

February 22, 2010

Attention All OASAS Funded Prevention Providers:

As you may recall, on September 26, 2008, OASAS issued Local Services Bulletin No. 2008-04 (<http://www.oasas.state.ny.us/mis/bulletins/lsb2008-04.cfm>) which, for the first time, introduced prevention credential and staffing standards for community and school-based prevention programs in New York State. The LSB, which was developed in response to concerns that credentialed prevention practitioners were not recognized as being on par with other credentialed professionals and that prevention programs lacked uniform standards for professional staff, set the stage for prevention providers to begin assessing their staffing patterns and planning for how they could comply. The LSB indicated that, effective July 2010, all OASAS funded community and school-based prevention programs will be required to demonstrate that the individuals overseeing prevention services and 25% of those providing prevention services are: credentialed prevention professionals; or licensed/credentialed in related disciplines with two years of work experience and 60 hours of prevention-specific education/training.

With the impending enactment of these new staffing standards, it is essential that prevention providers who have not taken the necessary steps to evaluate their compliance, do so. In most cases, compliance may be attained by documenting existing prevention specific training that staff have completed anytime during the course of their careers, and if needed enrolling staff in qualifying training programs. To assist you and your staff in meeting these requirements, we have provided the link (above) to LSB 2008-04 and attached a flyer which outlines free prevention training opportunities that are currently available.

Effective immediately, OASAS has also elected to grant a waiver to persons whose CPP, CPS or CASAC has expired for two or more years which will permit them to apply now to reinstate their credential using the fee structure that will be adopted when the new Part 853 Credentialing Regulations are promulgated. This new fee structure will significantly reduce the cost of reinstatement from the current maximum of \$650 (for applicants more than 5 years expired) to a maximum of \$350 (\$150 renewal fee and \$200 in late fees). More importantly, this will provide a timely opportunity for previously credentialed professionals to comply with the new prevention staffing requirements.

If you have questions regarding the staffing requirement, the reinstatement process or how to become credentialed, please contact the OASAS Credentialing Unit at 800-482-9564 (option 1). You may also contact OASAS' Bureau of Prevention Services at 518-457-4384.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo
Commissioner