

Bulletin



news from the division of mental hygiene

Alan Mathis Named Chairperson of Federation for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services

THIS YEAR, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH) Division of Mental Hygiene (DMH) named Alan Mathis Chairperson of the Federation for Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Alcoholism Services.

Dr. Lloyd I. Sederer, Executive Deputy Commissioner for DMH, said, "We are pleased to welcome Alan Mathis as our new Federation Chair. Mr. Mathis has a wealth of experience and an impressive reputation in the mental health and substance abuse field. His leadership will serve to enrich an already dynamic and committed organization."

The Federation is an advisory body comprising providers and consumers of mental hygiene services throughout New York City. It includes an executive committee of approximately 40 members, as well as more than 100 committees and sub-committees addressing a wide range of mental hygiene issues. The Federation fulfills the State's mandate for borough-based mental health, mental retardation/developmental disabilities and chemical dependency services planning.

"For many years, the Federation has provided valuable input to the City as it seeks to meet the mental hygiene needs of New Yorkers," Mathis said. "I am honored to work with such a knowledgeable and committed group. As Chairperson, I would like to see the Federation continue to move forward and become an even more meaningful and relevant part of the planning process for addressing mental health, mental retardation/developmental disabilities and chemical dependency services."

Mr. Mathis is currently President and CEO of the Lower Eastside Service Center, Inc. (LESC), a community-based organization that provides a comprehensive network of human services at six locations throughout New York City. As Mathis describes it, LESOC "rehabilitates and restores individuals—body, mind, and spirit—empowering lives, preserving families, and strengthening neighborhoods."

Mr. Mathis is passionate about providing high-quality, individualized treatment to New Yorkers in need. Mathis said LESOC's treatment plans reflect the philosophy that "a single treatment path does not fit all." He and his staff tailor treatment plans and services to create life-empowering solutions for each client's personal needs.

Prior to joining LESOC, Mathis served as the Director of the Narcotics Rehabilitation Center at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City for five years. He began his public service career as a budget analyst for the

NYC Department of Sanitation.

Mr. Mathis has also served as Secretary for the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State, and as Chairperson of the Curriculum Development Committee for the Committee of Methadone Program Administrators. ■



Division of Mental Hygiene Plans for "Personalized Recovery Oriented Services" Conversion

THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HYGIENE is in the midst of extensive planning to implement a new initiative of the State Office of Mental Health (SOMH) called Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS). PROS is a new program licensing category which offers the opportunity to integrate treatment, support, and rehabilitation services into one comprehensive recovery-oriented program for adults who are seriously and persistently mentally ill.

Under this initiative, existing psychosocial clubs and vocational and rehabilitation programs must apply to become licensed as a PROS program. Providers of these programs can choose whether they wish to provide clinical treatment services in addition to three required services: Community Rehabilitation and Support; Intensive Rehabilitation; and Vocational Support. Existing Continuing Day Treatment Programs (CDTP) have the option of converting to PROS or retaining their CDTP licenses. Programs that currently only provide Intensive Rehabilitation and

Vocational Support services have the option of applying for a "limited" PROS license.

The PROS initiative replaces deficit contract funding for the affected programs with Medicaid funding obtained through billing. Overall, SOMH plans to replace up to \$33 million in deficit contract funding in New York City programs with Medicaid revenue.

"The new PROS licensing category could impact up to 141 community programs in New York City," said Dr. Lloyd I. Sederer, Executive Deputy Commissioner for Mental Hygiene Services. "The Division of Mental Hygiene and its community partners face a tremendous challenge to both plan and implement PROS. To this end, trained DMH staff will continue to work closely with providers to give proper technical assistance throughout the process. By working together, providers and consumers, as well as local and State governments, can take full advantage of the potential benefits of PROS."

In December 2003, DMH began working with the New York City provider

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Personalized Recovery Oriented Services Conversion (Continued from front page)

community to formulate the City's required PROS plan, to be submitted to the SOMH. The plan will be a City-wide projection of the impact of PROS, detailing the number of PROS licenses by type and location. The plan will incorporate DMH's goals for implementing PROS in New York City, including:

- Meeting the recovery-related needs of residents with serious and persistent mental illness
- Preserving the fiscal and programmatic stability of providers
- Achieving SOMH savings goals
- Maintaining and strengthening program quality management and jurisdiction of services by local government
- Increasing system capacity, as well as geographical and cultural diversity

Once the NYC Plan is approved by SOMH, NYC providers will submit Prior Approval Review applications to formally request PROS licensure. It is estimated that program conversions will begin in FY05 and end in FY06.

DMH is currently collaborating with SOMH and independent mental health services researchers to design an evaluation of the implementation of PROS. This evaluation will allow DMH to provide timely, concurrent monitoring of the impact of the PROS conversion in New York City. More specifically, it will examine how PROS will alter the funding and service delivery of community support services to consumers who are seriously and persistently mentally ill, and identify any negative consequences as

Highlights from Vital Statistics 2002

- From 2001–2002, there were declines in deaths from many types of mental and behavioral disorders, including those due to:

Use of alcohol

2002: 298 deaths

2001: 327 deaths

Use of psychoactive substance (excluding alcohol and tobacco)

2002: 869 deaths

2001: 887 deaths

- **Suicide deaths** increased more than 7%, from 462 deaths in 2001 to 495 deaths in 2002. The suicide rate is highest among residents of Manhattan, at 8.2 per 100,000 persons, followed by Staten Island (6.5), Bronx (5.3), Queens (5.2), and Brooklyn (4.1).

early as possible so that appropriate corrections can be implemented.

Jane Plapinger, Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Planning, Evaluation and Quality Improvement, said, "We recognize that providers may be apprehensive about conversion to this new licensing category. However, with proper planning and communication, we believe that PROS can enhance mental health care in the City. Ultimately, we will gauge the success of PROS by the extent to which New York City consumers experience access to high-quality, coordinated care and recovery-oriented services." ■

Job Opportunities

The Division of Mental Hygiene currently has several open positions, including Associate Commissioner for Program Services, Director of DMH's Office of Management Information System, Dual Recovery Coordinator and Strategic Planning Analyst. Job descriptions for these and a variety of other positions are available on-line at nyc.gov/health.

Bulletin from the Division of Mental Hygiene

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