Coalition Briefs
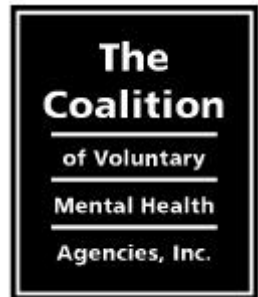
The Coalition of Voluntary Mental Health Agencies, Inc.

A SEMI-MONTHLY UPDATE ON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

Draft RFP is published

The waiting is over and "any day now" has arrived. The draft Request for Proposals for the mental health adult Special Needs Plans was issued at the end of last week. It is available from the SOMH web site (http://www.omh.state.ny.us).

Fortunately, with the help of our friends, we got our hands on a hard copy the day after issue. Downloading was an experience to put it mildly. After much wiggling and telephoning of Albany, we did get it off the web. We hope the RFP process proceeds more smoothly than the SOMH cyberspace experiment. By the way, the guy who put the document on the web site has gone on a two week vacation!◉

Response to CSP Medicaiding Initiative

The Coalition opposed the SOMH proposed amendments issued on July 22 pertaining to the Medicaiding of certain Community Support Program (CSP) services. Among the many potentially troubling effects: jeopardizing the broad benefits of CSPs; diminished state commitment to these essential programs and the anticipated problems of linking these unique services to a Medicaid framework.

There is now reason for considerable concern for the immediate future of CSP. The Coalition will make strong efforts to prevent further erosion of state funding.◉

Citizenship program begins

The Coalition will soon be contacting member agencies about its new Citizenship Assistance Project in collaboration with the New York Association for New Americans (NYANA). We will be identifying agency consumers who can be served by this project, conducting general informational workshops on the citizenship process, and the Coalition and NYANA staff will conduct group application sessions for identified applicants.◉

Technical Assistance Underway

The Coalition's **Managed Care Technical Assistance Project** was off and running with a full-day introductory seminar on Tuesday, September 9. Over 100 members attended the seminar, from all levels of management and operational staff. The session was led by Michael Kraten of Enterprise Management Corporation. Mr. Kraten will continue the work of the Project, through workshops, materials, small group sessions, and individualized on-site technical assistance. The Project is partially supported by a grant from The New York Community Trust.

For more information, please contact Pat Goldstein at the Coalition.◉

CyberCo@lition

The Coalition has begun our journey into Cyberspace. We have, in the process, learned many of the Murphy's Laws of the internet. Over the last two weeks we have managed to get some of our staff email access. In the next few weeks we hope to have everybody in the office up and webbing.

Please send us your email addresses. General mail for the coalition can be sent to **mailbox@cvmha.org**. In addition this address can be used for Nancy Michel. Other addresses are:
Phillip Saperia: **psaperia@cvmha.org**
Marilyn Kneeland: **kneeland@cvmha.org**
Jim Murray: **jmurray@cvmha.org**
Joshua Rubin: **jfrubin@cvmha.org**◉

In Memoriam
William A. Charet
(4/16/48-8/14/97)

The Coalition joins with the entire mental health community of New York City in mourning the passing of our esteemed friend and colleague William A. Charet on August 14.

Born, raised and educated in Brooklyn, Bill Charet devoted his professional life to the City of New York and to those most in need. He dedicated 24 years to the Department of Mental Health, starting in contract operations and working his way up to Associate Commissioner. In that position, he oversaw 788 mental health programs for over 200,000 consumers. Bill was a good friend to The Coalition who touched many of our lives as a friend, colleague and advocate. We already miss him greatly.◉

Upcoming Dates

September 24	Task Force on Children and Families
September 25	Membership Meeting
October 9	Finance Committee
	Board of Directors
October 22	Children's Mental Health Alliance of NYC
October 30	Membership Meeting
November 13	**BIG APPLE CIRCUS**