

**August 25, 2011**

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

**Follow OASAS:**



**Arlene  
González-Sánchez**  
Commissioner  
NYS OASAS



**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

*Dear Friends, This week's highlights include continued site visits, agency public hearings, recovery month, OASAS participation at a National HIV Prevention Conference and an OASAS provider featured story on NY1 News.*

**Arlene González-Sánchez, OASAS Commissioner**

**Commissioner Visits South Beach and Kingsboro Addiction Treatment Centers**



**South Beach ATC Visit**

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez visited South Beach ATC on August 19. She toured the facility, spoke to patients, met with staff and presented Commissioner's Achievement Awards to the medical staff, Dr. Nariani, Dr. Karcnik and Nurse Administrator Divina Gaerlan. An achievement award was also presented to Dr. Karcnik for 25 years of service. The Commissioner also explained to staff that there were no plans for merger with the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), but rather ongoing planning to integrate and improve services. She thanked the staff for their dedication and conveyed her understanding that the work is very difficult and that it is hard to explain just how difficult it is to those who don't personally know it. Her comments were well-received by the

staff. She assisted in making a decision about a referred patient with medical issues that were deemed too severe for this facility. The visit ended with the Commissioner listening to Dr. Nariani and Nurse Administrator Divina Gaerlan explaining some difficulties coordinating patient care with the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

On August 22, the Commissioner met with the staff and patients of the Kingsboro ATC where she received a warm welcome and had the opportunity to hear of the diverse services offered at the ATC. The staff highlighted the monolingual program offered at the ATC and indicated they offer other specialized services to populations including criminal justice, women, and co-occurring disorders. Two patients also presented a prayer in Spanish to the Commissioner which she then commented back to them in Spanish. The staff expressed to the Commissioner the continued need to provide services for co-occurring disorders. She was also provided a tour where she was able to see the beginnings of the three-year comprehensive renovation capital project of the building that was recently initiated in June. Maria Pasceri, Director, said that she was really honored to show the Commissioner the incredible staff that she has at the Kingsboro ATC. She also stated, "They are dedicated and compassionate staff who go above and beyond to serve the individuals at Kingsboro."



**Kingsboro ATC Visit**

In a visit last week to the Starhill Residential Center in the Bronx, operated by Palladia, Inc., Commissioner Sánchez toured the facility and was able to spend time with patients and staff to learn more about the programs and services Palladia provides. They also discussed plans for the future. Starhill Residential Center is an OASAS-licensed and -funded residential drug treatment facility that provides substance abuse treatment to approximately 382 men and women. This facility also houses a clinic that provides primary medical and dental care for the patients as well as community members. The Commissioner also received a tour of their outpatient program located nearby. Palladia, Inc. has approval for a major renovation capital project at the Starhill facility and they are looking for an additional site that will allow them to relocate approximately half of their clients to another location.

### O-STARs



OASAS is proud to honor Ms. Helga Vila, an Addictions Counselor 2 at the R. C. Ward ATC. Ms. Vila was recently recognized by her patients and co-workers for providing outstanding counseling and patient care. Her dedication to her patients is exemplary. Ms. Vila has an extremely rare talent to connect and identify with her patients, which allows her to better focus on their treatment needs. One patient said, "she not only counseled me, but she reached down deep into my soul." Ms. Vila has set the bar high for her colleagues and other health care professionals to follow in providing patient-centered care. She is an outstanding OASAS employee who goes above and beyond to advance the OASAS mission: *to improve the lives of New Yorkers by leading a premier system of addiction services through prevention, treatment, recovery.*



*If you know an outstanding individual that works or volunteers in the field of addictions who performs at an outstanding level to make a difference in the lives of New Yorkers, please e-mail [communicator@oasas.state.ny.us](mailto:communicator@oasas.state.ny.us) to be featured as an O-STAR.*

### OASAS Commissioner to Host A Series of Public Hearings Regarding the Agency's Statewide Comprehensive Plan 2011-2015

OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez will be hosting a series of public hearings on the OASAS Statewide Comprehensive Plan 2011-2015. The public hearings are scheduled at three locations around the state in September as noted below. The public hearings are being conducted to allow counties, providers, stakeholders, and the general public to offer comments regarding the *OASAS 2011 Outcomes Dashboard*. The Dashboard identifies OASAS' system-wide priorities and forms the basis for the agency's Statewide Comprehensive Plan. The *OASAS 2011 Outcomes Dashboard* is available on the [OASAS website](#). Hearings will be held at the following sites around the state:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday September 8, 2011	10:00-11:30	<b>Albany</b> NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services 1450 Western Ave., 4th Floor Main Conference Room Albany, New York 12203
Wednesday September 14, 2011	10:30-12:00	<b>Buffalo</b> Research Institute on Addictions 1021 Main Street Buffalo, New York 14203-1016
Monday September 19, 2011	10:30-12:00	<b>New York City</b> NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) 501 7th Ave., 8th Floor Conference Room New York, New York 10018-5903

Individuals wishing to present testimony should submit their statements in writing to OASAS prior to the hearing. Please note that speakers will be limited to a maximum of three minutes to present testimony at the public hearing. Written testimony should be submitted via e-mail to: [5YearPlan@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:5YearPlan@oasas.ny.gov). *Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required.* To pre-register, please complete the online form at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VHSZNMW>.



Available 24 hours /7 days  
Toll-free, anonymous and confidential.

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](http://www.oasas.ny.gov/hps/grants/index.cfm)).

### Project LINK Staff Presents at National Conference

Project LINK staff presented a scientific poster at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, GA on August 16. Brett Harris was the presenter from OASAS' Division of Outcome Management and System Information and was joined by staff from the collaborating agencies New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center. Participation was at no cost to the state. Project LINK is a five-year SAMHSA-funded project delivering substance abuse early intervention in three New York City STD clinics. The poster highlighted project reach, follow-up efforts, six-month follow-up outcomes, and HIV and STD prevention.



Since beginning operation in February 2008, more than 21,000 patients of the three city wide STD clinics screened positive for alcohol and other drug (AOD) use. Brief interventions using the SBIRT model were provided to more than 12,000 patients. In addition more than 660 individuals were referred to formal substance abuse treatment. Six-month follow-up with patients receiving referrals to treatment showed promising results. In particular, abstinence from AOD use increased from 1.3 percent at intake to 18.7 percent at follow-up, and there was a 91 percent decrease in AOD related health, behavioral, or social consequences, a 62.5 percent decrease in injection drug use, a 14.2 percent decrease in risky sexual contact, a 34.3 percent decrease in depression, and a 40.3 percent decrease in trouble controlling violent behavior from intake to six-month follow-up. Please contact Brett Harris at [brettharris@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:brettharris@oasas.ny.gov) for additional outcomes presented on the poster.

### September is Recovery Month



This September, New York State and the nation will join together in celebration of Recovery Month. This is an opportunity to educate communities about substance use, problem gambling and the benefits that prevention, treatment and recovery bring to individuals, families and communities. This year's theme is "*Recovery Benefits Everyone*," and sends a clear message that people in recovery live a healthy, full and productive life. Together we can make a difference in the lives of 2.5 million New Yorkers and their families who struggle with addiction. Help us celebrate the strength and determination of so many by joining the New York Recovery Movement.

**OASAS would like publicize your Recovery Month event.** Please submit the details to [communications@oasas.state.ny.us](mailto:communications@oasas.state.ny.us). Be sure to include the date and time, type of event, location, sponsor, and contact e-mail and phone number. OASAS appreciates having your continued support and involvement in this important initiative. By educating our communities about the power of recovery, together we can make a difference in the lives of all New Yorkers. Join the celebration!

**8th Annual NYS Recovery Fine Arts Festival** showcases the achievements of individuals in recovery through artistic expression. There is plenty of time to submit your artwork before the September 7, 2011, deadline. E-mail questions to [admin@for-ny.org](mailto:admin@for-ny.org) or call 518-487-4395.

**4th Annual New York Celebrates Recovery Rally** will be held in Albany's Riverfront Park at the Corning Preserve on Sunday, September 25, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, go to the [FOR-NY](http://FOR-NY) website.

### OASAS-Certified Treatment Provider is Featured on NY1 News

OASAS-certified treatment provider, Camelot Rehabilitation Center located in Staten Island, was recently featured on [NY1 News](http://NY1 News). Watch the story about a young man who spends time in the program. Experts say the key to helping recovering addicts is to get rid of the stigma that comes with admitting to having a problem. Through a capital project, this male adolescent program, will be moving to a newly renovated landmarked building on the grounds of the Seaview Hospital. The building featured in the story will be backfilled with a program for women and children.