



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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Dear Friends,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our providers who assisted us in getting our voices heard for the establishment of the Justice Center. Your efforts in spreading the word through tweets, posting on Facebook, and attending presentations throughout the state helped ensure that those we serve, especially the most vulnerable, will receive the appropriate quality of care throughout the human services system.

Sincerely,

*Arlene González-Sánchez
OASAS Commissioner*

Thank You for Helping Us Deliver Justice

Dear Friends:

Over the last six weeks, hundreds of thousands of people, self-advocates, and family members have helped give more than one million New Yorkers with special needs the protection and justice they deserve.



This week, the State Legislature passed Governor Cuomo's Justice Center bill, establishing the strongest standards and practices in the nation to protect those with special needs and disabilities. This new law will create a new Justice Center that will track and prevent, as well as investigate and prosecute,

reports of abuse and neglect.

[Click here to read more about the agreement.](#)

This could not have happened without the actions many of you

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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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took: Attending events, emailing friends and family, sharing www.Justice4SpecialNeeds.com on Facebook and Twitter and making your voice heard.

The Governor's new Justice Center includes:

- An Executive Director, Special Prosecutor and Inspector General, and a substantial staff of trained investigators, lawyers and administrators to investigate reports of abuse and neglect and prosecute allegations of criminal offenses.
- Creation of a statewide 24/7 hotline staffed by trained professionals to ensure that allegations of abuse are promptly reported to law enforcement and fully and effectively investigated.
- Comprehensive Statewide Database to track and monitor abuse complaints in order to spot trends.
- Development of a register of workers who have committed serious or repeated acts of abuse who will be prohibited from ever being hired again in any position where they would work with people with disabilities or special needs.
- Consolidation of Background Checks on individuals applying for a job or other position dealing with people with special needs and disabilities across certain state agencies.
- Development of common standards for investigations and requirements to be used to train investigators.
- Strengthened Anti-Abuse Laws, including enhanced criminal penalties for endangering the welfare of people with disabilities and special needs, and a stronger ability for prosecutors to prove cases of sexual abuse.

[Click here to read the full text of the legislation.](#)

Thank you for helping us deliver justice!

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

Statement from Governor Andrew Cuomo on the Passage of Legislation to Protect People with Special Needs and Disabilities



Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo



Commissioner Arlene González-
Sánchez



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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
Laura Perry

June 20, 2012 -- "For too many years, we have heard story after story of abuse and mistreatment in facilities that are supposed to care for those with special needs and disabilities. With the legislation passed today, New York is standing up to say enough is enough. The Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs will ensure that the more than one million New Yorkers with disabilities and special needs receive the proper treatment that they deserve. Protecting the civil rights of vulnerable individuals was one of my top priorities this legislative session, and with this new law, New York State has raised the bar to put in place the strongest standards and practices in the nation for protecting people with special needs. I thank the thousands of New Yorkers, including my colleagues in the Senate and Assembly, who joined in the fight to take action and bring justice to the system. Without their help, the passage of this important legislation would not have been possible."

The 12th Annual Supported Housing Network Statewide Conference Held in NYC

On June 7, 2012, the Supportive Housing Network of New York (SHNNY) held its 12th Annual Statewide Conference at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. During this conference, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Kathleen



Caggiano-Siino as well as Housing Director, William Panepinto, both participated as panel speakers on behalf of OASAS. More than 1,200 consumers, advocates and Housing service workers attended. The highlight of this year's Conference was a joint New York State and New York City announcement detailing the development of several thousand new units of Permanent Supportive Housing designed to help single adults with chronic psychiatric, addiction, and medical conditions stabilize their lives. Many of these individuals experience episodes of homelessness as well as requiring acute hospitalizations and emergency room services.



The Medicaid Re-Design Team (MRT) convened an Affordable Housing Work Group comprised of a wide range of stakeholders last October, leading to formal recommendations for creating Permanent

Diane Moxham
Elizabeth Dunn

Supportive Housing access to all communities in New York State, patterned after the successful New York/New York III Homeless Housing initiatives in operation since 2007 in New York City. More than 3,000 individuals have been placed in permanent housing and have not returned to homelessness.

The OASAS MRT Housing Initiative was described in detail at a major Workshop at the SHNNY Conference attended by several hundred interested participants.

NYS and NYC Seek to Double Supportive Housing for People with Special Needs by Using Medicaid Savings

New York State Housing and Community Renewal (HCR) Commissioner/CEO Darryl C. Towns, New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Commissioner Mathew M. Wambua and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman John B. Rhea used the annual Supportive Housing Network of New York (SHNNY) conference to announce a joint plan to dramatically increase the number of supportive housing units produced yearly while lowering Medicaid costs.

Under the City's New Housing Marketplace Plan (NHMP) alone, the number of supportive housing units financed will climb from around 500 units a year to 1,000 units. The partnership between the State and City brings together new tools and resources aimed at driving down Medicaid expenditures and creating appropriate housing for New York City's special-needs population. Supportive housing is geared to low-income households. A typical development will have 60% of the units reserved for formerly homeless households and incorporate social and support services.

To read the [full release](#), visit the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development website.

Walter Ginter to Receive Vernon Johnson Award

Faces & Voices of Recovery and the Hazelden's Center for Public Advocacy will sponsor a [reception](#) on June 27 in Washington, D.C. at



*Used by Permission of
Faces & Voices of Recovery*

the Carnegie Institute for Science to recognize the outstanding contributions of Walter Ginter, Project Director of the Medication-Assisted Recovery Services (MARS) Project. Mr. Ginter, one of this year's [Vernon Johnson Award recipients](#), is one of the most influential leaders and voices for medication-assisted treatment and recovery in the United States.

If you would like to learn more about this event which highlights the extraordinary contributions of the country's most influential recovery community leaders to the growing movement to promote the reality of recovery from addiction, visit the [Faces & Voices of Recovery website](#).

Congratulations to Walter Ginter as well as all of the award recipients!

Phoenix House Foundation Board Welcomes Commissioner

By invitation from the Phoenix House Foundation Board of Directors, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez attended their June 14 meeting. The Board members were particularly interested in discussing the current health care reforms and how these changes will affect their programs, OASAS policy, and treatment services. Commissioner González-Sánchez emphasized that OASAS is working to ensure that the management of substance use disorder Medicaid benefits will result in improved access to care, better outcomes for patients, and the ability to reinvest any savings in areas of need, such as housing and case management. She restated her position that as we move forward, we will always put the needs of the individuals we serve in the forefront of everything we do.

Additionally, the Commissioner discussed highlights of the Governor's proposal to create a new [Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs](#). She also encouraged providers to review the Governor's [Executive Order No. 38](#) to limit state-funded administrative costs and executive compensation, and take advantage of the 45-day comment period to ask questions and seek clarification regarding the impact of this regulation.

The Phoenix House Foundation Board of Directors has a long history of taking an active and important role in the governance of the agency and they are actively engaged with the management of the program. This meeting further demonstrates their commitment to ensure that Phoenix House is appropriately

managing their programs for the future of behavioral health services in New York State.

Mental Health Association (MHA) of New York City Hosts Annual Benefit Dinner

Each year, the [Mental Health Association \(MHA\) of New York City](#) hosts a benefit dinner to raise awareness about the mental health effects of concussions and traumatic brain injuries. Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez served on the Honorary Committee for this year's event held on June 5, 2012, in New York City. Also in attendance were New York State Commissioners, Senators, Council and Assembly Members, as well as representatives from various disciplines such as health and behavioral health care, government, politics, sports, business, real estate and philanthropy. The theme was "*Bridges to Mental Health: A Celebration of Hope.*" The honorees this year included, Harry Carson, a New York Giants Hall of Fame Linebacker and Sylvia Mackey, the widow of Baltimore Colt Hall of Fame Tight End John Mackey.

For more than 40 years, MHA-NYC has been a leader in mental health service, advocacy and education. You can learn more about their services, including LifeNet, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and the Veterans Crisis Line, by visiting their website at www.mha-nyc.org.

OASAS Commissioner and SAMHSA Regional Administrator Visit the OASAS HOPEline Call Center in New York City

On June 14, 2012, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez and Dennis O. Romero, Region II Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, visited the OASAS HOPEline



headquarters at the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA of NYC). During the visit, they met with the Executive Staff, toured the HOPEline call center and listened on a few calls with the staff and MSW student interns. This was the Commissioner's second visit in a few months and Mr. Romero's first visit.



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Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, Problem Gambling

The HOPEline serves 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.

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.

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.

For the past 33 years, Doug Rosenberry has served New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) in many capacities including, Talent Management/Workforce Development, Fiscal Evaluation and earlier in his career Communications. Doug's vast knowledge of the state system, impeccable writing skills and never ending patience, tact, diplomacy and grace have allowed him to create many partnerships and alliances both statewide and nationally such as:



- Vice President of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC), an international certifying body for addiction professionals;
- Steering and Advisory Committees of the Northeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center;
- Developed Administrative & Fiscal Guidelines for OASAS Funded Service Providers;
- Coordinated development of fiscal oversight protocols and training sessions for field staff to support OASAS Commissioner's priority of enhanced fiscal monitoring;
- Coordinated day-to-day interactions with multiple Federal and State audit and investigative agencies (e.g., Federal Single Audits, Office of the State Comptroller);
- Authored "The Addictions Profession: A Workforce in Crisis" - a 2002 report that established the need to reverse the trends in the loss of qualified staff from the shrinking addictions workforce in New York State;
- Co-chaired the Talent Management Committee - a group of 60 plus experts that have designed and implemented strategies and actions which have a positive impact on a multitude of issues/challenges facing leaders, supervisors and line staff who comprise NYS' addictions workforce;



- Oversaw a creative partnership that included an MOU with the Department of Labor which transferred \$500,000 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to provide training for unemployed and underemployed individuals to become Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors;
- Chaired an interagency training effort known as the State

Board Training Consortium, a statewide comprehensive training program for Board members who serve on nonprofit Boards in New York State;

- Chaired a Counselor Scopes of Practice Work Group (representatives from the chemical dependence service delivery system, education and training organizations, etc.), which developed standards and career ladders for counselors to assure they are performing tasks within a reasonable range of their competency (based on licensure, credentials, education level, work experience); and
- Authored OASAS' statutorily required report to the State Education Department (SED) on the Utilization of Personnel subject to the provisions of the Social Work and Mental Health Practitioner Licensure exemption.

It goes without saying that Doug's hard work and dedication will be greatly missed at OASAS and by the addiction professionals he has served in New York State. Please join us in wishing Doug a Happy Retirement and all the best in his future endeavors!

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.

Cocaine overdose 'antidote' in the future?

The potential effects of a cocaine overdose can be devastating - including stroke, seizure, kidney failure and even death. Scientists at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California have come up with an injectable solution that has been shown to reverse the effects of cocaine overdose in mice. There are vaccines in development for heroin and nicotine that are described as "active" vaccines. These vaccines provoke a long-term antibody response but take weeks to have an effect - usually by binding with the drug and not allowing the larger molecule to get past the blood-brain barrier. The new vaccine is "passive", meaning a solution of drug-specific human antibodies that can quickly bind to the cocaine in the body and render them ineffective. The antibodies bind to cocaine and remove it either through the kidney or the liver - or it's just degraded. The antidote either sequesters [cocaine] in the blood or pull them out of the brain. The antibodies can't go into the brain themselves.

In order to create the antidote, the researchers used a genetically

engineered mouse that produced human antibodies to target the cocaine. The research antibody reduced the mortality rate to zero. Not only were the researchers successful in preventing death from cocaine overdose, they were equally effective in reducing pre-morbid behaviors in the mice such as seizures, twitching and erratic movements - mannerisms that could indicate brain damage.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 400,000 emergency room visits each year are cocaine-related in the United States, while over 5,100 people die from overdose. With such a promising life-saving antidote on the horizon, the researchers are now trying to determine a way to produce a large amount of their vaccine inexpensively and efficiently - so they can make the case to move on to human trials.

Methadone Misuse and Bath Salt Use Causing PRES

Pandya D. et al. in April 2012 presented at the 64th American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting where they reported previously unreported etiologies of PRES (Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome). The use of methadone and bath salts caused near fatal PRES.

PRES is a clinical and radiological entity characterized by:

- headache;
- variable mental status;
- seizures;
- visual disturbances; and
- transient changes in the posterior cerebral perfusion.

PRES's etiology is controversial, though it may be secondary to toxin induce endothelial dysfunction or relative hypertension causing imbalanced forces in the blood vessels.

PRES is typically associated with a benign prognosis. The authors presented two patients with near fatal PRES related to bath salt use and methadone misuse.

- *Patient 1:* A 26-year-old male presented with acute altered mental status secondary to methadone overdose. Six days after admission patient noted to have new onset seizure, worsening mental status and imaging consistent with PRES. He was treated with anti-epileptics and supportive care. Two days later patient developed signs of brain stem herniation and further imaging revealed uncal and tonsillar herniation with hemorrhages.
- *Patient 2:* A 51-year-old male presented comatose after use of "Bath Salts". Imaging confirmed PRES and course was complicated by hydrocephalus requiring extra

ventricular drain placement and aggressive intracerebral pressure management.

Free Clinical Supervision Training Opportunity Offered by the New York Council on Problem Gambling (NYCPG)

To all Problem Gambling Treatment Providers:

OASAS is pleased to inform you of a free training opportunity offered by the New York Council on Problem Gambling (NYCPG). The clinical supervision training is intended for problem gambling treatment providers. The sessions are facilitated by international problem gambling expert Joanna Franklin, one of America's most sought after trainers of problem gambling clinicians. No travel is required; all sessions are conducted from Noon until 1:00 p.m. via conference call. They are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month during 2012, with the exception of October and December. To see the full schedule and/or to register, visit the [NYCPG Website](#). Out of state professionals can participate for a fee of \$15 per person. For more information, e-mail Michelle Hadden of NYCPG at mhadden@nyproblemgambling.org.

APG Part 822-4 and Part 822-5 Clinical and Billing Refresher Offered

This Ambulatory Patient Group (APG) online training highlights: Medicaid APG Billing for Part 822-4 Outpatient Clinics; Updated billing requirements/claim submission rules effective for dates of service 7/2/2012 forward for Part 822-5 Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs); and, Clinical guidance and clarification on select APG service categories that applies to both Part 822-4 and Part 822-5. The trainings may be accessed at www.oasas.ny.gov/admin/hcf/APG/Index.cfm by Thursday, June 28. For additional information, please contact the OASAS Ambulatory Patient Groups Unit Mailbox at APG@oasas.ny.gov.

Call for Nominations: 2013 Service to Science (STS) Initiative

NYS OASAS is seeking interested programs and practices to nominate for CSAP's 2013 Service To Science (STS) Initiative. The Service to Science Initiative aims to strengthen the evaluation capacity of prevention providers to evaluate their innovative new programs to increase the array of evidence-based programs and practices available to states and communities to address specific substance abuse problems and underserved populations. The STS Initiative provides a combination of customized face-to-face training, technical assistance, and online support. Micro-financing to enhance evaluation capacity may be available.

In order to participate in this initiative, programs must be

nominated by OASAS, and meet the following criteria:

- Address substance abuse needs as identified through a local needs assessment or the OASAS Prevention Strategic Plan;
- Deliver new approaches distinguished by their creativity, originality, or adaptation for high risk and special populations;
- Be able to commit the time and effort needed to advance their program along the evidence-based spectrum;
- Have a funding level sufficient to operate the program for at least one year;
- Not have been a past STS awardee.

Additional information may be found at:

www.oasas.ny.gov/prevention/index.cfm#

Free Webinar: Nurturing Recovery in Supportive Housing Webinar - June 25 from 2-3:30 p.m. (E.S.T.)

Nurturing recovery is an emergent concern for grant-funded programs serving individuals experiencing homelessness across the country. Combining theoretical background and practical experience from the field, this webinar will discuss an approach to nurturing recovery in supportive housing. Presenters will discuss techniques for providing a nurturing environment for clients, addressing pitfalls that can stall recovery, and supporting client accountability.

This webinar will feature three presenters who will address the following learning objectives:

- Present strategies for nurturing recovery in congruence with program goals.
- Provide an overview of ways to nurture recovery by developing a sense of home, personal recovery planning, and self-management.
- Highlight one consumer perspective and experience of recovery in supportive housing.

To learn more or to [register](#), visit the [Homelessness Resource Center website](#).

New US Program Helps Older Veterans Retrain, Find Jobs

For Cheryl Blackburn, an Army veteran who lost her job as a leasing consultant in March, the search for new employment has been frustrating. "I wanted to get back in government, but everybody said you needed a degree," said Blackburn, a Washington resident who once worked as a security consultant

for the State Department. "I had the experience, but I needed the degree." Blackburn, 51, is one of the first veterans in the country to sign up for a new program offered jointly by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Labor Department designed to retrain up to 99,000 older veterans for high-demand jobs.

The program, known as the *Veteran Retraining Assistance Program* (VRAP), targets unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60. The program is a key part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act passed by Congress and signed by President Obama late last year.

To read the [full article](#), visit The Boston Globe Newspaper website.

"What's New?" on the OASAS Website

- [OASAS Regulation Information Corner](#)
- [IDMS-3 -- Consent to Release of Information Concerning Subject Charged with Impaired Driving](#) - New Form
- [Clinical Practice Guidance Number 2012.2: Guidance on Referral to a Pain or Addiction Specialist](#)
- [Clinical Practice Guidance Number 2012.3: Guidance on Urine Drug Testing](#)
- [Clinical Practice Guidance #2012.4: Policy for Heat Emergencies](#)
- [FASD in the News](#)
- [2013 Service To Science \(STS\) Initiative - Call For Nominations](#)
- [Free Distance Learning Courses from Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center](#)
- [Addiction Medicine FYI - Phencyclidine \(PCP\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [2012 Outcomes Dashboard](#)

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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