



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,

It was a pleasure to see many of our providers and partners attending the Annual ASAP Conference. This year's event afforded us the opportunity to come together and hear from state and national experts on topics of critical importance to healthcare reform. While we will face many challenges, we must embrace the opportunities created by healthcare reform. Here is more great news to share with you happening throughout the state in the addiction field.

Arlene González-Sánchez, OASAS Commissioner

ASAP 2011 Annual Conference Recap

October 30 - November 2, 2011



The 13th Annual Conference of the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers, Inc. (ASAP) was held this week (10/30-11/2) at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge with more than 500 attendees from the

prevention, treatment and recovery fields, as well our behavioral health partners and other stakeholders.

On Sunday, the conference opened with seven pre-conference institutes which provided participants the opportunity to learn more on specific topics relevant to the health and safety of the individuals and families we serve. On this day, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez spoke to a group of addiction nurses about their importance to the prevention, treatment and recovery team. Commissioner Sánchez also spoke to a group of adolescents in recovery at the Striving for Excellence for Youth institute. She told the group that she was proud of them for their strength and courage; she urged them to stay active in their recovery and to



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

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Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo



Commissioner

become a champion for others in need of help.



Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez also delivered the keynote address at the Opening Plenary session with an important message that the substance use disorder (SUD) providers have the unique expertise needed to ensure that the healthcare transformation to integrated care is a success. She encouraged the providers to be in the driver's seat and to embrace the opportunities ahead as we establish SUD as a critical specialty care component of the new continuum of care.

Next, Commissioner Sánchez introduced her colleague from Massachusetts, Michael Botticelli, Director for Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, who spoke about the Commonwealth's landmark Medicaid Reform legislation and the valuable lessons learned.

Throughout the next three days, conference attendees were able to focus on topics of critical importance to behavioral healthcare in New York State from a selection of nearly 50 workshops. The conference also provided many networking opportunities to strengthen existing relationships or build new ones. Additionally, 50 exhibitors were on hand to showcase their agencies and the services they offer or the products they provide.

OASAS Issues RFP for Family Permanent Supportive Housing

OASAS has released an [RFP](#) for \$1.875 million that will support at least 75 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless families in New York City. This OASAS RFP is another component of the New York/New York III Agreement that has brought together many State and City agencies and departments in a multi-year effort to address homelessness. Eligible applicants include OASAS-certified Agencies and Local Governmental Units (LGUs) that operate OASAS-certified chemical dependence outpatient services, residential services, and/or funded not-for-profit drug-free prevention services in NYC (whether certified or not) who have demonstrated successful experience working with homeless families and managing permanent supportive housing programs. For more information, please visit the OASAS [website](#).

Samaritan Village Women Veterans Program Featured on the CBS Evening News

The Samaritan Village Women Veterans Program, and OASAS provider dedicated to addressing the unique clinical needs of women veterans in a

Arlene González-
Sánchez



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trauma-informed environment, was [featured](#) on the *Sunday Cover with Russ Mitchell* segment of the CBS Evening News this past weekend.

Samaritan Village, Inc. opened the first and only women veterans program in New York State on January 31, 2011. The program is located on the grounds of the Samaritan Village campus in Ellenville, New York, and offers comprehensive addiction treatment and health and mental health services in a beautiful residential setting. There are thousands of women veterans in New York State who have experienced the physical and emotional traumas of combat, in addition to sexual harassment or assault. The new program provides trauma-informed care; treatment for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); gender-specific counseling on issues such as specific military sexual trauma; individual and group counseling; vocational and educational rehabilitation; and family reunification services. In addition, the program has an overnight suite for child visits. To learn more about the services offered at Samaritan Village, Inc. please visit their website at www.samaritanvillage.org.

St. Christopher's Inn Featured on WABC-TV's "Viewpoint"



On Sunday, November 6, 2011, Fr. Bill Drobach, SA, President and CEO of St. Christopher's Inn (SCI), along with two current residents, appeared on [New York Viewpoint](#), a program produced by WABC-TV, which focuses on cultural events and positive community efforts in New York, New Jersey and Long

Island. Viewpoint is a half-hour program, which airs on Sunday mornings at 5.30 a.m. on WABC TV, Channel 7. The program features discussions in the studio with Ken Rosato, the morning and noon Anchor of Eyewitness News. The residents of the Inn answered Ken Rosato's questions about their addictions and spoke candidly about their lives both before and during treatment and recovery at St. Christopher's Inn. After November 6, a link to the interview will be available on the St. Christopher's Inn [website](#).

Celebrating 100 years of service in 2009, the St. Christopher's Inn has long been known as a welcoming environment where men in crisis help each other find their way back to hope. St. Christopher's Inn (SCI) is a residential shelter and substance abuse treatment program in Garrison (Putnam County), New York. SCI serves more than 1,200 residents a year providing them with a unique blend of substance use outpatient services, spiritual guidance, medical and psychiatric care through their primary health care clinic and vocational services in partnership with Project Renewal. St. Christopher's Inn is also a champion of the NIATx process and performance improvement initiatives. SCI works tirelessly towards providing more efficient and better quality services for those they serve.

A follow-up study of SCI clients found that after one year of completing treatment, 46 percent have either completed aftercare or remained in treatment, 89 percent remained abstinent and 78 percent have obtained a job. In response to such success rates, recently Queens Supreme Court Presiding Judge, Honorable Marcia Hirsch, along with several members of her staff, visited St. Christophers Inn. Read more about her visit in an [article](#) published in The Journal News.

O-STARS



Each year the training community honors a member of the human resource development profession with the "Daniel Shaw Memorial Award." This year, Darcy Rickard, Associate Personnel Administrator, from the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, was honored with this award on Friday, October 28, 2011.

This award recognizes an individual who has embodied Dan Shaw's ambassadorial spirit and selfless contributions; a person who has gone the extra mile, while taking on and responding to challenges, thereby benefiting the training community and training professionals. Darcy Rickard has embodied the criteria for this award in her recent and remarkable involvement with the New York State Training and Development Council and the training community as a whole. She has played many roles: leader, negotiator, peacekeeper, promoter of good will, progressive thinker and is an extraordinary representative for the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, as well as the New York State training community.

A few of Darcy's many accomplishments over the past three years include her involvement with the NYS Training and Development Council ("Council") beginning in 2008-2009 when she ran for and was successfully voted in as Secretary to the Council. As Chair-Elect and then Chair to the Council in the subsequent two years, Darcy embraced a leadership and ambassadorial role as she represented the members. She is an innovative thinker, displays a gift for communication, and selflessly contributed to developing and improving partnerships and collaborations with communities with the common interest of sharing knowledge with the workforce.

Congratulations Darcy!

OASAS Announces New Tobacco-Free Educational Tools

OASAS recently announced new tobacco-free educational tools to support the addiction field's efforts in addressing tobacco use throughout their programs. These new resources were developed in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health and can be found online at the [OASAS website](#). These products were produced as a

result of recommendations from providers asking for training tools and reinforcements to remind staff and clients about the importance of promoting tobacco independence. Among these tools is an online tobacco-free educational training video titled "Freedom from Tobacco." This training video is split into two sections, each under 20 minutes, with a goal of providing support and reinforced messages for clients and staff. Section one is the [client video](#) and may be shared with clients individually or in a group setting as clients and family members gain a better understanding of the importance of addressing nicotine and a tobacco-free lifestyle to support life-long recovery. Section two is the [counselor video](#) targeted to support staff and counselors as they integrate tobacco use into the same context of addressing all other substance use disorders. In addition, a new [downloadable poster](#) was designed to reinforce the message of an alcohol, drug and tobacco-free lifestyle. OASAS encourages the addiction field to utilize the new items and be familiar with all available resources to help further their efforts in promoting a tobacco-free lifestyle.



Commissioner Travels to St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center, St. Regis Mohawk Health Services and the St. Lawrence ATC

Arlene González-Sánchez was welcomed by several North Country providers a few weeks ago: [St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center, Inc.](#), [St. Regis Mohawk Health Services](#) and the St. Lawrence Addiction Treatment Center ([ATC](#)).



Her initial visit with St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center, in Saranac Lake, New York, included a tour of their inpatient facility and meetings with the patients, staff and management. Since 1971, the St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers has served more than 12,000 men and women with the desire to recover from addiction. Their inpatient program includes a residential family component

which is operated on the grounds. They were also awarded a 25-bed Community Residence for Veterans under the OASAS 2008 Planning Supplement for 100 Beds for Veterans.

Commissioner González-Sánchez also visited St. Regis Mohawk Health Services to meet with staff and patients as well as to visit their outpatient clinic and health center and the Partridge House Inpatient Rehabilitation Center. At St. Regis Mohawk Health Services, the Commissioner toured the Health Center and its Chemical Dependence and Mental Health Clinics. There was a meeting with the directors of those clinics and the Prevention Director. While visiting Partridge House, the Commissioner was able to sit in for a portion of a group on "Mind-Mapping" that was being conducted by Harvey Herne. Mind-Mapping, as Harvey presents, is taken from elements of the White Bison developed by Don Coyhis. The Commissioner was also interested in the smudge ceremony that was described to her by Lucy Benedict, Acting Program Director of Partridge House as a way to remove negative influences.



The Commissioner's final visit was at the St. Lawrence Addiction Treatment Center (ATC) in Ogdensburg, New York, which is one of 12 inpatient addiction treatment centers operated and governed by OASAS. She toured the facility and visited with some of the patients. The visit concluded with a brief meeting with staff to discuss the future direction of the ATCs.

This 40-bed facility is the only inpatient facility in New York State to treat individuals with a primary diagnosis of compulsive gambling. In addition, the St. Lawrence ATC recently became an active member of the Ogdensburg City Drug Court.

Commissioner Presents at the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS)

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) recently

hosted their statewide conference and clinical forum on October 16 through October 18, 2011, in Saratoga, New York. OASAS Commissioner González-Sánchez spoke at the plenary along with state Department of Health Commissioner Shah and state Department of Mental Health Commissioner Hogan. The plenary was focused on state policy, including the significant work



of the Governor's Medicaid Redesign Team. Commissioner Sánchez spoke to more than 300 attendees on health care reform and the importance of integrating services to deliver person-centered care. She also congratulated CHCANYS on their 40th Anniversary as New York State's primary care association. CHCANYS purpose is to ensure that the medically underserved living in New York State have access to quality community-based health care services. To do this, CHCANYS serves as the voice of community health centers as leading providers of primary health care in New York State. Because of CHCANYS' commitment and ability to serve those who are most in need, they have improved the lives of 1.4 million New Yorkers.

Latino Social Work Task Force Conference Held in NYC

The Commissioner recently participated as a presenter and as one of seven panelists during the first forum session of the Latino Social Work Task Force Conference held in New York City on October 17. This was the 10th Anniversary of this Conference and this year's theme was "Promoting and Supporting Leadership to Strengthen Our Latino Community."

The Commissioner also addressed the group of several hundred conference attendees consisting mostly of social workers, students, and not-for-profit leaders and social work education professors. She discussed her experiences and perspectives regarding the role of the State and social welfare policies including mental health restructuring and the challenges facing the Latino community and innovative ways to meet those needs.

Camelot Counseling Centers Celebrates their 40th Anniversary

Camelot Counseling Centers celebrated its 40th Anniversary Recognition Night Dinner on Thursday, September 29, at *The Staaten* in West Brighton, Staten Island. The Camelot Family Foundation sponsored the event. The dinner chair was longtime Camelot supporter John Z. Marangos, a Grasmere, Staten Island-based attorney.

Camelot was founded in 1971 by the Staten Island North Central Kiwanis. Two of the founding members, Harold Kaplan and Lou Milone, were in attendance.

Honorees were recognized for their involvement in Camelot's mission. A non-profit organization, Camelot provides outpatient and residential counseling and other services for chemical dependency treatment on Staten Island and in other boroughs.

Senator Charles E. Schumer received the Thomas I. Wilson Award for his aggressive efforts in addressing and curtailing the misuse of prescription drugs. His efforts have served the critical function of identifying the existence of this grave public health problem and its impact. Other awardees included: Ralph DaCosta Nunez, president and CEO of Homes for the Homeless and Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo, president/CEO of National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers.

Scholarship Opportunity To Attend College on Problems of Drug Dependence Conference

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), formerly the Committee on Problems of Drug Dependence, has been in existence since 1929 and is the longest standing group in the United States addressing problems of drug dependence and abuse. Each year, CPDD sponsors a conference which serves as a forum to bring together basic scientists and clinical investigators from industry, academia, and government. Representatives of regulatory agencies, as well as scientists and professionals in a number of diverse disciplines interested in the biochemical, behavioral, and public health aspects of drug dependence participate.

This year's conference is being held June 9 through June 14, 2012, at the La Quinta Resort and Club, Palm Springs, California. Each year, SAMHSA/CSAT offer scholarship applications for program directors and clinical supervisors. This is an excellent opportunity to attend one of the premier research conferences held annually with support from SAMHSA/CSAT. The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) will sponsor up to 30 Travel Awards for substance abuse treatment practitioners to attend the 2012 CPDD meeting. All expenses will be covered: i.e., conference registration, airfare, travel to and from the airport, and hotel accommodation.

To be eligible, candidates must hold full-time employment as a director or clinical supervisor in a substance abuse treatment program based in the U.S. Applicants may not be an employee of the federal government. Further, a direct supervisor will need to agree to allow the applicant to attend if selected. Only one award will be given to any specific program. Previous CSAT travel award recipients are not eligible to apply. Applicants will be sent e-mails by the end of March indicating award status. Complete applications must be received

on or before January 10, 2012. Individuals interested may apply [here](#). For further inquiries, e-mail mh235@columbia.edu or send a note to Dr. Meg Haney, Chair CPDD Travel Awards Committee, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University, 1051 Riverside Drive, #120, New York, NY 10032. For more information about the conference, please visit <http://www.cpdd.vcu.edu/>.

OASAS Releases Statewide Comprehensive Plan 2011-2015

OASAS recently released the [Statewide Comprehensive Plan 2011-2015](#). The [Plan](#) was developed in accordance with Section 5.07 of Mental Hygiene Law. The OASAS 2011 Outcomes Dashboard is the foundation for the Plan. The Dashboard advances Governor Cuomo's pledge to bring greater accountability and transparency to government and is part of Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez's commitment to better integrate outcomes management into the work of the agency and the field.

OASAS will maintain access to care as the highest priority while advancing its mission: *To improve the lives of all New Yorkers by leading a premier system of addiction services through prevention, treatment, and recovery.* OASAS values your feedback and invites you to complete our online evaluation [survey](#).

Free OASAS-Sponsored Regional Trainings

OASAS offers many free [learning and development](#) and [regional training](#) opportunities. The following were recently added to the OASAS website: *Vocational Rehabilitation/Employment and Criminal Justice Educational Series: Veteran's Concerns Update* scheduled for November 21, 2011, and *The Use of Criminal Records and the College Application Process* on December 7, 2011.

For more information about these trainings and other learning opportunities, visit the OASAS [website](#).

Fall 2011 Open House Planned for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Health Center Bronx Lebanon Hospital

A Fall 2011 open house is planned for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Health Center Bronx Lebanon Hospital in the Bronx, New York on Thursday, November 17, 2011, from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 321 East Tremont Avenue. An update regarding the services offered by the program will be provided as well as information about their forthcoming new building.

The Center provides a complete range of outpatient addictions services for adults including intensive and non-intensive levels of care, DWI services, NYS

DDP, anger management groups, relapse prevention and motivational enhancement groups, art and music therapy groups, and psychiatric services. The center also offers special language services that include Spanish. They also have two community residences. For more information or to RSVP, call Demetrila Nelson, LCSW, MA, at 718-518-3736 or Fred Roche, MSW, CASAC-T, at 718-518-3765.

New Mobile-Optimized Addiction Medicine FYI Pages Available



OASAS is pleased to announce the availability of a new feature designed to improve access to our Addiction Medicine FYI pages for cell phone users.

The new mobile-optimized pages are located on the public website at www.oasas.ny.gov/AdMed/FYI/. This new design facilitates easier navigation through the various topics regarding the continuing FYI series and will help to keep the field current on interesting and emerging issues in addiction.

For information on **grant and funding opportunities**, visit the OASAS [website](http://www.oasas.ny.gov/hps/grants/index.cfm) (www.oasas.ny.gov/hps/grants/index.cfm).

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