



NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES
Addiction Services for Prevention, Treatment, Recovery
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor Arlene González-Sánchez, Commissioner

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OASAS Communicator

Dear Friends,

This fifth edition of the Communicator continues to highlight the great work being performed throughout our addiction field. I look forward to sharing with you more good news and updating you on upcoming initiatives.

Arlene González-Sánchez, OASAS Commissioner

New York Alcohol Alliance Summit Held in Syracuse

At the New York Alcohol Policy Summit on October 6, 2011, OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez joined more than 200 professionals from prevention providers; Drug-Free Community Coalitions; human service organizations, fire safety, American Foundation for Suicide, epidemiologists and researchers from other states



to discuss alcohol policies. The event was sponsored by the New York Alcohol Policy Alliance, in partnership with the NYS Public Health Association and the Council on Addictions of New York State (CANYS).

The summit focused on building support for evidence-based alcohol policies by "expanding the tent." Summit workshops brought together experts and advocates to discuss issues and populations impacted by alcohol problems, but not traditionally at the alcohol policy table (e.g. cancer, suicide, military populations). OASAS Margo Singer presented a workshop on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and Commissioner Sánchez presented remarks at the opening plenary. The Commissioner spoke to the audience about the problem of underage drinking, stating that it is the most serious substance abuse issue across the state and nation, and more importantly, it is preventable. She also highlighted that OASAS has made some state policy recommendations aimed at changing

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To improve the lives
of New Yorkers by
leading a premier
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the norms, attitudes and behaviors which support or promote underage drinking. The Commissioner spoke specifically to those state policy recommendations that would restrict the marketing, access and availability of high content alcohol products (Alcopops) to adolescents; reinstate the Keg Registration Law; and implement a statewide Social Host Policy Law. Additionally, she discussed the partnerships OASAS has with the State Liquor Authority, State Police and Department of Criminal Justice Services, as well as the importance of communities working together on comprehensive environmental approaches to change the drinking norms. OASAS looks forward to hearing the feedback the summit participants provided on these policy discussions.

Commissioner Visits Dick Van Dyke ATC and the Syracuse Brick House

While attending the New York Alcohol Policy Summit during the first week of October in Syracuse, N.Y., Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez visited the [Dick Van Dyke Addiction Treatment Center \(ATC\)](#) in Willard, New York and two Syracuse Brick House (SBH) facilities.

The Commissioner's visit to the ATC was an excellent opportunity for her to meet with the staff and patients, tour the facility and to become more familiar with the services specific to this ATC. The Dick Van Dyke ATC provides inpatient chemical dependency services for those in a 14-county central New York region, involving about 125 referral agencies. The ATC is also co-located on the grounds of the Willard Drug Treatment Center and also maintains 30 beds for adult men and women. The Center operates two, separate, gender-specific treatment programs - one for women and the other for men. The Van Dyke ATC is also a "Tobacco-Free" chemical dependency service.

During the Commissioner's visit of the Syracuse Brick House facilities, she toured their Evaluation Center, which houses their co-located medically monitored and supervised withdrawal services. She also had the opportunity to meet with a few of the residents and staff during her visit to SBH's



community residence for women, the Harriet May Mills Residence. This facility was named after a pioneer suffragist, who also was the first woman to run for statewide office in New York State. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Included in its rich history, the house was part of the underground railroad movement. The basement contains hiding places and passages used by slaves escaping to freedom. The

Commissioner made a point of touring the basement and learning the history. SBH is a multi-service agency providing services in Central New York since 1920.

ASAP 2011 13th Annual Conference

October 30 - November 2, 2011



The [13th annual conference](#) of the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of NYS, Inc. (ASAP) will be held at the New York Marriot at the Brooklyn Bridge from October 30 to November 2, 2011. The

conference theme, "Behavioral Healthcare in Transition: Positioning Ourselves for Success" provides the opportunity to learn more about the challenges ahead and identify strategies for moving forward.

On Monday, October 31, OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez will be on hand during the networking breakfast from 8:00-9:00 a.m. to greet the conference attendees. Immediately following breakfast is the Opening Plenary Session which features the Commissioner co-presenting with Massachusetts Director of Substance Abuse Services Mr. Michael Botticelli. Commissioner Sánchez will outline what behavioral health transformation and service integration with health care means for New York State's substance use disorders services system, the people we serve and their families. Additionally, she will delineate the steps we must take to successfully achieve this transformation. Mr. Botticelli will discuss Massachusetts' landmark Medicaid Reform legislation and valuable lessons learned.

As part of the annual conference this year, OASAS is also hosting the first Nurses Addictions Conference, "The Evolving Role of Addiction Nurses: How Today's Issues will Shape Tomorrow," on Sunday, October 30, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. also at the Marriott. For more information or to register go to www.asapnys.org or call 1-866-374-6338.

Commissioner Sánchez Named Among 100 Influentials in Hispanic Business Magazine

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, on October 14 OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez was named among the top 100 Influentials in the [Hispanic Business Magazine](#). This year's focus was on diversity and inclusion as Hispanics by nature -- and culture, [politics](#) and national origin -- are a diverse and inclusive group of people. The Commissioner was recognized among high ranking officials as a prominent Government Influential, along with Cesar A. Perales, New York Secretary of State. [HispanTelligence](#), the research arm of Hispanic Business Inc., selected the magazine's



100 [Influentials](#) based on the following criteria: (1.) Those chosen were Hispanics of U.S citizenship who have had recent and national impact and whose achievements inspire other Hispanics to similar endeavors. (2.) The candidates from whom the final 100 [Influentials](#) were selected came from a variety of fields, including but not limited to: Entertainment, Performing Arts, Media and Journalism, Literature, Sports, Science and Academia, Entrepreneurship, Government and Corporate. (3.) The final selections focused on those who have promoted the advancement of Hispanics in the United States by their leadership, community involvement or professional achievements. Nominations are taken year-round on the website, www.hispanicbusiness.com, and are also obtained from news releases, PR offices, contributing editors and writers, and from the Hispanic Business Inc. staff. Candidates are narrowed down by the editorial staff based on the above-mentioned criteria.

Commissioner Sánchez Offers Words of Inspiration to the Graduates and Alumni of Woodhull North Brooklyn Health Network

On September 30, Commissioner Sánchez was the guest of honor at the Woodhull North Brooklyn Health Network's 40th Alumni Achievement Day Ceremony. More than 200 people attended the event, including the graduates, alumni, senior leadership, staff and guests. The Commissioner spoke to the attendees on the importance of recovery, indicating that recovery is a life-long endeavor, encouraged them to share their story to others and offered words of inspiration to help them continue on their road to a successful recovery. The Commissioner also spoke about OASAS recovery initiatives and presented the Governor's Recovery Month proclamation to Dr. Leonel Urcuyo, Chairman of Psychiatry. The program included alumni and graduate reflections, and a musical interlude from the Artist Access Program. It was a wonderful celebration of recovery for all!

Underage Drinking Grantees Make the News

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez recently announced federal grants to five statewide prevention providers to address underage drinking among college students. After the launch of the statewide press release, the grantees received local media coverage highlighting their underage drinking efforts and the tremendous prevention work they do throughout their communities. Among the news features were: Madison County Courier, "[BRIDGES Receives Grant to Address Underage Drinking Among College Student](#)"; Oswegonian, "[SUNY Cortland received a \\$200,000 grant from the New York Office for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services \(OASAS\) to fund underage drinking prevention,](#)" ReadMedia press release, "[College Wins Federal Funds for Underage Drinking Prevention;](#)" WGRZ, "[College-Community Collaboration to Decrease Underage Drinking;](#)" and the Press Republican, "[Underage Drinking Targeted.](#)"

O-STARS

OASAS Honors Seven Addictions Professionals Whose Work Best Exemplifies Excellence and Quality Service

As part of the National Recovery Celebration Month, OASAS honored seven addiction professionals whose work best exemplifies excellence and quality service in the addiction field. Governor Cuomo proclaimed September 20, 2011, as Addictions Professionals Day throughout New York State to acknowledge the professionals who have dedicated their lives to helping others in prevention, treatment and recovery. These professionals play a critical role in preventing substance abuse, treating addiction, and offering the hope of recovery to the 2.5 million New Yorkers who are dealing with drug, alcohol or gambling addiction. OASAS Commissioner Sánchez awarded the following professionals for the 2011 Addictions Professionals Day:

Andre Matthews was chosen as the 2011 CASAC of the Year. Mr. Matthews, who is employed by Odyssey House, Inc., has distinguished himself from the field by successfully integrating fitness and exercise with more traditional, behaviorally-focused practices during his execution of many of the core functions such as counseling, cognitive-behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, treatment planning, consultation and referral. In fact, since 2002, 220 patients have completed the New York City Marathon with the support and encouragement of Mr. Matthews at their side. He is currently enrolled in Lehman College to earn a degree in



recreation therapy, further underscoring his commitment to the helping professions.



Kathryn Davenport was chosen as the 2011 CASAC Trainee of the Year. Ms. Davenport, who is employed by Phase: Piggy Back, Inc., has distinguished herself through her inexorable commitment to her patients and her true belief in abstemiousness. Ms. Davenport consistently exceeds performance expectations with the utmost professionalism, most notably for her exceptional intervention skills while

mediating patient conflicts. Her personal experiences allow Ms. Davenport to truly identify with her patients which has built trust and understanding, thereby creating a stronger working relationship which ultimately leads to success.

Anita Seefried-Brown was chosen as the 2011 Credentialed Prevention Professional of the Year. Ms. Seefried-Brown is employed by the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County. She is a recognized community leader in the field of alcohol and substance abuse and was the 2009 recipient of Jefferson County's Degroot Award. Ms. Seefried-Brown's community spirit and stellar leadership skills shine through her commitment to numerous volunteer initiatives, such as the Watertown Teen Center, North Country Council of Social Agencies, and the Central New York Prevention Consortium. Additionally, she took the lead in organizing the Communities That Care Youth Coalition which established the Bodvin's Life Skills Training in nearly 70 percent of Jefferson County school districts.



Jennifer Faringer was chosen as the 2011 Problem Gambling Prevention Practitioner of the Year. Ms. Faringer is employed by DePaul's National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence where she is credited as the driving force behind adding Problem Gambling Prevention to the mission of Councils on Addictions of New York State. Ms. Faringer is a strong advocate for Problem Gambling education and outreach

and continues to focus on training her community on this important issue and its devastating effects. Ms. Faringer is well-known by statewide organizations and her colleagues for her steadfast dedication to problem gamblers and their families.

Jerome Kriss was chosen as the 2011 Problem Gambling Counselor of the Year. Mr. Kriss, who is employed by Family and Children's Services of the Capital Region, Inc., was nominated based on his outstanding performance in the areas of intake, counseling, crisis intervention and patient education. Mr. Kriss' dedication has contributed to a dramatic improvement in the quality and range of patient care. He has developed a counseling model that has proven to be highly effective in promoting abstinence from problem and compulsive gambling. As a result, the program has achieved rapid growth, well-attended groups, consistent attendance, and a strong community of fellowship mutually invested in the successful recovery of each member.



Dr. Philip Gianelli was chosen as the 2011 Addiction Physician of the Year. Dr. Gianelli is the Director of Addiction Psychiatry at the West Midtown Medical Group, and has distinguished himself through his more than 20 years of unfailing support, enthusiasm and patient-centered addiction services powered by his humane, warm and spirited communication style. He has served as a national mentor for the physicians' clinical support system for

the treatment of opiate dependency. Dr. Gianelli has developed a protocol for the use and management of benzodiazepines and instructions for staff regarding suicide prevention in the outpatient program. He provides medical management of the neuro-psychiatric side effects of patients under Hepatitis C care, and support for interns under Columbia University's study on motivational interviewing. Dr. Gianelli has been a member of the OASAS Medical Advisory Panel since 2003.

Michele Schultz was chosen as the 2011 Addiction Nurse of the Year. Ms. Schultz is the Nurse Administrator of Margaret A. Stutzman Addiction Treatment Center, and has distinguished herself through her 30 years of dedication and commitment in the field of addiction treatment. Throughout her nursing career, Ms. Schultz initiated programs for HIV and Hepatitis C testing; developed patient and staff education for the LGBT patients and on FASD; assisted in the implementation of the OASAS Tobacco-Free initiative; and implemented and co-facilitates a Statewide Peer Assistance for Nurses support group for nurses battling addiction. Ms. Schultz has been recognized by OSHA with an award for her efforts in creating the Violence in the Workplace Program.



A Special Thanks to the Action to Ride Project Team

OASAS is nearing the end of another grant cycle and wrapping up many objectives of the GTSC-funded ACTION to RIDE project. The Project Director, Patricia Flaherty, OASAS deputy counsel, sincerely thanks all of the staff who provided their hard work and dedication to this project.



Another year of funding has not yet been officially approved. In the interim, the program has been granted an extension on the current award to retain project staff for another two months. Throughout the past two and a half years, grant staff members have done a stellar job in their respective roles.

Contributions over the past year and a half were crucial to this project's success which included the development and statewide delivery of the Clinical Screening and Assessment of the Impaired Driving Offender training program and facilitating the statewide delivery of instructor certification training for a new, evidence based curriculum for all NYS Drinking Driver Programs (DDP). In collaboration with DMV, OASAS has implemented the first standardized NYS DDP curriculum: Prevention Research Institute's (PRI) PRIME For Life (PFL). OASAS has also developed and implemented the first clinical guidelines and statewide mandatory training for all clinicians who are approved to provide screening and

assessment services to impaired drivers. To date, 445 DDP directors and instructors and 1,566 clinical providers have been trained.

Additionally, with the support of GTSC funding and in collaboration with DMV, OASAS is developing two advanced technological solutions to improve linkages among the professionals who serve impaired drivers, electronically transmit pertinent details to DMV, facilitate monitoring of provider activity and eventually build a comprehensive database of information for continued analysis. The Impaired Driver System (IDS), a point-forward online reporting and tracking system, will eventually build the first comprehensive database of information which connects recidivism data with prior contact to clinical providers for screening, assessment or treatment and with DDP educators for any record of participation in a DDP. A second system, Impaired Driver Classroom (IDC) will automate the DDP enrollment process and eventually provide DDP class schedules online for reference by impaired driving offenders. Both will be integrated with DMV systems. OASAS has established an impaired driver services call center, email, web pages and delivered several webinars to educate stakeholders and provide technical assistance during the implementation of these very important initiatives.

A special thanks to the RFMH staff and consultants assigned to this project: Lisa Thorne (Project Coordinator), Linda Edmundson, Angela Warner, Lisa Howard, Cassandra McClain-Moore, Robin Jones-Flowers, Michael Menzel, Paarul Singh and Anthony DeBonis for their tireless efforts and dedication to the ACTION to RIDE project. Additionally, key OASAS staff that have given, and continue to give their time and dedication to the project: Tim Horn; Brigette Hartman-DeCenzo; Julia Fesko; Doug Rosenberry; Leon Nielsen; Dianne Toop; Jenna Phaneuf; Laura Frost; Dave Gardam; Dave Geracitano; Rich Bruno; Judy Winston; Joe Burke; Joan Disare; Leisha Graham-Perry; and Rebecca Cooper.

Odyssey House "Run for Your Life 2011"

The sixth annual Odyssey House "Run for Your Life" 5K and Recovery Walk was held on Saturday, September 24. An enthusiastic crowd of 1,500 people came together at the Icahn International Stadium in New York City to celebrate the growing recovery movement.



Treatment programs from across New York participated in the morning event fielding teams of runners and walkers from: Samaritan Village; Daytop; Palladia; Basics; PSI; Dynamite Youth; Hope House; Services for the Underserved; Guidance Center; and Stay 'N Out. John Coppola, CEO of

New York State Association of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Providers, and Loretta Poole and Steven Rabinowitz of NYS OASAS participated in the festivities.

WPIX-TV evenings news anchor Kirstin Coles emceed the event and read a special announcement of support from Mayor Bloomberg for men and women in recovery. And to make a proud day for Odyssey House even more special President Dr. Peter Provet announced that one of the organization's own clinical staff members had won the coveted CASAC of-the-Year Award, 2011 for dedication and professionalism in providing addiction treatment services. As coordinator of Odyssey House recreational services, Mr. Andre Matthews helps clients integrate physical fitness into their treatment goals working alongside counselors and educators to develop recovery plans that enhance clients' treatment experiences. Since he started training the Odyssey House Marathon Team in 2002, Mr. Matthews has coached more than 250 people over the finish line of the grueling 26-mile road race-more than 6,000 miles on behalf of prevention, treatment and recovery.

Syracuse Behavioral Health Sponsors the 2nd Annual Walk/Run

On Wednesday, September 28, approximately 500 people participated in the Second Annual Recovery Walk/Run sponsored by Syracuse Behavioral Healthcare (SBH) held at the NYS Fairgrounds. The event was covered by a local radio station which provided music, games, and prizes. Following the walk/run, a picnic dinner was provided.



Jeremy Klemanski, President and CEO of SBH said, "With the Recovery Walk/Run, we want to spread a message about the hope that a life of recovery offers folks who might be struggling. We also want to celebrate those people who are supporting people in recovery and show them the awesome potential that a life of recovery offers people. Support does exist for people who wish to make a positive life choice. The walk/run is meant to be an inclusive, fun-filled, recovery-focused event that showcases that recovery is possible for everyone."

First Annual Recovery Month Alumni Dance Held

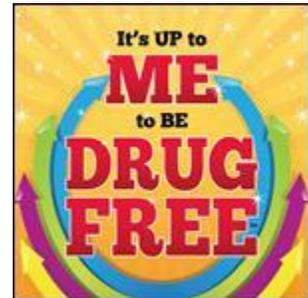
On the evening of September 30, staff from the NYS OASAS Bureau of Recovery Services collaborated with Samaritan Village, the Bronx ATC, Basics and Odyssey House to host the first annual recovery month alumni dance. Samaritan Village took the lead in sponsoring this event.



Approximately 75 alumni from 16 different treatment programs participated in this event. This event was also supported by seven staff members from OASAS. Alumni Coordinator, Willie Townes, together with Alumni Leads, Brenda Blair and Diane Saez, invited all treatment programs alumni to attend this dance. Brenda and Diane were presented with OASAS Making a Difference Awards. This event included plenty of food, fun and fellowship and it was also free to alumni groups because of the support of the aforementioned sponsoring agencies. Attendees had such a great time that they asked the Recovery Bureau about the possibility of making this an annual event for Recovery Month.

October 23-31 is Red Ribbon Week

Celebrated on October 23-31 each year, Red Ribbon week encourages individuals, families and communities to take a stand against abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug use. This year's Red Ribbon Week theme is "It's Up to Me to be Drug Free."



This observance has become a major force for raising public awareness and mobilizing communities to combat substance abuse.

Each year, more than 80 million young people and adults show their commitment to a healthy, drug-free life by wearing or displaying a red ribbon. It is the largest, most visible prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States. Learn more about Red Ribbon week by visiting the OASAS [website](#).

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

You can participate in the "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" campaign. It is a low or no-cost campaign, coordinated by the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), that connects communities across the state by turning New York purple during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The purpose is to raise awareness of domestic violence - to get everyone talking about "purple" as a way to discuss domestic violence, and to let victims know they're not alone and that resources are available no matter where they live.



Purple is the symbolic color for domestic violence awareness and, historically, the battered women's movement. In 2007, Haven House, a program of Child and Family Services, Erie County, seeking an impactful way to raise awareness of domestic violence, arranged to have Niagara Falls illuminated in purple from both the U.S. and Canadian sides. The effect was beautiful and empowering and it generated widespread visibility for their work to end domestic violence. In 2008, with Haven House's approval, the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) adopted the idea as an annual statewide public awareness campaign and named it "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence." Each year, one day is selected on which all New Yorkers are asked to wear purple. In 2011, it is Wednesday, October 19. For more information about domestic violence, visit the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) [website](#) or the NYS OASAS [website](#).

For information on **grant and funding opportunities**, visit the OASAS [website](#) (www.oasas.ny.gov/hps/grants/index.cfm).

For questions and/or comments about this newsletter, please contact: Jannette Rondó, OASAS Communications Director at communicator@oasas.ny.gov.