



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 had the opportunity to visit with several providers throughout the state. This newsletter includes some of these visits along with recent announcements such as the 2011 Scorecards for substance use disorder treatment programs; the Supervisory Learning Session recently held; and the upcoming OASAS Learning Thursday Series for acclimating providers and staff about Health Care Reform. I look forward to continuing to update you on more news, events and initiatives at OASAS.

*Arlene González-Sánchez
OASAS Commissioner*

Ribbon Cutting Held for New Training Institute "Beyond Mars"

During the ribbon cutting ceremony on November 17, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez and Ira Marion, Assistant to the University Chairman at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in NYC, jointly cut the ceremonial ribbon to commemorate the grand opening of the Medication Assisted Recovery Support (MARS) Training Institute. This Training Institute, known as Beyond MARS, is the result of the successful MARS project which for the past five years has pioneered the use of peer recovery support services in conjunction with methadone treatment at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. This one of a kind project has been so successful that SAMHSA provided new funding to train opioid treatment programs to replicate the MARS project across the nation.



Commissioner Sánchez Speaks to Phoenix House Treatment Graduates and Their Families

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OASAS Mission:

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

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Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo

Phoenix House held their Annual Recovery Celebration on November 18 at the Hotel Pennsylvania in NYC. This annual celebration was held in honor of those individuals and their families who have recently completed treatment. Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez addressed the audience of more than 350 people and encouraged the graduates to stay active in their recovery and to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Other speakers include members of the Phoenix House management team, alumni, honorary graduates, and a musical solo performance.

Acacia Network Welcomes Commissioner Sánchez and Staff

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez along with Gideon Rabino, Bronx Field Coordinator and Elena Bravocruz, Program Manager, visited Acacia Network (Promesa, Basics and UBP) during the last week of



November to meet with Raul Russi, Chief Executive Officer; Hector Diaz, President; Pamela Mattel, Chief Operating Officer; and Milagros Baez O'Toole, Chairwoman of Acacia Network. They visited BASICS' residence and outpatient services, La Casita III (UPB), the Methadone to Abstinence Residential program

(MTAR) and the Detox programs at PROMESA.

The meeting was held at the Executives Office at the Promesa site located in the Tremont section of the South Bronx. The Commissioner was briefed on the OASAS' certified ACACIA operation, met staff and clients and enjoyed visiting with the babies at the Women's and Children's residence (La Casita III).



Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez



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Commissioner Visits Loyola Program at Albany Stratton VA Medical Center

During a recent visit to the Loyola Program at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center, Commissioner Sánchez received a tour of the program and had an opportunity to speak with some of the staff. The Commissioner also briefly met with Chris Wilkins, Sr. President and CEO of Loyola Recovery Foundation. This program has been operating in Albany since 2010 and serves multiple counties within a 100 mile radius. They also operate a similar program at the Bath Veterans Administration facility.



Commissioner presents CASAC of the Year Award at Odyssey House Graduation Celebration

On Tuesday, November 29, Commissioner Sánchez attended a graduation celebration for individuals who have recently completed treatment and their families. Approximately 100 people attended the celebration.



The Commissioner addressed the graduates to commend them for taking the first steps on the road to recovery. She also recognized Odyssey House staff for their skills and knowledge and touted Odyssey House as an innovative national leader in the treatment field. Additionally, Commissioner Sánchez presented the 2011 CASAC of the Year award to Odyssey House staff Mr. Andre Matthews for his dedicated professionalism in the addiction field. As the CASAC of the Year recipient, Mr. Matthews will receive free renewal of his credential for life.

O-STARS

Dean Hale is a CASAC and Certified Recovery Coach. He is also the co-founder of INSIDE ADDICTION. After 15 years of active addiction, Dean entered his recovery process through McPike ATC in Utica. Since then he hasn't looked back! After treatment he went back to school, got his CASAC, and has worked in several different capacities including as a clinician in a halfway house, inpatient detox/rehab, and currently within an intensive residential setting at The Bridge Center in Schenectady, N.Y. He has also worked as an Intervention Coordinator and Interventionist and has testified in front of the New York State Assembly about the importance of the availability of Substance Abuse Services for the thousands of people still in need. Dean has dedicated his life to educating others about addiction, recovery and spreading the message of hope.



Dean is most proud of the community education work he does through co-producing a Public Access Television/DVD Series sharing the experience, strength, and hope of recovering addicts and those affected by addiction that has been viewed across Upstate NY, MA, and VT as well as seen in 28 countries around the world on YouTube at www.youtube.com/insideaddiction.

INSIDE ADDICTION also shares the latest headlines, news, and views about addiction and recovery and offers daily inspirations at www.insideaddiction.org

Dean has learned that he can only keep what has been given to him if he gives it away. He regularly volunteers and speaks to Middle and High School students about the dangers and consequences of addiction. When asked how long he plans on doing this he responds, "I was part of the problem for 15 years, I plan on being part of the solution for even longer."

OASAS Announces Scorecards for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs Across New York

The 2011 Scorecards for substance use disorder treatment programs across the state were announced last week. The scorecards are available on the OASAS website and are accessible

through the Provider Directory [search function](#). This is the first time that the scorecards will be available to provider agencies, local Governmental units, referring agencies, consumers, family members and the general public. Each scorecard presents information across five domains: service access, program quality, patient outcomes, cost efficiency, and regulatory compliance for the particular program and comparison data for similar programs across the state. These elements reflect the most widely accepted components of high quality treatment through research, state and federal law, and regulation. OASAS expects that the production of widely accepted performance information will be a catalyst for continuous system improvement, which is the hallmark of a high performing system. Please send any comments or feedback to scorecard@oasas.ny.gov.

OASAS Holds Supervisory Learning Sessions

Supervisory Learning webinars will be held for one hour every month on topics to help OASAS supervisors and managers in their important role as leaders. These sessions will cover several aspects of public personnel administration and labor relations as well as reaffirm and share good management practices. They are intended to engage the audience in topics designed to enhance supervisory and management knowledge and practices throughout the organization.

The first session was held on November 17, and was led by Executive Deputy Commissioner Kathleen Caggiano-Siino on Strength-Based Feedback. There were 106 statewide participants. Supervisors and managers may listen to the session by accessing "Training," then "Supervisor's Toolkit" on the OASAS intranet. The next session is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on the topic of Planning for Performance.

OASAS HOPEline Recognizes MSW Intern Program with Hunter and NYU School's of Social Welfare

OASAS and the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA) recently recognized eight incoming MSW student interns and field placement supervisors at a kick off breakfast located at the OASAS HOPEline site in New York City. As part of a collaborative effort to educate and engage students to further develop their knowledge and expertise in the addiction field, the HOPEline supports eight interns every year. The MSW interns answer HOPEline calls two days a week and are placed in an OASAS facility one day a week. This year, the following OASAS programs are supporting students from the HOPEline:

- Beth Israel
- Reality House
- COAP Program at Inwood Community Services

- Columbia Gambling Disorders Clinic
- NY Foundling

The [OASAS HOPEline](#) receives about 2,200 calls a month for information and referrals related to addiction services. All callers are offered a follow up call within 48 hours to assist with additional needs if necessary. Caller satisfaction surveys indicate over 96 percent of callers found the information provided to them helpful and are likely to refer someone to the HOPEline. Staff answering the Hopeline are masters-level clinicians or interns with training in substance abuse and problem gambling as well as motivational interviewing. Supervision is provided on an individual and group basis as well as through live call monitoring for quality assurance and improvement.

OASAS would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their support and contributions to this effort: Juanito Vargas, Director, MHA OF NYC LifeNet Operations; Ellen Friedman, MHA OF NYC OASAS HOPEline Supervisor; Kakano Oduka, Hunter MSW Liaison; Alison Aldrich, NYU MSW Liaison; Susan Mcquirk, MSW Supervisor for Aaron Levine and Sabrina Luciano, Beth Israel; Onaje Muid, MSW Supervisor for Allie Calnan, Reality House; Awilda Torres, MSW Supervisor for Ashley Owen and Lindsey Hart, COAP Program at Inwood Community Services; Marcela Hoffer, MSW Supervisor for Dasha Dubenskaya, Columbia Gambling Disorders Clinic; Dr Carlos Blanco, MSW Supervisor for Elizabeth Gimbel, Columbia Gambling Disorders Clinic; Ramon Welsh, MSW Supervisor for Farhad Mofidi, NY Foundling; Sharon Robinson, NYC OASAS Program Manager, MSW Field Placement Liaison; Rebecca Cooper, OASAS Addictions Program Specialist 2; and Laura Perry from the OASAS Communications Bureau.

The Lighthouse Women's Residence Celebrates their 10th Anniversary Serving Women and Children

Lake Shore Behavioral Health Inc. is proud to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the [Lighthouse Women's Residence](#), a 12-month intensive residential program for pregnant and parenting women and their children. The Lighthouse offers a positive alternative to women who might otherwise be faced with the difficult choice of not entering treatment or separating from their children.



In November 2001, The Lighthouse Women's Residence in Buffalo,

New York opened its doors. During the last 10 years, they have created an environment that reinforces healthier living and improved parenting skills for women and their children affected by chemical dependency. By providing a structure that is firm yet supportive of the individual needs of the women entering the program, women are able to address issues of guilt/shame, trauma, addiction, mental health, effective parenting and coping strategies.

The Lighthouse utilizes a team approach that includes clinicians, case manager, parent trainers, nurses, a psychiatrist, and resident support staff. The program works collectively with other community agencies to access additional services for their families.

The Lighthouse is able to work with women who have more than one child up to the age of 11. The strong emphasis on milieu based parenting interventions makes this an especially effective program for women facing the dual challenge of providing adequate parenting while addressing their substance abuse problem.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration included residents and also guests from the community. There was also a special agency presentation from Lake Shore Behavioral Health Inc. President Dr. Howard Hitzel, Director of Chemical Dependency Barbara Hicks and Program Director Milly Colón. They greeted guests in the reception area with big smiles and escorted them to the dining room, where a light lunch was provided. The lunch was prepared by the residents and kitchen staff. Following lunch, the clients took the guests on a tour of the facility.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Lighthouse staff!

OASAS EUDL State Coordinator Featured in SAMHSA Newsletter Regarding CSAP Underage Drinking Video

OASAS Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) State Coordinator, Walter Davies, was recently featured in SAMHSA's "Behind the LENS Newsletter" regarding the making of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Underage Drinking Video.



To read the interview, please visit SAMHSA's [StopAlcoholAbuse.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov/stopalcoholabuse) website

SAMHSA Announces Two New Tobacco Use Cessation Advisory Publications

SAMHSA Announces two New Advisory Publications: "Tobacco Use Cessation During Substance Abuse Treatment Counseling" and "Tobacco Use Cessation Policies in Substance Abuse Treatment: Administrative Issues."

SAMHSA's "Tobacco Use Cessation During Substance Abuse Treatment Counseling," Advisory, Volume 10, Issue 2, offers substance abuse treatment counselors a brief introduction to tobacco use cessation techniques that can be used during substance abuse treatment. The Advisory also provides resources for additional information on the topic.

"Tobacco Use Cessation Policies in Substance Abuse Treatment: Administrative Issues," Advisory, Volume 10, Issue 3, provides program administrators with a brief introduction to implementing tobacco-free policies and practices in treatment settings.

The Advisories are available for download at:

<http://www.kap.samhsa.gov> or through the following links:
["Tobacco Use Cessation During Substance Abuse Treatment Counseling," Advisory, Volume 10, Issue 2.](#) (670 KB/8 pp.)

["Tobacco Use Cessation Policies in Substance Abuse Treatment: Administrative Issues," Advisory, Volume 10, Issue 3](#) (680 KB/4 pp.)

New OASAS Learning Thursday Health Care Reform Series to be Available in December for Providers

Are you curious about Health Care Reform? With all of the talk about the topic lately, you may be wondering how it is going to impact your work in the coming year. OASAS would like to help you to prepare for the upcoming changes so that you can thrive during the transition process. Please join us for our December Learning Thursday Series, "Healthcare Reform, Behavioral Health Organizations, and Health Homes: A Series about the Implications for the Addiction Professional." You'll receive the latest, most practical information about what to expect in 2012 as well as have an opportunity to get answers to your questions. The health care system most certainly won't be transformed overnight, so why not prepare now?

All Learning Thursday presentations are approved for initial or renewal credentialing hours. For information about the series and how to register, please visit the OASAS [website](#).

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).

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