOARS services are currently provided in three regions of New York State: Brooklyn, Rochester and Delaware/Otsego counties. More than 9,000 individuals located in these areas are expected to be served during a four-year grant period.

Several audiences within the three regions can benefit from the information offered in these pages:

- Individuals in recovery can learn more about what recovery support services are available and how they can apply to participate in the grant;
- Substance abuse treatment providers can find more resources to assist individuals to help maintain their recovery;
- Potential recovery support service providers can find more information about applying to become participating recovery service support provider; and
- Current Recovery Support Providers can find forms, document, videos and other supportive information related to their participation in the grant.

It is OASAS' goal to engage as many individuals in recovery as possible and to assist them in their journey. To that end, the ATR/NY SOARS webpages will change regularly and will include more details about all aspects of this exciting grant. Please take a

look at the pages today and join OASAS in helping individuals to maintain their recovery.

To learn more, visit the [OASAS ATR/NY SOARS webpage](#).

O-STARS

The OASAS mission is to improve the lives of all New Yorkers by leading a premier system of addiction services through prevention, treatment and recovery. If you know an exceptional individual who works or volunteers in the field of addictions and consistently performs at an outstanding level and makes a difference in the lives of New Yorkers, we want to hear from you. For consideration as an O-STAR, please e-mail no more than two to three short paragraphs about the individual with a picture (in .jpg format) along with your contact information to communicator@oasas.ny.gov. Self nominations are also accepted.

This O-STAR article was written by Jim K. and submitted to the OASAS Communicator by the NYS OASAS Syracuse Field Office staff.



I met Jim P. in the summer of 2008 in Oneida, New York at The Maxwell House. Jim was dropped off by his wife after completing rehabilitation treatment nearby. He was upset because he thought he was going to be returning home with his family after his completion of rehabilitation in Utica. I used to meet Jim each day to discuss our daily goals regarding getting

through the day. He quickly became a model resident offering support to those around him.

Soon Jim understood that his problems were not unique and that he felt much better about himself. He also started attending the local recovery groups and events. He attended a local church, joined the choir and secured a volunteer position at the local library helping to tutor those in need. He became a "beloved" member of our community. I remember calling Jim to my office and saying, "Do you know it is six months today?" He would respond in his witty sense of humor, "don't remind me." We had also just secured a contract with Americorps to offer a position at Maxwell House. I asked Jim if he would be interested in pursuing a volunteer position with our company through Americorps. He read the application that night and brought it back the next day completed and stated that he wanted to pursue the opportunity to serve in this capacity and was

hopeful that he would be accepted. Jim completed his first year in the fall of 2009 and when asked if he wanted to pursue a second year he just nodded his head and smiled. He was instrumental in developing the program he was in and set the bar for the participants that were to follow in his footsteps. Jim completed his second year in the fall of 2010 and was hired by the agency as a residential counselor. He was promoted to assistant Supervisor in 2011 and was preparing to submit his application for his CASAC-T at the time of his death.

Jim's nickname was the "*Gentle Giant*" and though Jim was a big man, the term more adequately described his spirit. I have been in recovery for 18 years and have never met an individual that turned his life around so quickly and impacted so many people. He accomplished more in four years than most people do in a lifetime. This speaks about the power of recovery in one individual's life and serves as a reminder regarding why we are here to help others. I wish I could tell you that I taught Jim about recovery, but the reality is that he taught me much more about life and pressing forward in difficult circumstances. He leaves behind his significant other who taught him how to love again and his Maxwell House family that will never be the same as the result of his presence at our program. We are planning to start a yearly award in his name to honor those who follow in his footsteps. He will be missed, but never forgotten!

OASAS Medical Corner

Dr. Steven Kipnis, OASAS Medical Director

The OASAS Medical Corner is 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.

An active ingredient in a Chinese herbal remedy for hangovers shows many promising effects in a series of animal experiments according to a paper by Shen et al.

The herbal flavonoid dihydromyricetin (DHM) which is derived from *Hovenia dulci*, is used in the treatment of hangovers in Chinese medicine. In a series of experiments, researchers gave rats alcohol, DHM, or both in combination. The results suggest a novel approach to treating multiple aspects of alcohol dependence:

- DHM reversed alcohol intoxication, as measured by the animals' ability to right themselves after receiving alcohol.
- DHM prevented alcohol tolerance and reduced alcohol intake in animals trained to prefer alcohol.

- During alcohol withdrawal, DHM ameliorated anxiety-like behavior (measured by time in the open arms of an elevated maze).
- DHM reduced susceptibility to pentylenetetrazol-induced seizures.

DHM has a complex agonist effect on the benzodiazepine receptor, which is a component of the GABA_A receptor Complex. Thus, DHM can block multiple effects of alcohol without causing impairment or dependence itself. DHM may be ready for human testing. To read more: *Shen Y et al. Dihydromyricetin as a novel antialcohol intoxication medication. J Neurosci 2012 Jan 4; 32:390.*)

Western New York Chemical Dependency Consortium Legislative Breakfast Held in Cheektowaga

The Western New York Chemical Dependency Consortium (WNYCDC) legislative breakfast was held on Monday April 16, 2012, at the Meals on

Wheels Community Learning Center in Cheektowaga. Attendance included 70 individuals and providers of OASAS services. The following state and county officials were also in



attendance: Senator Tim Kennedy; Sheriff Timothy Howard; Erie County Legislator Lynne Dixon; and Representatives from Senator Patrick Gullivan's Office; Senator Mark Grisanti's Office; Senator Kristen Gillibrand's Office; Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak's Office; Assemblyman Robin Schimminger's Office; and Erie County Legislator's Betty Jean Grant's Office.

The mission of the Consortium is to promote and support the development of a high-quality, accessible, cost-effective, and wrap-around continuum of care system. The WNYCDC's members represent programs and agencies throughout Western New York. The Providers represent the full range of alcoholism and substance abuse prevention, treatment, recovery, education, training and research services supported by OASAS.

Use of Vivitrol Approved for Use in OASAS System

The use of naltrexone was first approved for the treatment of opiate dependence in 1984 and for alcohol dependence in 1994. In 2006, Vivitrol, a new formulation of this medication was approved for alcohol and in 2010 Vivitrol was approved for the prevention of relapse to opiate dependence. Vivitrol (naltrexone for extended-

release) is a formulation that uses microspheres that can be administered by intramuscular injection. Naltrexone does not cause an antabuse-like aversion reaction. Naltrexone is an opiate receptor antagonist that blocks the pleasurable effects of alcohol and reduces cravings. "Craving" is defined as an intense desire and perceived need for some object/experience. Neurochemical alterations caused by chronic exposure to addictive agents form the biological basis of drug/alcohol cravings. Previously, New York State Medicaid billing systems allowed hospital based OASAS programs to bill for the injectable medication, using a "J" code - J2315, Naltrexone, 1mg (Vivitrol) and 96372 for the administration of the medication.

This month, the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) approved Medicaid reimbursement for the use of Vivitrol in our system, hospital based and non-hospital based programs. The billing codes and the system are being tested and will be available for use shortly.

New Clinical Practice Guidance Issued: Withdrawal Management in Part 822 Programs

In December 2010, OASAS issued Clinical Practice Guidance: Chemical Dependence Outpatient Services Faced with a Patient Displaying Withdrawal Symptoms. This document provides a more structured approach in response to concerns raised by Federal authorities in the use of addiction medications.

While it is the practice for medical staff of Chemical Dependence Outpatient Services (Part 822-4 and Part 822-5) to administer medication to treat an array of physical and psychiatric conditions which are judged to be safely and effectively managed within the resources of the service, there have been questions raised as to whether it is permissible to address the symptoms associated with mild to moderate or persistent withdrawal. The OASAS Part 822 regulations require and expect that Part 822-4 and 822-5 programs are addressing the need to use approved medications as part of treatment and these programs are authorized to provide or arrange for the provision of medication management services. Thus, while there is clear regulatory authority for OASAS to allow Part 822-4 and Part 822-5 programs to provide ambulatory withdrawal services; OASAS must ensure that such services are provided in a safe and effective manner. Therefore, OASAS is announcing that it will authorize Part 822-4 and Part 822-5 providers to offer ambulatory withdrawal services on a voluntary basis provided they comply with the additional requirements contained in this Clinical Practice Guidance

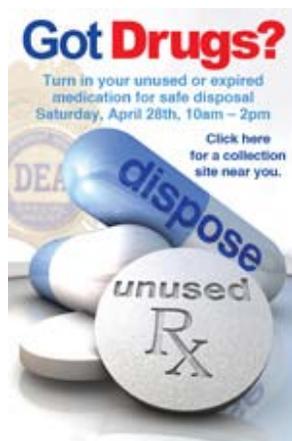
Visit the OASAS website for more information about the [new Clinical Practice Guidance](#).

New York Mental Health Counselors Association to

Hold Convention in Albany

On April 20-22, 2012, the New York Mental Health Counselors Association Convention "[Counseling for the 21st Century: Tools, Trends and Technology](#)" is being held at the Marriott in Albany, New York. OASAS Executive Deputy Commissioner, Kathleen Caggiano-Siino will participate on Friday evening from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. as part of the "[Licensure and State of the Profession Panel](#)" alongside the New York State Mental Health Commissioner Michael Hogan, Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Office of the Professions, and others. There will be numerous workshops for participants to attend. If you would like more information about how to [register](#) or about specific details about this convention, visit the [NYMHCA website](#).

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Schedules Another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day



The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled another [National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day](#) which will take place on **Saturday, April 28, 2012**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications.

To find a collection site near you, visit the United States Department of Justice's DEA Office of Diversion Control's website. If you don't immediately find a particular location, please be sure to

check back frequently as [collection sites](#) are continuously being added.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

In 1983, Congress declared April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since that time, communities across the country have taken the opportunity to raise awareness of issues surrounding child



