

**Administrative/Regulatory Relief Provider Work Group Meeting
March 11, 2008**

On March 11th the Administrative/Regulatory Relief Work Group met to review and discuss the efforts of the five subcommittees. Alexis Gadsden and Charles Monson once again thanked the Work Group and subcommittees for all of their hard work.

Commissioner Karen Carpenter-Palumbo provided support and encouragement for the Work Group and outlined a plan to provide immediate administrative, regulatory and paperwork relief to providers.

The Patient-Centered Regulatory Reform and Patient-Centered Care and Documentation subcommittees presented six regulatory and/or policy items that, if eliminated and/or revised, would provide immediate relief for providers. After considerable discussion, the Work Group identified three regulatory items for further OASAS consideration (i.e., revisions to the 1 in 10 individual counseling requirement as well as to the face-to-face medical assessment requirement and prior physical exam time frame, and deletion of the admission and discharge utilization review). It was planned that the Bureau Director for Standards Compliance and the Technical Assistance Unit Manager would present the Work Group's recommendation to the Executive Team on March 24th.

Statewide regional provider forums continue to be planned around the State to assist providers in building a foundation for excellence, increasing continuous compliance and Medicaid audit readiness, as well as to provide for a dialogue on performance improvement, clinical supervision, as well as best, promising and evidence-based practices.

The first regional "Gold Standard Partnership and Dialogue on Treatment" forums scheduled include: Suffolk County on April 16th; Rochester on April 25th; Nassau County on May 5th; and New York City on June 23 and 24. These Forums are being developed as an ongoing initiative that will provide a wide range of learning and development opportunities to regional provider groups, and will provide flexibility in subject matter to meet the identified needs of each region.

During a working lunch there was an update on OASAS' waiver process from Mark Boss, OASAS Counsel's Office, who is the Chair of the Waiver Committee. There will now be routine, monthly waiver committee meetings, as well as posting of common waivers on OASAS' Web site. OASAS will provide a timely review and response to provider waiver requests.

The OASAS Reporting Requirements subcommittee advised that consideration is being given to the following: no longer requiring MATS consent forms in counties where MATS services are not available, and providing PAS Form clarification/simplification. In addition, client data system reports will be made available to providers in spreadsheet format.

The Uniform Reporting subcommittee reported that work on the uniform client progress report form continues and that meeting is being arranged with the Office of Court Administration for further discussion of this initiative.

The Electronic Records Subcommittee reported that discussions continue concerning the merging of the Subcommittee with OASAS IT Work Group.

Charles Monson provided an overview of OASAS Metrics, with emphasis on the Gold Standard Partnership. It was agreed that each subcommittee would report back by May 11, 2008 relative to their progress and that the entire Work Group would meet again on June 17, 2008 in Albany.