



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,

As prom season comes to an end, we still want to make parents and the community aware of the 1-866-UNDER21 hotline for ongoing use. This eighth edition of the OASAS Communicator since the start of 2012 continues to highlight the great work being performed throughout our addiction field. Here is more good news to share with you. We will continue to update you on upcoming initiatives.

Sincerely,

*Arlene González-Sánchez
OASAS Commissioner*

Governor Cuomo Announces Multi-Agency Initiative to Help Prevent Impaired Driving During Prom and Graduation Season

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that three state agencies have launched an initiative that will help curb impaired driving by underage youths and ensure that teenagers - during prom and high school graduation season - are aware of the extreme dangers of getting behind the wheel of a car while intoxicated.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) has teamed up with the state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the New York State Police to promote the "It's Your Community, It's Your Call" hotline. The hotline

encourages individuals to call 1-866-UNDER21 to report underage drinking, potentially helping stop young people from driving under the influence of alcohol. The hotline goes directly to [State Police](#), who forwards the call to the appropriate jurisdiction. The anonymity of callers is protected.



Other Recover

NEW: "What's New?" on the OASAS Website

Quick Links

Website

About OASAS

OASAS Services

Programs

OASAS Mission:

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

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View our videos on **YouTube**



Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo

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

News Relating to the New Justice Center

Dear Providers,

Editorial Boards across New York have been commenting on



Governor Cuomo's proposed legislation to create a new Justice Center. The Governor's proposal to protect over 1 million New Yorkers with disabilities and

special needs has also generated considerable interest and discussion in our field. Many programs and coalitions have weighed in supporting the proposed Justice Center.

Here are some links to what Editorial Boards across the State are saying about the Governor's proposed Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs:

- The *New York Times* calls the Governor's legislative package **"a sensible, straightforward proposal that legislators and unions should support."**
- The *Syracuse Post-Standard* says, **"Our most vulnerable citizens deserve no less."** [Click here](#) to read the full editorial.
- Newsday calls the Governor's plan, **"a sweeping and smart new way to get this vital job done."** [Click here](#) to read the full editorial.
- The *New York Daily News* calls it a **"critically necessary reform effort."**
- The *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* writes: **"The state Legislature should get behind Cuomo and adopt his proposals before adjourning next month."**
- The *Journal News* writes: **"Gov. Cuomo's proposed Protection of People with Special Needs Act takes a giant leap toward providing such protection."** [Click here](#) to read the full editorial.

We encourage you to visit www.Justice4SpecialNeeds.com where you can:



Commissioner Arlene
González-Sánchez



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Visit the [OASAS Contact Us
Webpage:](#)

for links and phone
numbers to OASAS program
area experts.

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- Submit a video testimonial;
- Support the Governor's proposal online through Twitter and Facebook;
- Send emails to family and friends encouraging them to take action; and/or
- Stay in touch with the Governor's Office on the issue.

This is a message on behalf of Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), Albany, New York, 12203.

Veterans Roundtable Held in New York City

On May 11, OASAS Executive Deputy Commissioner Kathleen Caggiano-Siino and Veterans Coordinator Paul Noonan attended a convocation of leaders and stakeholders from both the public and private sectors of New York City on behalf of OASAS. This group was brought together with the primary objective of formulating a plan to ensure that veterans returning to the metropolitan area have access to and receive the services they need.

This was the third Veterans Roundtable held by the [Services for the Underserved \(SUS\)](#), with the first two taking place in May and October of 2011, respectively. As such, this event sought to build upon the progress and achievements resulting from the first two roundtables which included the primary leadership goals of providing a single point of access for veterans and their families whereby enabling them to identify, research, and apply for available housing, find jobs, enroll in mental and physical wellness programs as well as receive information about other resources.

New York State Council on Returning Veterans and their Families Meeting Held in New York City

The New York State Council on Returning Veterans and their Families was established by Executive Order in 2008. Three years later, Governor Andrew Cuomo expanded the Council's purpose and role by directing it to include many responsibilities, some of which included: increasing public awareness of the needs for returning veterans and their families; conducting education and outreach to ensure that veterans and their families are aware of available resources and services to help them address physical health, mental health and substance abuse problems resulting from active duty; properly identifying veterans and their families and ensure that they are aware of and have access to available benefits and services; and identifying and eliminating barriers to the prompt and accurate diagnosis of physical disabilities, medical conditions, mental illnesses and/or substance abuse disorders affecting returning

veterans and their families.

On May 24, the Council held its quarterly meeting at the SUNY Global Center in New York City. During this meeting, each member agency reported on various activities relating to veterans services. As an example, a significant portion of the discussion was devoted to the Governor's ["Experience Counts" program](#), which is operated by the Department of Labor. This program was established by the Governor's Office to improve labor market opportunities for returning service men and women and to help match a soldier's military occupation and skills with the corresponding civilian equivalent. This initiative is nearing its formal launching point.

Also discussed during this meeting was DHCR's Veterans Affordable Housing program. Paul Noonan, the Coordinator of Veterans Services and OASAS' representative on the Council, delivered an update on the agency's efforts to establish treatment beds for veterans in addition to training efforts designed to improve service provider capabilities in serving this population.

The next meeting of the Council will take place on September 12.

OASAS Holds Preventing FASD Symposium on Sustaining Project CHOICES

On May 15 and 16, OASAS held a Symposium on Preventing [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders](#) (FASD) entitled Sustaining Project



CHOICES. The event was co-sponsored by the Women, Children and Family Services Committee of the New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers. This informative program was the final event of the OASAS initiative to implement Project CHOICES to prevent

alcohol-exposed pregnancies. Participants shared the lessons learned and findings from their project sites in implementing Project CHOICES and also showed others how they can successfully integrate Project CHOICES into their treatment planning. The audience heard first-hand from several Project CHOICES counselors about their experiences. The event brought together treatment and prevention providers, government staff, FASD trainers, and many of our partners from developmental disabilities, perinatal networks, mental health, children and family services and members of the FASD Prevention Task Force.

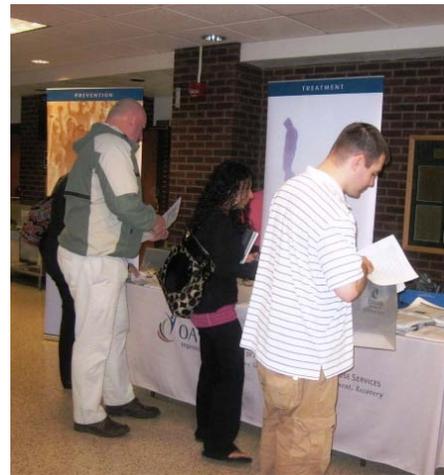
On behalf of Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez, Executive Deputy Commissioner Kathleen Caggiano-Siino provided welcome remarks to kickoff the Symposium. The goal of Project CHOICES is to prevent alcohol-exposed pregnancies by utilizing Motivational Interviewing to address risky alcohol use and ineffective use of contraception. Project CHOICES was funded in February 2008 in New York State for a four-year period with a grant from SAMHSA's FASD Center for Excellence to implement this new cutting edge approach. Initially, OASAS funded three residential women's treatment sites to implement Project CHOICES. Since then, the project has expanded across the State to include outpatient as well as residential treatment, and co-ed programs as well as women-only programs.

OASAS would like to acknowledge the OASAS Project CHOICES Team: Margo B. Singer, Dianne O'Connor, Dr. Maria Valenti and former project evaluator Shirley DeStafeno for their commitment to this initiative. We would also like to recognize the guidance of the FASD Prevention Task Force.

The success of Project CHOICES is recognized nationally and was recently included in the SAMHSA National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. OASAS has prepared an Implementation Took Kit for those who are interested and it will be available on the OASAS website soon. For more information about this project, you may visit the [OASAS website](#).

2012 Fifth Addiction and TBI Conference

On Tuesday, May 22, 2012, the upstate OASAS TBI Committee, Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) and the Brain Injury Association of NYS sponsored a training entitled, "*Addiction & Brain Injury: Opportunities & Challenges*" with more than 240 attendees. The overall goal of this training was to familiarize providers with information on brain injury and addiction, with an emphasis on treatment tools and community resources.



The event began with opening remarks provided by OASAS Executive Deputy Commissioner Kathleen Caggiano-Siino. Presentations from a variety of experts included information on identifying brain injured patients, treatment strategies, an adolescent roundtable and additional resources were available to

providers treating this population. The conference was held at SCCC, Begley Hall, located at 78 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, New York.

OASAS would like to sincerely thank the following members of the planning sub-committee for their work in organizing and hosting this annual event: Cher Montayne, JoAnn Miele and Linda Valenti.

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.



Suzanne Alger is the PARIS Help Desk at OASAS. Sue is the first responder for users of the prevention data system who have questions or problems -- our front-line problem solver.

PARIS is a web-based system that integrates prevention planning, service delivery, and monitoring components including a local needs assessment, a service delivery plan for twelve months, a

county and agency workplan review process, and reports to provide feedback to both providers and oversight agencies. Because PARIS is flexible to accommodate the variety of service types employed by providers, and because activity data entry is structured by the workplan specifications, each PARIS user has a unique interaction with the system.

Sue is very successful in addressing user questions in the arenas of system administration, workplan design, activity data entry, and reports. Even more importantly, she is able to solve problems that result from the relationship between the workplan and the data collection components, often resolving issues in the activity data collection section of PARIS by suggesting modifications to a provider's workplan specifications. She has also developed a personable, patient and knowledgeable style. In the past year, Sue has achieved a satisfaction rating of 98 percent as determined by an ongoing survey sample of Help Desk contacts.

Sue has worked for OASAS in a variety of roles since 1980 and is currently an Agency Program Aide in the Bureau of Prevention Services. Since early 2009, she has been able to leverage all of her background experiences within OASAS to bring a truly multifaceted toolkit to her assignment as the primary Help Desk responder. Sue is very deserving of recognition for her patience and willingness to work with callers on a myriad of problems so as to make PARIS work for the users (instead of making the users work for PARIS). OASAS owes her a very hearty thanks for her truly exceptional skills and approach to her job -- she is an exceptional ambassador for our Agency.

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.

Training Program Developed for Parents to Help Defend Children from Online Drug Threats

The Treatment Research Institute has developed a training program for parents that provides practical recommendations to help them defend their children from these online drug threats. Some of the most basic recommendations include:

- * Setting limits on Internet use and availability depending on the age and maturity of the child. (These limits need to be discussed with the child - see below.)
- * Discussing your house rules related to Internet use with the parents of the friends your child visits. Make sure that your child is not able to engage in unmonitored or inappropriate Internet use while at their friends' homes.
- * Remaining calm and having a plan as to what to do if you discover inappropriate use. (Keep in mind that children are naturally curious and there can be many reasons why they happen upon a particular website. Don't overreact!)

FYI - Zannie Air Freshener

Zannie Air Freshener is available over the internet and is sold as a 48 hour air freshener. However, according to different blogs on the internet and a recent SAMHSA Overdose Surveillance meeting, users spray the product into their mouth. Effects start in one to two hours and include: amnesia; CNE depression; ataxia; lethargy; and

confusion.

The spray is actually a delivery system for phenazepam, a benzodiazepine. It has been used in the Soviet Union to sedate patients prior to procedures and effects can last more than 48 hours. Use with another sedative could lead to overdose and death. It is thought that routine drug screens could be positive for benzodiazepines. Treatment so far has been supportive.

Teens End Up In Emergency Room After Drinking Hand Sanitizer (4/2012)

After six teenagers suffered alcohol poisoning from drinking hand sanitizer in California, public health officials are warning parents to look out for signs of abuse. Some of them used salt to separate the alcohol from the hand sanitizer. This makes it a drink that is similar in potency to a shot of hard liquor, the article notes. Liquid hand sanitizer is 62 percent ethyl alcohol, and can make a 120-proof liquid.

* Monitoring your child's Internet use and making use of commercially available parent controls. Placing the computer in a central area of your home can make this easier.

* Having a formal or informal contract with children about the proper use of the Internet and making clear the consequences for misuse. (Be sure to follow through with those consequences when misuse occurs.)

* Having children walk parents through the places they go online, and who they communicate with (their contacts).

ATC Spotlight

Stutzman Addiction Treatment Center ([SATC](#)) is a 33-bed addictions inpatient, rehabilitation program operated since 1967 by the State of New York. Providing services to the Western Region of New York State, SATC is integrated into the fabric of the community. SATC serves the underinsured and "working poor" of the region.



Thirty-five percent of our patients do not have health insurance or the ability to pay for treatment. The SATC Resource and Reimbursement Agent accompany and help patients navigate the Department of Social Services.

SATC offers discrete programming to male patients ages 18-25.

- These young men attend a process group geared toward their age specific needs and live in private rooms on the same corridor.

SATC is an early adapter of trauma-informed treatment.

- All patients receive a trauma assessment. Two types of trauma groups are available. One focuses on skills development using DBT and EMDR techniques and the other is a process group.
- Parents and Their Children (PaTCh) Program is the only program in the State that allows both fathers and mothers to bring their preschool age children into treatment with them. While parents attend counseling programs during the day, children attend daycare located on the campus which is a short walk from Stutzman. In the evenings the parent and child work on parenting skills in an atmosphere of recovery. Children are also able to visit overnight with parents on the weekends. This allows parents and children to reestablish their relationship and heal.

Announcement of Deeming Initiative Between The Joint Commission and OASAS

OASAS has begun implementation of a "deeming" process for the certification of Part 818 and Part 816 programs operated by a general hospital. For qualifying hospitals that choose to participate this means, in lieu of a licensing survey conducted by OASAS, OASAS will accept the accreditation survey of the chemical dependence treatment programs conducted by TJC.

The Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) goal to reduce duplication of effort while maintaining the highest standards of care was realized through OASAS' collaboration with The Joint Commission (TJC), the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYNS) and the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA).

OASAS' statutory and regulatory authority permits extending this program to other modalities and utilizing other accreditation organizations to which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have granted deeming status. OASAS will notify providers if and when similar agreements are reached with other accrediting organizations.

More details and required forms are available on the OASAS website by selecting the "Forms" tab and "Regulatory Forms Category" link.

Outreach Named Again as *One of the Best Companies to Work For in New York State*

The fifth annual *Best Companies to Work for in New York State* survey and awards program identifies and honors the best places of employment in New York State. Since its inception in 2007, the Best Companies program has quickly become a prestigious honor for winners.



As stated in a recent Outreach newsletter: Outreach, the noted drug and alcohol treatment program with offices in Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island, has been named one of the Best

Companies to Work for in New York State for the third consecutive year.

In this year's competition, the non-profit organization ranked among the top 26 small/medium-sized employers (those with fewer than 249 employees) in the state, according to the New York State Society for Human Resource Management. Its director presented the award to Outreach president and CEO Kathleen Riddle at the fifth annual awards program in Albany.

Outreach is a nonprofit organization committed to addressing the issues stemming from drug and alcohol abuse by providing the highest quality of life-changing drug and alcohol treatment and training services.

For more information about Outreach's treatment and training services for teenagers and adults, call at (718) 847-9233 or visit www.opiny.org. For more information on the *Best Companies to Work for in New York State* program, please visit www.BestCompaniesNY.com.

Horizon Health Services Recognized for the Fourth Consecutive Year as One of the *Best Companies to Work For in New York State*

Horizon Health Services is pleased to announce that it has been named one of the *Best Companies to Work for in New York State*.

Horizon Health Services is one of 50 organizations that were selected for recognition in the prestigious fifth annual awards program.



Created in 2007, this program evaluates and ranks the best places of employment in the State based on employee satisfaction and engagement, as well as workplace practices and policies. 2012 has marked the fourth consecutive year that Horizon has been named one of the *Best Companies to Work for in New York State*. The employee benefits are over the top due to the hard work of the Employee Services team at Horizon who consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that all Horizon employees know how much they are valued each and every day.

Lisa Arnet, Vice President of Corporate Relations, along with her team of Katie Chambers and Rachel Gibb look to update the incentive package for employees as much as they can to set Horizon apart from so many other companies in the area. The recognition and team building events, along with amazing discounts for employees at local area businesses and ongoing training and education at Horizon are just a few of the "wow" benefits which acknowledges the work-life balance that Horizon wants to create and encourage in their employees.

Horizon was honored at an awards dinner on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at the Albany Marriott, during which their rank and unique employment perks was revealed.

A special publication highlighting the *50 Best Companies to Work for in New York State* was also produced for distribution to the event attendees and members of the New York State Society for Human Resource Management (NYS-SHRM), as well as universities and colleges statewide.

For more information on the *Best Companies to Work for in New York State* program, please visit www.BestCompaniesNY.com. The *Best Companies to Work for in New York State* program is a partnership between the NYS-SHRM, The Business Council of New York and Best Companies Group. The 2012 event is sponsored by Jackson Lewis, LLP.

2012 marks the fourth consecutive year Horizon has been named one of the *40 Best Companies to Work for in New York*, and *Business First Best Place to Work*. For more information about Horizon, visit www.horizon-health.org.

Recovering and Helping Others Recover

Thursday, May 24, 2012, BRATTLEBORO -- As case manager for the RISE program at the Phoenix House on Western Avenue, John Colleran has recognized that look in his clients' eyes when they make the decision to begin turning their lives around.

The men usually show up at Phoenix House angry, having been

ordered there after some kind of run in with the law or after hitting the bottom with friends and family.

So the initial few days can be difficult, but eventually, under the best circumstances, the men get a look that Colleran recognizes and he knows that every day, from then on, is going to be a little bit better. Colleran can see that turning point because he has worked with dozens of Phoenix House residents over the years.

To read the [full news article](#), visit the Brattleboro Reformer Newspaper website.

"What's New?" on the OASAS Website

- [Archived video of May 23rd meeting of the New York State Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services](#)
- [New Addiction Medicine FYI: 21st Birthday Celebration: Physical Consequences and Behavioral Risks \(Part Two\)](#)
- [Ancillary Withdrawal Management for 822 Programs PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Prescription Rx Drug Misuse Resource Added: TAP 32: Clinical Drug Testing in Primary Care](#)
- [Workshop PowerPoint Presentations for the 2012 TBI Conference - Addiction and Brain Injury: "Challenges & Opportunities" available online](#)
- [Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Brings Commissioner of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Services to our Community](#)
- [Free OASAS-Sponsored Regional Training - Motivational Interviewing \(August 8-9, 2012\)](#)
- [March 6, 2012 Administrative/Regulatory Relief Meeting Minutes available online](#)
- [The Impaired Driver System \(IDS\), web-based data collection, tracking and reporting application, is now fully implemented.](#)
- Updated FASD Resources:
 - [FASD in the News](#)
 - [FASD Information on the Net](#)

For questions and/or comments about this newsletter or if you would like to contribute an article,
please contact:
Jannette Rondó
, OASAS Communications Director at communicator@oasas.ny.gov.

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