



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



Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo



Commissioner
Arlene González-Sánchez

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OASAS Communicator

Dear Friends,

As you read the latest edition of the OASAS Communicator, you'll see that OASAS is hard at work addressing the issue of heroin and opiate abuse and misuse. I thank you all for your support and assistance as we work together to address these issues.

*Sincerely,
Arlene González-Sánchez
OASAS Commissioner*

Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders Announce Passage of 2014-2015 Executive Budget

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senate Majority Coalition Co-Leaders Dean Skelos and Jeff Klein, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver recently announced the historic passage of the State's fourth consecutive on-time budget.

With its passage, this State's administration has delivered four on-time budgets in a row - under the same governor and legislative leadership - for the first time in more than forty years, not since Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Assembly Speaker Perry Duryea, and Majority Leader Earl Brydges.

For OASAS, the budget includes a 2% COLA increase for direct care staff such as counselors, and support staff such as housekeepers and maintenance workers, for the period January 1, 2015, to March 31, 2015. Effective April 1, 2015, the 2% COLA will continue for direct care and support staff, but will also include sponsoring clinical staff such as social workers and psychologists. Program and agency administrators will not receive the COLA.

The budget also includes \$2 million to increase access to treatment, prevention and recovery for opiate abuse and misuse, and \$800,000 for additional residential treatment services.

In addition, the budget includes a \$110 million Medicaid investment that will allow OASAS and OMH to capitalize on

OASAS Supports Alcohol Awareness Month with Statewide Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking

NYS Gaming Commissioner Held Problem Gambling Forum

Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council Meeting Held

The Coalition for Community Services Held their Annual Legislative Reception

OASAS Commissioner Addresses the Graduates of the National Coalition Institute's National Coalition Academy

The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc. Held Their Annual Conference in NYC

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opportunities to implement Medicaid Managed Care. Specific to OASAS there is \$5 million in Medicaid funding to support our plan to restructure residential services. This funding is to cover the state's share of Medicaid as we transition this model of care to Medicaid.

There is also \$5 million in Medicaid funding to preserve access to critical inpatient rehabilitation services, while we transition these services into managed care. The rates for these services have not been adjusted for several years and therefore may need financial support until we fully transition.

OASAS and OMH will also have access to funding to support new home and community-based support services such as peer supports, drop-in services, residential supports and vocational services and funding for system readiness activities to develop the infrastructure and capacity to transition services for adults and children into managed care. This funding would pay for electronic record systems for providers, as well as planning, technical assistance, training and education. There is also access to funding for enhancements to clinic reimbursement to support integration of behavioral and physical health.

"This budget builds on the State's progress over the past three years in order to grow the economy and create new opportunities for New Yorkers and their families," Governor Cuomo said.

To read the entire press release, visit www.governor.ny.gov/press/03312014Budget.

You can also find out more about the Budget at www.governor.ny.gov.

100 Hispanic Women, Inc. National to Honor Commissioner González-Sánchez at their Annual Gala

We would like to inform you that Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez has been selected to receive the *Public Service Award* from 100 Hispanic Women, Inc. National. This esteemed award will be presented to her at their 18th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at the New York Hilton Midtown.

During each year's gala, the organization celebrates and brings together key partners from the community that help to sustain programs that are making a huge difference in the lives of Latinas and the community.

Congratulations to Commissioner González-Sánchez on receiving this prestigious honor!

If you are interested in attending this event, go to www.100Hispanicwomen.org.

Save-the-Date: National Hispanic & Latino ATTC National

Guidelines for Funded Providers Updated

Chautauqua County Family Drug Forums

OASAS Releases Statewide Comprehensive Plan 2013-17

Prequalification Requirements for Not-for-Profits Contracts

Outreach Institute Announces Professional Development Training Programs

OASAS Staff Participates at the 25th Annual Field and Career Fair Day Hosted by the University of Albany

OASAS Celebrates National Women's History Month

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

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Conference to be Held in Austin This Fall



*National Conference
October, 8-9, 2014*

"Integrating Research, Education, and Services to Reduce Behavioral Health Disparities in Hispanic and Latino Populations"

As a member of the Advisory Board of the National Hispanic and Latino Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC), Commissioner González-Sánchez would like to share information regarding an upcoming [conference](#).

The purpose of the National Hispanic and Latino ATTC is to develop and strengthen the workforce that provides substance use disorders treatment and recovery support services to Hispanic and Latino populations across the United States through diverse technology transfer strategies, services and practices that have demonstrated effectiveness and are appropriate to Hispanic populations in need of substance use treatment services.

The National Hispanic and Latino ATTC will conduct a National conference entitled: *"Integrating research, education, and services to reduce behavioral health disparities in Hispanic and Latino Populations"*. The conference will be held on **October 8-9, 2014**, at the Learning Commons Center, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.

The National Hispanic and Latino ATTC Conference 2014 will cover an array of the latest behavioral health and substance use topics specific to the Hispanic and Latino community. It will benefit participants as it promotes an understanding of these disparities in services to Hispanic populations in need for access to quality substance abuse treatment; giving priority to the geographic areas, communities, service organizations and workforce members. For more information about the conference or how to [register](#), visit www.hispaniclatinoattcconference.com/.

OASAS Supports Alcohol Awareness Month With Statewide Town Hall Meetings to Prevent Underage Drinking

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez recently [announced](#) that the New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) are organizing town hall meetings to support Alcohol Awareness



1-877-8-HOPENY
Find Help for 1-877-846-7369
Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, Problem Gambling

Is your teenager or other family member struggling with addiction to prescription pain killers or heroin?

OASAS can help.

Speak with a trained clinical professional.
Available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week
Toll-free, Anonymous & Confidential

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

This newsletter is produced by the NYS OASAS Communications Bureau:
Jannette Rondó
Dora Ricci
Larry Sombke

A special thanks to those of you who have contributed to this newsletter.
If you would like to submit an article or have a story idea for an upcoming newsletter issue, please send them to:
Communicator@oasas.ny.gov.

Month in April.

"While underage drinking has declined slightly in recent years, alcohol continues to be used by more young people than tobacco or illicit drugs," said Commissioner González-Sánchez. "The town hall meetings will educate parents, youth, and community members about underage drinking consequences, empower communities to use evidence-based approaches, and mobilize communities around underage drinking prevention initiatives at the local, state, and national levels."

"The town hall meetings in April and May are very timely as we approach prom time and graduation" added Commissioner González-Sánchez. We need to take a proactive approach to inform our young people about the serious life threatening dangers of underage drinking."

To find out more about where the Town Hall Meetings are being held, visit SAMHSA's [Town Hall Meeting website](#).

New York State Gaming Commission Held Problem Gambling Forum

On April 9, 2014, OASAS Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez participated in a Problem Gambling Forum chaired by New York State Gaming Commission (NYSGC) Chairman Mark. G. Gearan at



Gaming Commissioner John Poklemba, Gaming Chairman Mark Gearan, OASAS Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez and Gaming Commissioner Barry Sample

the Empire State Plaza in Albany. The purpose of the forum was "to underscore the importance of the subject and gain further understanding of the issue as the state stands at the precipice of expanded

gaming options in the state." NYSGC Executive Director Robert Williams joined Commissioner González-Sánchez and Chairman Gearan at the forum. OASAS is the designated single state agency responsible for providing prevention, treatment and recovery services to people suffering from problem gambling in New York State.

Problem gambling experts from Harvard University, the University of Nevada/Las Vegas, the Responsible Gambling Council of Toronto, the New York State Problem Gambling Council (NYSPGC), the National Council on Problem Gambling and others provided information at the public forum.

OASAS, NYSGC and NYSPGC are members of the Responsible Play Partnership, formed in February 2013 to examine all

issues surrounding problem gambling. Information gathered at the forum will help to guide policies and regulations of the Gaming Commission, and will also aid the newly appointed Gaming Facility Location Board in their review of the problem gambling plan components of the request for applications for full casinos in New York. The Gaming Commission must approve the sufficiency of a casino applicants' problem gambling plan before issuing or renewing any casino license.

Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council Meeting Held

The Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council met on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at OASAS' offices in Albany. This Council is a joint advisory body for the Offices of Mental Health (OMH) and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). The meeting was held at OMH Offices in Albany, New York City and Rochester, as well as via live webcast.

The meeting also consisted of Commissioner's Reports from OASAS Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez and OMH Commissioner Dr. Anne Marie Sullivan. Both commissioners reported on the recently enacted New York State budget and its impact on their agencies, as well as other recent activities and initiatives their agencies have undertaken to help improve the behavioral health and well being of people in New York. The council membership consists of the OMH Commissioner, the OASAS Commissioner, the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors Chair, consumers of behavioral health services, family of consumers of behavioral health services, providers of addiction services, providers of mental health services, military veteran representatives, and state or local government representatives.

The Council is expected to meet four more times during this calendar year. This body is charged with helping the OASAS and OMH Commissioners establish statewide goals and objectives, making recommendations on statewide plans, reviewing applications seeking OASAS/OMH certification to provide behavioral health services, and reviewing OASAS/OMH rules and regulations. The Council may consider and provide recommendations on issues related to program closures, care and services for individuals with behavioral health needs, financing of behavioral health services, the integration of behavioral health services with health services, care and services for individuals with co-occurring disorders/multiple disabilities, prevention of behavioral health disorders and improvement of care.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, at NYS OMH's home office in Albany, NY.

The Coalition for Community Services Held their Annual Legislative Reception

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez was a keynote speaker at the annual reception of the

Coalition for Community Services held in Albany, NY on March 4, 2014. Approximately 300 employees, family members and program participants were present along with nearly 30 State

legislators and numerous staff members of the Senate and Assembly. Additional keynote speakers included Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Majority Co-Leader Dean Skelos, Senate Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senators Phillip Boyle, Martin J. Golden, George D. Marziaz, Andrew Lanza, Velmanette Montgomery and Assembly members Steven Cymbrowitz and Michael Cusick.



Coalition Chairman Seep Varma (NYTC - Stay'n Out & Serendipity) introduced the Commissioner by saying, "She is someone who is caring and compassionate, always thinking of how each decision she makes will impact families and clients throughout the State, and someone we all respect and admire."

All speakers, including the Commissioner articulated the commitment of NY to continue to support prevention, treatment and recovery prevention programs. Senator Andrew Lanza and Assemblyman Michael Cusick were awarded the "champion" award by the Coalition for their work on securing the passage of the Assemblyman Cusick ISTOP bill.

Coalition Chairman Seep Varma (NYTC - Stay'n Out & Serendipity) said afterwards, "It was a tremendous and inspiring event, with client stories with elected officials and representatives from the administration supporting Coalition members and these critical services for New Yorkers in the face of an epidemic. Hearing the Senators and Assemblymen support our field was tremendous and the Commissioner's remarks were vital to our field."

OASAS Commissioner Addresses the Graduates of the National Coalition Institute's National Coalition Academy



Pictured L-R: Dr. Sarah Dakin; General Arthur Dean; Major Golden; Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez; Mary Ann DiChristopher; and Patricia Talaba

On February 4, 2014, OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez was the keynote speaker at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) [24th National Leadership Forum](#) - "The Power of the Movement," held in National Harbor, MD. The Commissioner congratulated the more than 87 coalitions from all over the United States which were graduating that night from CADCA's National Coalition Institute Academy. She also spoke about initiatives underway in New York that support community prevention efforts including the more than 180 providers in NYS who operate prevention programs in approximately 1,900 schools statewide, OASAS support of "Teen Intervene" and SBIRT early intervention services, the SAFEMEDNY prescription drug prevention brochures OASAS created with the State Health Department, and OASAS collaborative relationship with the NYS Army National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. Attending the evening's event were General Arthur Dean, US Army, Retired, chairman and CEO of CADCA, members of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Dr. Janice Petersen, Prevention Branch Chief of the Office of Demand Reduction, Michael Botticelli, Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy and David K. Mineta, Deputy Director of Demand Reduction, and Colonel Michael Natali, director of the New York Army National Guard Counterdrug Task Force.

The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc. Hold Their Annual Conference in NYC

On January 23, 2014, OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez made a presentation to the Coalition of Behavioral

Health Agencies at their [annual conference](#) "Rising to the Challenge." The keynote speaker at this event was former United States Representative Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island. Commissioner Sánchez addressed the changes and challenges being presented by healthcare reform



Pictured L-R: Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez; Tino Hernandez, President & CEO, Samaritan Village; Patrick J. Kennedy, former U.S. Representative, Rhode Island, Phillip A. Saperia, CEO, The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.; and Chief Operating Officer Patricia Gallo-Goldstein

including: access to 1915(i) services for substance use disorder patients, the transition from clinic to rehab for OASAS providers and the redesign of residential treatment programs.

The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies is the umbrella advocacy organization of New York's behavioral health community, representing more than 100 not-for-profit community-based behavioral health agencies that serve more than 350,000 clients in the five boroughs of New York City and its environs. Founded in 1972, the Coalition is membership supported for special purpose advocacy training and technical assistance projects.

OASAS Commissioner Testifies at Assembly Hearing on Prescription Drug & Heroin Abuse in NYC

On December 12, 2013, OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez provided testimony to the New York State Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse held at 250 Broadway in New York, NY. Commissioner Sánchez was invited to provide testimony by Assemblyman Steven H. Cymbrowitz, chairman of the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. The hearing was convened to hear testimony from state officials and other concerned parties on programs and services for the treatment of opioid abuse and help the Committee to better understand the State of New York's capacity to meet the existing needs of New Yorkers suffering from an opioid addiction and identify strategies that will enhance the State's treatment service model for these individuals.

Commissioner Sánchez informed the Committee about OASAS' intensive residential and outpatient treatment systems, the agency's support for the proper use of Buprenorphine, OASAS expanded services for veterans, its school-based prevention programs, the agency's effort to increase the use of Narcan to

counteract the effects of opiate overdose, and other activities.

OASAS Commissioner Testifies at Senate Hearing on the Heroin and Prescription Drug Epidemic on Long Island

On November 13, 2013, OASAS Commissioner González-Sánchez testified before the New York State Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, chaired by Senator Phil Boyle of Bay Shore. The hearing, titled "Heroin and Prescription Drug Epidemic on Long Island: Connecting the Dots to our Youth" was held at the Van Nostrand Theater on the Brentwood Campus of Suffolk County Community College. Commissioner Sánchez informed the committee about the treatment and recovery services that OASAS provides to the people who live on Long Island, the work OASAS is doing with the State Health Department to expand the use of Narcan, a drug that can counteract the effects of opiate overdose, the school and community based prevention programs OASAS has on Long Island and the importance of working together with elected officials, providers, parents and families and other activities that can be carried out to address the rise in heroin use and prescription drug abuse on Long Island and New York State.

New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Honored for Community Supports Efforts

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez congratulated Colonel Michael Natali, director of the New York Army



Photo taken by Master Sgt. Matthew Hilborn
www.dvidshub.net

National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, at the CADCA graduation ceremonies. The New York National Guard currently has 12 National Guard soldiers and airmen working with 21 local community coalitions in conjunction with

the regional Prevention Resources Centers administered by OASAS.

To read the article about how the New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force was honored for their community support efforts, go to the [Defense and Imagery Distribution System website](#).

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, consistently performs at an outstanding level and makes a difference in the lives of New Yorkers, then 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.

Martin Colavito, director of prevention services for Catholic Charities of Orange



County, has worked in the substance abuse field for almost 35 years. During this time, his predominant focus has been on community organization with an emphasis on substance abuse treatment and prevention, especially in poor, inner city neighborhoods. For the past five years, Martin

has been a guiding light in the City of Newburgh.

Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange County is the lead agency for TEAM Newburgh, a SAMHSA-funded prevention project operating in the City of Newburgh. Martin, along with TEAM Newburgh, has been successful in getting legislation on the table which would remove drug paraphernalia from visible exposure in stores and bodegas. Additionally, Martin and a couple of his colleagues were invited to give a presentation in Washington, D.C. in February 2014 about their successful work in the City of Newburgh at the national conference of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

Martin's unrelenting passion, enthusiasm, dedication and determination to improve the quality of living for the marginalized youth living in poor inner city neighborhoods is remarkably contagious. It undeniably contributes to his success and ability to consistently perform at an outstanding level and to make a tangible difference in the lives of New Yorkers.

**OASAS South Beach Addiction Treatment Center (ATC)
Offers Naloxone Training to Staten Island Community**

On April 23, a training was held at the South Beach Addiction Treatment Center (ATC) at 777 Seaview Ave. The sessions lasted about 90 minutes and upon completion, the attendees were certified to administer Narcan, and received a rescue kit containing the nasal spray at no cost to them.

The 12 OASAS operated Addiction Treatment Centers have become training sites and have trained more than 2,500 patients, staff, family and community members.

NY1 Coverage of the South Beach ATC's Naloxone training -- [watch the video](#).

DCJS, OASAS and DOH Offer Naloxone Training to Law Enforcement

Three state agencies are partnering to train police officers in the use of naloxone, a medication that can save lives by reversing the effect of overdoses caused by heroin or other opioids, which include prescription drugs such as hydrocodone and oxycodone. The state also is providing agencies that send their officers to the trainings with supplies of naloxone at no cost.

The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the Department of Health (DOH) and Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) collaborated with Albany Medical Center, the national Harm Reduction Coalition and other local partners to develop and offer the trainings. A total of seven, hour-long trainings were held yesterday and today in Albany for the first time.

Nearly 260 officers from 42 agencies, including the New York State Police, have registered to attend the trainings. DCJS will be scheduling additional classes in other parts of the state to provide the training and medication, known commercially as Narcan, to agencies that weren't able to send officers to this first round of trainings.

OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez said, "Opioid related overdoses are a serious public health concern and training police officers to administer Narcan will help save lives. The Narcan Overdose Prevention Initiative is one of the most successful programs OASAS has administered along with DOH, the Harm Reduction Coalition and the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In support of this important initiative, the 12 OASAS operated Addiction Treatment Centers have become training sites and we have trained over 2,500 patients, staff, family and community members. Saving a person from an opiate overdose gives OASAS and our providers the opportunity to address their addiction or misuse and put them on a path of recovery."

To read more, the [press release](#) is available on the OASAS website. You can also view coverage of this training by visiting the [Albany Channel 10 News](#) and [Albany Channel 13 News](#) websites.

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.

Two Addiction Medications that Could Be Considered for Use in the Alcohol Dependent Patient

Sodium Oxybate - Promising Addiction Medicine for Alcohol Use Disorder or Drug of Misuse

Sodium oxybate (SO) is a short-chain fatty acid with a structure that is similar to the inhibitory neurotransmitter GABA. SO binds to the GABA - B receptor (Caputo and Bernardi, 2010) and causes an ethanol - mimicking effect (Agabio et al., 1998; Colombo et al., 1995; Gessa et al., 2000). In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved SO as a Schedule III Controlled Substance (brand name - Xyrem) to treat cataplexy and excessive daytime sleepiness in patients with narcolepsy (Pardi and Black, 2006). In Europe, SO is used as an anesthetic for intravenous anesthesia in Germany, and has been approved for the treatment of alcohol use disorder in Italy and Austria. Unfortunately, sodium oxybate is also known as GHB, a drug with a long history of misuse. It has been shown that SO reduces the symptoms of alcohol withdrawal syndrome in humans by an

indirect activation of GABAA receptors. A Cochrane review showed that SO (50 mg/kg/day) is more effective than placebo and as effective as benzodiazepines for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal (Leone et al., 2010). It also appears from research that SO is superior to Maltrexone and Disulfiram in maintaining alcohol abstinence, and to Disulfiram in reducing alcohol craving (Leone et al., 2010). In another study, SO plus Naltrexone were superior to either SO or Naltrexone alone in achieving and maintaining alcohol abstinence in almost 70 percent of alcoholics after three months of treatment (Caputo et al., 2007).

Concern has been raised about the risk of developing addiction to, or the misuse of SO. However, clinical trials have shown that episodes of craving for and misuse of SO in alcoholics are a very limited phenomenon (about 10%) and cases of death have not been documented. Thus, following simple rules of administration (i.e. not exceeding 50- 100 mg/kg fractioned into three to six daily administrations), SO may be considered a safe and efficient drug for the treatment of alcohol use disorder, treating both the withdrawal symptoms and the craving for alcohol.

Gabapentin Treatment for Alcohol Dependence

In a randomized clinical trial (12 week, double blind, placebo controlled), Mason et al looked at the use of Gabapentin, a calcium channel/ γ -aminobutyric acid-modulating medication,

to see if its use increased rates of sustained abstinence, reduced heavy drinking days, and decreased alcohol-related insomnia, dysphoria, and craving, in a dose-dependent manner. Gabapentin dosages included: 0 [placebo], 900 mg, or 1800 mg/d) with concomitant manual-guided counseling. The results show that Gabapentin significantly improved the rates of abstinence and no heavy drinking. The abstinence rate was 4.1% in the placebo group, 11.1% in the 900-mg group, and 17.0% in the 1800-mg group. The no heavy drinking rate was 22.5% in the placebo group, 29.6% in the 900-mg group, and 44.7% in the 1800-mg group. Similar linear dose effects were obtained with measures of mood, sleep, and craving. There were no serious drug-related adverse events. The researcher's conclusion was that Gabapentin, (particularly the 1800-mg dosage) was effective in treating alcohol dependence and relapse-related symptoms of insomnia, dysphoria, and craving, with a favorable safety profile.

(JAMA Intern Med. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2013.11950 - Published online November 4, 2013)

NEW! OASAS Nursing Corner

Welcome to the OASAS Nursing Corner. As an ongoing part of the newsletter, this column will provide an opportunity for nurses working in the field of addiction to obtain information relevant to their practice and will focus on nursing education, training and regulations in addiction.

Why Become a Certified Addictions Registered Nurse (CARN)?

- Certification attests to attainment of specialized knowledge beyond the basic nursing credential.
- Certification serves to maintain and to promote quality nursing care by providing a mechanism for nurses to demonstrate their proficiency in the addictions nursing specialty.
- Certification documents that special knowledge has been achieved, elevates the standards of addictions nursing practice, and provides for expanded career opportunities and advancement within the specialty of addictions nursing.
- Thus, certification benefits the nurse, the profession of nursing, and the public.

Eligibility Requirements

- Hold a current, full, and unrestricted license as a registered nurse (RN) in the United States.
- Have a minimum of 2000 hours (one year) of nursing experience related to addictions as an RN in a staff, administrative, teaching, private practice,

- consultation, counseling, or research capacity.
- 30 hours of continuing education related to addictions nursing within the last three (3) years.

Exam Periods and Application Deadlines

- Certification testing is conducted twice a year (May and October) with applications due beginning April 1 through September 1 for the respective testing periods. For more information go to www.intnsa.org and click on Certification.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the NYS Chapter of IntNSA, please send an e-mail to Becky Weakley Eisenhut, MS, RN, CASAC, CARN, at becky.eisenhut@nysna.org.

OASAS ATC Spotlight

The St. Lawrence Addiction Treatment Center (SLATC) is one of twelve inpatient treatment facilities operated and governed by the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. It is located on the campus of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric



Center. The St. Lawrence Addiction Treatment Center was established in 1967 as an Alcoholism Rehabilitation Unit (ARU) operated as a service by the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center. In 1980, governance was transferred from the Office of Mental Health to the recently-formed Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, now the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and the ARUs were re-named Alcoholism Treatment Centers (ATCs).

Since then more changes have taken place. In 1983, capacity was reduced to 40 beds. In 1985 sobering-up and detoxification services were discontinued, concluding a three-year phase out. In 1998 legislation was passed in New York State (Chapter 248 - Laws of 1998) renaming the facilities Addiction Treatment Centers to more accurately portray their scope of services and current operation.

St. Lawrence is currently licensed for 40 clients with the ability to house 12 female and 31 male beds. The ATC services approximately one-third of the geographic area of New York State with a population of about one million. Services are provided to eligible substance-dependent persons who reside in this service area.

In 2004, SLATC became the first ATC to offer services for gambling addiction. St Lawrence currently has three credentialed gambling counselors (CASAC-G and CPGC). Between 5% and 10% of St. Lawrence's patient population is treated for pathological or problem gambling. Many are identified during the assessment process and others are referred specifically for gambling treatment from all areas of New York State.

The gambling treatment patient attends all classes and group therapy. The comprehensive treatment plan focuses on individual counseling, gambler's group therapy and outside resources like Gamblers Anonymous (GA). Focus is on relapse prevention, anger and stress management and finances. We suggest that the problem gambler (PG) patient not look at the difference between themselves and the other addictions, but the similarities. St. Lawrence ATC was recognized by the members of New York Counsel on Problem Gambling during the 2010 conference with a Treatment Award. To date, SLATC has helped hundreds of NYS compulsive gamblers recover. The Perception of Care Survey System is intended to support service providers in implementing effective client surveys as part of their Quality Improvement (QI) program. Open-ended write-in questions are included so that clients can provide program managers with concrete ideas for quality improvement. Guidelines are developed to assist providers in administering and utilizing their perception of care surveys as part of a client-driven quality improvement protocol at the programs level.

In 2013, St. Lawrence decided to look at our patient's Perception of Care by utilizing the Patient Perception Survey (POC). This system enables our program to collect, enter and analyze our own patient survey data. The POC rating scale includes: Access and Quality, Perceived Outcome including Social Connectedness, Readiness for Change, and Program Recommendation.

Prior to the OASAS POC survey, the only means of patient feedback were patient satisfaction surveys taken a few days before successful discharge. With POC, St. Lawrence has been able to not only survey all patients, but were able to target patients during week one, two, three and week four; therefore collecting data for an entire years patient population. This data can help make program or protocol changes to decrease premature discharges and make SLATC a better facility for all patients. With two quarters completed (comparing 1-6 days to 7-13 days) the analysis of the data indicates an overall increase in the patient satisfaction and "stage of change" progression from week one to week two. With only week one and week two completed, even more significant change with weeks three and four is expected.

Patient Advocacy FAQs

Mike Yorio, Patient Advocacy Supervisor

The Patient Advocacy FAQs will be included in each edition of the newsletter. In addition to addressing patient complaints, OASAS Patient Advocacy advises provider staff on matters related to patient rights and treatment standards. For immediate assistance, patients may call 1-800-553-5790 and staff may call 646-728-4520. Here is a sample of questions addressed by PA recently.

Is it okay for a program to have different sliding scales for different patients: one for working patients and one for those receiving Social Security?

PA: Although some programs have special categories for needy patients, I am not aware of any program that uses different scales based on the source of a patient's income. Unfortunately, treatment is not free. All patients are expected to be responsible and pay for treatment, either out-of-pocket or through insurance coverage, as the situation warrants. While programs not funded by OASAS have a bit more leeway with patient fees, programs funded by OASAS must use a sliding scale to determine a fee for employed patients and for those not covered by insurance. Sliding scales are often based on total family income, with accommodations for total family expenses. Programs are not allowed to collect fees from any person covered by Medicaid. Non-working or non-insured patients should apply for Medicaid, as many patients may be eligible for such coverage, which could pay for treatment. Social Security benefits are paid to a recipient and special rules apply to persons classified as addicts. For continued payments, treatment for addiction is required, if available. However, treatment is required only if the person meets the definition of "disability" in the law and the addiction is a contributing factor to the disability. If the disabled recipient qualifies and is a resident in a program, he/she must designate a "representative payee" [the program] to receive those payments on his/her behalf. Finally, please know that many programs have a staff person dedicated to address fees and insurance-coverage issues. If your program has such a person, by all means, speak to that person and fully explain your situation so that a fair fee-assessment can be made.

I work in an outpatient program. Recently, a former patient, who is now in jail, requested a partial copy of their treatment record. After an exchange of correspondence, the patient complied with the program's procedure for requesting records. However, I never processed a request for a partial record and never from a person in jail. Can I send a partial record to a person in jail?

PA: Yes to both. You may send a partial record, and you may send it to a person in jail. With proper consent, New York State law and OASAS regulation [Part 815.4(k)] entitles patients to a copy of their records. Often, people requesting copies do not need a whole record, therefore, requests for only certain portions or pages of a record are perfectly appropriate. In

addition, persons requesting records may pick them up in person, arrange for a family member to pick up, or arrange to have the records sent to any address listed in the request, even a jail. By the way, programs may charge a reasonable fee to copy a patient's record and must complete record requests within 15 calendar days.

I go to an outpatient program. Recently, just before my group session started, the program supervisor asked if staff could search all the patients. I was really caught by surprise, as I have never been asked this question at an outpatient program. Like everyone else, I allowed the search, really, because I was too afraid to say no. Is it legal for an outpatient program to search patients, and what would happen if I said no?

PA: Your question caught me off guard too! In general, only residential programs search patients, essentially, to protect all patients against contraband. I contacted your program and spoke with the supervisor. She explained that several patients complained of other patients exchanging prescribed medicines on program premises and in the parking lot outside the program. Since staff are cautioned against taking action directed toward a specific patient based simply on a report from other patients, the supervisor felt she had to do something to protect the program and to protect other patients. Therefore, she made a one-time request of patients that day to empty their pockets voluntarily. No staff touched any patient and there would have been no adverse consequences if any patient refused to empty their pockets. With that explanation and under that circumstance, I had no issue with the outpatient program conducting the search. Incidentally, program requirements regarding patient searches and patient consents can be found under Part 815.10. *If you have a question that you would like to see addressed in the Patient Advocacy FAQs column, please send it to Mike.Yorio@oasas.ny.gov.*

Administrative and Fiscal Guidelines for Funded Providers Updated

OASAS has issued revised Administrative and Fiscal Guidelines for funded providers effective December 2013 and posted the updated version on the OASAS website at www.oasas.ny.gov/regs/documents/AFGuidelines.pdf.

Please review the revised guidelines being mindful to note the changes to existing policies and addition of some new ones. To assist you in this review, OASAS would like to highlight the following areas or revision:

- addition of a section on insurance requirements;
- addition of a section about Medicaid compliance and excluded providers;
- addition of a section explaining the role of OASAS' Fiscal Audit and Review Unit (FARU) and process for

- recoupment of state aid;
- clarification of procurement expectations;
- clarification about use of fund raising revenues;
- inclusion of the requirements of Executive Order 38;
- inclusion of processes necessary for any changes to employee compensation; and
- revisions to policy related to leases.

Chautauqua County Family Drug Forums

The OASAS Bureau of Adolescents was awarded a three-year Cooperative Agreement for State Adolescent Treatment Enhancement and Dissemination (SAT-ED) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in October 2012. One of the many goals of OASAS and this grant is to ensure that there is family involvement for adolescents who are seeking treatment for substance abuse services.

Family forums are being scheduled throughout New York to obtain a New York State family dialogue that will aid in the development of a plan for increasing the family voice in addiction services for adolescents. Chautauqua County held their first family forum on March 12, 2014. This was the first of many forums to come.

Below is part of an article that was recently published by The Buffalo News in regards to a family forum that was held in Chautauqua County.

MAYVILLE - During the week of March 9, Chautauqua County Executive Vincent Horrigan and Mental Hygiene Commissioner Patricia Brinkman held several Community Drug Forums.

The two family forums in conjunction with the major community event were held at the Jamestown Community College North County Center, 10807 Bennett Road, Dunkirk. The second family forum was held at the Carnahan Theater at Jamestown Community College, 525 Falconer St., Jamestown. Both of the family forums were led by parent representatives from the state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and offered families of those struggling with addiction the opportunity to share their stories, identify system barriers and suggest courses of action going forward.

"The issue of substance abuse in our county is a top concern of mine, and we need to come together to find real solutions," Horrigan said. "Together with my co-moderator, Dale Robbins, we will moderate this forum to engage the conversation and find real solutions to help address the terrible impacts of substance abuse in our community."

To read the full article, visit [The Buffalo News](#) website.

OASAS Releases Statewide Comprehensive Plan 2013-17

OASAS announces the release of its [Statewide Comprehensive Plan 2013-2017](#) developed in accordance with Section 5.07 of the Mental Hygiene Law. The Plan highlights OASAS' collaborative efforts with state and local partners to implement a more coordinated system of care that addresses the behavioral and physical health care needs of individuals with substance use disorders. OASAS continues to focus on maintaining access and improving outcomes for individuals receiving prevention, treatment and recovery services.

Prequalification Requirements for Not-for-Profit Contracts

All not-for-profit grantees are required to prequalify prior to any grant application and/or execution of a contract or a contract amendment. OASAS will not be able to enter into contracts with any grantee who has failed to complete the prequalification process. This includes the new five year operating contracts that are scheduled to start July 1, 2014, for NYC providers and January 1, 2015, for Upstate providers. To learn more about prequalification, go to the Grants Reform website (www.grantsreform.ny.gov/Grantees) where you can preview questions and required documents.

Outreach Training Institute Announces Professional Development Training Programs

Outreach Training Institute (OTI), which offers an all-inclusive program for Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) training, has announced their 2014 professional development training series for substance abuse and behavioral health clinicians in the field. Registration is currently open for trainings through June, and all courses will provide OASAS-approved re-credentialing hours. The training programs reflect what addiction professionals need to be effective and current, including evidence-based practices, and state-of-the-art knowledge and approaches.

Some featured training programs include:

- * The DSM-5 Changes: What the Addiction Professional Needs to Know (3 hours);
- * Motivational Interviewing (12 hours); and
- * Cultural Competence in Substance Abuse Treatment (6 hours)

For more information on training programs and how to register, visit www.opiny.org/prof-dev-trainings.

OASAS Staff Participates at the 25th Annual Field and Career Fair Day Hosted by University at Albany School of Social Welfare

OASAS staff attended the 25th Annual Field and Career Fair Day hosted by The University at Albany School of Social Welfare.



Pictured L-R: Gerry King, Walt Davies, Nafeesah Potts (OASAS MSW Intern) and Barry Donovan

MSW interns will be recruited for field placement opportunities focusing on administrative practices in the Bureau of Prevention Services and the Northeast Field Office in

September 2014.

The MSW Internship experience will span from September 2014 to May 2015 and provide experiences regarding policy development, program outcome measurement, reporting compliance, and also allow for community coalition collaboration. The field placement experience will also provide prevention training opportunities and allow for the application of social work principles in administrative settings.

OASAS Celebrates National Women's History Month

Each year, March is designated as [National Women's History Month](#) to ensure that the history of American women will be recognized and celebrated in schools, workplaces, and communities

throughout the country. This year's theme, *Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment*,



Some members of the Women's History Month Committee pictured with Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez and the Honorable Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany Mayor.

honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women.

Commissioner González-Sánchez hosted OASAS' celebration of Women's History Month on Thursday, March 20, at OASAS' offices in Albany and New York City. This year's guest speaker was Kathy Sheehan, one of three newly elected mayors of

upstate New York cities, joining Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren and Saratoga Springs Mayor Joanne Jepsen in their positions. Of cities in the US with populations of more than 30,000, only 18% have women mayors. Kathy Sheehan was elected mayor of Albany in 2013. Prior to being elected mayor, Mayor Sheehan was the Albany city treasurer, taking office in 2010. Mayor Sheehan is the first female mayor of our state's capital city and the first new mayor of Albany in 20 years. We appreciate her dedication and support to the OASAS mission.

Also in observance of Women's History Month, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo encouraged residents and visitors alike to [learn about New York women's contributions](#) to history, culture and society and celebrate in Women's History Month. For more information about women's heritage sites, visit www.hallofgovernors.ny.gov/wh/Womens-History or the New York State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation's [Women's Heritage Trail](#) and its Heritage Trail map.

For questions and/or comments about this newsletter, please send them to communicator@oasas.ny.gov.