



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

In This Issue - 12.23.11

Commissioner Visits Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services in Brooklyn

New York Therapeutic Communities Grand Opening in Brooklyn

Commissioner Presents at Conference at NYU Silver School of Social Work

Governor's Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting Held in Albany

National Hispanic Health Foundation Honors Commissioner

O-STARS

New Community Policy Developed

Nassau County's Second Annual Co-Occurring Disorders Conference Held

Save the Date: 2012 Youth Summit

HIV Director's Meeting Held in NYC

Geriatric Council Meeting Held in Albany

Regional Coordinators Meeting Held in Albany

OASAS Process Improvement Highlights

Happy Holidays from

OASAS Communicator

Dear Friends,

This holiday as we each reflect upon our blessings and spend time with family and friends, please remember to share the promise of Recovery with those who want a new beginning. It is also time to celebrate those around us who are living the reality of Recovery. I wish you joy, peace and hope during this holiday season and into the New Year!

*Arlene González-Sánchez
 OASAS Commissioner*

Commissioner Visits Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services Prevention Program



On December 19, Arlene González-Sánchez, the Commissioner and staff visited JBFC's Rita J & Stanley H Kaplan Center at 2020 Coney Island Ave, Brooklyn. Paul Levine presented the Commissioner with an award in recognition of her leadership. The

Commissioner was also presented with a Recovery pin, and a book entitled, *Jewish Sisters*, which was written by one of the program Directors. The Jewish Community Services and Adolescent Services staff also updated the Commissioner on our JACS and MAP addiction services. Additionally, the Commissioner reported on ongoing transitions in New York State's management of human services.

Paul Levine began the meeting by thanking the Commissioner for her leadership integrating systems to match the Governor's budget mandates while preserving and improving mental health and addiction services for New Yorkers and presented her with our framed award, prepared by Jose Seng and Beverly Groce in External Affairs.

OASAS!

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OASAS Mission:

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

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Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo

Vickie Griffiths presented on the Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others (JACS) program. Jonathan Katz and Sharon Darack joined Vickie in a conversation with the Commissioner on the successful outcomes of JACS empowering Jewish people of diverse backgrounds in recovery.



Deborah Zicht presented on the Midwoods Adolescent Program providing addiction recovery services for adolescents and the integration of the program with the array of services for youth at the Kaplan Center. Inna Litrovnik and Galina Feinstein joined Deborah in a conversation with the Commissioner and the group regarding "harm reduction" and other models of treatment in the larger context of patient-centered family-focused therapy.

Finally, the Commissioner provided regarding the ongoing transition in New York State's management of human services and the visit concluded with a tour of the Thomas Askins Youth Program (TAYP) facility.

Commissioner Congratulates New York Therapeutic Communities on Grand Opening

At the grand opening celebration of the New York Therapeutic Communities' Serendipity I residential treatment center for men, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez spoke to an audience of approximately 70 individuals. The



Commissioner emphasized the importance of providing quality, patient-centered care and encouraged them to look for ways to improve on the work we have done in the past and to break down the barriers that get in the way of putting the needs of the patients first.

Special recognitions were presented to Laurie Felter, Director of Capital Management, NYS OASAS; Annette Duran, Project Manager, Dormitory Authority of NYS; Gino Fazio, Fazio Construction; and Larry Werfel, Werfel & Associates. NYTC provided tours of the new facility immediately following the ceremony. This project consisted of



Commissioner Arlene
González-Sánchez



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relocating NYTC's existing 50-bed residential program for men and an outpatient clinic. Capital funding for the project was just over \$11 million and took five years to complete.

Commissioner Presents at *the Substance Use: Responding to Changes in Policy, Research and Services Conference*



The two-day *Substance Use: Responding to Changes in Policy, Research, and Services Conference* was recently held in New York City at the NYU Silver School of Social Work on December 14 through 15, 2011. It was attended by social workers, government workers, hospital staff, researchers,

educators, students and persons in Recovery. The conference provided an opportunity for these participants to learn about the successful integration of research into practice and challenges to substance use prevention and treatment related to Health Care Reform.

As part of a panel, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez presented with Dr. Michael Hogan, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Adam Karpati, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. During her presentation, the Commissioner offered her perspective on national health care reform and how it would likely impact the substance use disorder system in New York State.

There were numerous presenters and panelists at the conference which included: Jack Stein, Chief, Prevention Branch, Office of Demand Reduction, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and A. Thomas McLellan, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Solutions at University of Pennsylvania and Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy under the Obama administration. Doug Rosenberry, Director of OASAS Bureau of Talent Management and Fiscal Evaluation, also presented as part of the Work Force Planning Workshop.

Governor's Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting Held

On December 7, 2011, the Governor's Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services met at the OASAS offices in Albany. This appointed body meets on a quarterly basis and is charged with assisting the OASAS



Commissioner in the establishment of statewide goals and objectives (including comment on the statewide Five-Year Plan); reviewing applications of incorporation, establishment or construction of a facility; making recommendations regarding the enhancement of services; and reviewing all proposed rules and regulations. This was the last meeting of the Council for 2011.

Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez reported to the Council on many of her important activities including visits to programs around the state; her work with the SAGE and MRT Commissions and the Health Disparities Committee; and creation of the new Prescription Drug Mis-use Task Force. The Council also received updates regarding the OASAS scorecard performance measures, ambulatory patient groups, BHOs and health homes, prevention guidelines and various issues regarding the federal budget and legislation. Meeting dates of the Advisory Council for 2012 will be posted on the OASAS website.

National Hispanic Health Foundation Honors Commissioner



Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez was presented with the prestigious Hispanic Health Leadership Award on Thursday, December 1, at the Eighth Annual New York Hispanic Health Professional Student Scholarship Gala sponsored by the National Hispanic

Health Foundation. The Commissioner was one of six professionals selected to receive this honor for her significant leadership and improving the health of Hispanics and other underserved populations. Additionally, scholarships were awarded to ten students who are advancing their studies in health professions. This annual gala is held in support of the vision of the NHHF to develop this scholarship as the nation's premiere fund encouraging Hispanic health professions graduate students in health policy and health professions. Since 2005, they have awarded \$306,000 to 100 outstanding Hispanic health

professions students nationwide. The keynote speaker for the event was New York State Assemblyman Felix Ortiz.

O-STARS

Karen Maikels is known by her OASAS colleagues for her positive outlook and the numerous charitable efforts she undertakes on behalf of all the staff at OASAS. For more than 15 years, Karen has been a volunteer for the *Holiday Adopt A Family program* at OASAS and for the past two years, she has led this effort. This year the project was particularly immense as the program received a sizeable donation of more than \$1,000 from the OASAS social committee. This allowed OASAS to adopt a family of 7 with a single mother and her six children, an elderly couple, as well as an elderly woman.



Karen said this is the perfect job for her because she loves to shop. But, this program involves so much more than just shopping. Karen has been actively busy getting the word out, collecting donations, shopping, keeping staff up to date, organizing the gift wrapping, and delivering the presents. "There is nothing like seeing the faces on the families and hearing how grateful they are," said Karen. "This gives you the incentive to keep going." Karen also acknowledges the help she received from so many staff at OASAS, "I couldn't do this without everybody who helped out this year, everyone has big hearts, they come through no matter what."

Karen Maikels works at OASAS for the Bureau of Talent Management and Fiscal Evaluation supporting the education and training provider database and the training provider recertification process. She has 29 years of New York State service. It should also be noted that in addition to spearheading the *Adopt A Family program*, for nine years Karen has also run a program that supports our U.S. military troops overseas by regularly sending them care packages.

Congratulations Karen for this well-deserved recognition!

Community Policy Developed for Opioid Treatment Programs of Fort Green, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights Areas

In an effort to improve several Brooklyn communities, create a positive atmosphere and stop particular issues that are adversely affecting particular neighborhoods such as loitering, drug sales and other crimes and nuisances, a community policy was announced on December 5, 2011, at a [press conference](#) through the Brooklyn District

Attorney's Community Affairs Office. Under the new Community Policy Agreement, two methadone clinics that serve Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Prospect Heights areas will monitor any criminal activity near their property. Under the recently signed agreement by OASAS-certified and -funded methadone maintenance treatment programs (MMTPs), Addiction Research Treatment Center (ARTC) and the Interfaith Medical Center, each have agreed to work closely with Brooklyn District Attorney Hynes' office regarding any issues moving forward.

This Alliance was formed by Brooklyn DA Hynes' office in conjunction with Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries, Councilwoman Letitia James, NYPD, OASAS, NYSDOHMH, HRA, business and community leaders in response to the concern around drug activities near methadone programs in the Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Prospect Heights communities.

Nassau County's Second Annual Co-Occurring Disorders Conference

Nassau County held its *Second Annual Conference on Co-Occurring Disorders* at Hofstra University on Friday, December 2, 2011. This conference offered Long Island professionals an opportunity to collaborate and learn more about the issues they are currently facing with regard to integrating mental health, health and chemical dependency. This year's keynote speech was entitled, "What's Integration?" provided by Chacku Mathai from the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. OASAS Executive Deputy Commissioner, Kathleen Caggiano-Siino, spoke as part of a panel of New York State experts on the changes in the behavioral health care fields and the advent of BHOs and Health Homes. She spoke about the importance of the co-occurring initiatives that have already taken place on Long Island and how participating in Quality Improvement initiatives can better position us for the future.

Save The Date for the 2012 Youth Summit

The 2012 Youth Summit is planned for March 22 through 23 in Albany, New York. The summit will address challenges faced by adolescents and young adults with mental health and substance use disorders who may be involved with the justice system, child welfare, or the other service delivery systems.

The summit will help to build stronger cross-systems collaboration, improve access to services, and to achieve positive outcomes for adolescents, young adults and their families. It has been organized by a broad range of public and private organizations with input from young people. For more details or to find out about how to [register](#), visit www.asapnys.org.

HIV Director's Meeting

On December 15, Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez met with the Director of the AIDS Institute, Humberto Cruz. Their discussion included the long history of collaboration as well as an agreement to continue to strengthen partnerships in the areas of sexual health, Hepatitis C, Overdose prevention, and HIV prevention and treatment.

Attending from the AIDS Institute Staff were the following: Johanne Morne, Director of the Office of Policy and Planning; Dan O'Connell, Deputy Director for HIV, STD, Hepatitis C Prevention and Epidemiology; Alma Candelas - Director, Division of HIV Prevention; Ira Feldman, Deputy Director for Medicaid Policy and Programs; Colleen Flanigan, Director, Viral Hepatitis Section; Val White, Deputy Director for Administration and Data Systems; and Jay Cooper, Health Program Administrator.

Attending from OASAS were: Steven Kipnis, MD, Medical Director; Rob Piculell, Office of the Medical Director, Policy Development; Dr. Belinda Greenfield, Addiction Medicine Bureau; and Shonna Clinton of Grants Management.

Geriatric Council Meeting

OASAS participated in a quarterly meeting of the NYS Geriatric Council on December 15, 2011. The Council consists of New York State agencies, (OASAS, OMH, DOH, SED, OTDA, OCFS, OPWDD, Office of Veterans' Affairs, Office for the Aging) and advocates. These meetings serve to update the Council on efforts of the various agencies for the geriatric population. The focus of this meeting was on implementation of APG's, MRT, and BHOs. There was also a discussion on joint licensing for services. One of OASAS primary interests involves the aging of the substance abuse population, with an increase in adults over age 55 seeking treatment.

OASAS Regional Coordinator's Meeting Recently Held in Albany

The Quarterly Regional Coordinators Meeting was held on December 7 through 8 in Albany, New York. The Commissioner was able to join the group to talk about the importance of providing quality services to people



in New York State while staying connected with the program and fiscal monitoring of the enhanced oversight team. The following topics were also presented: Communications and Agency Visibility, Jannette Rondo; Perception of Care, Susan Brandau and Lisa Lite-Rottman;

PAS-48 updates, Gary Dollard; the Role of Internal Auditors, Steven Shrager; Intensive Residential; Budget updates, Mike Lawler; and Adolescent updates, Peggy Bonneau, Pat Zuber-Wilson, and Maria Morris-Groves.

Process Improvement Highlights

OASAS Accomplishments Highlighted in RWJF Report

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) published December 1, 2011, a final program report entitled *State-Provider Partnerships Strengthen Addiction Treatment Access and Retention*. The report highlights the accomplishments of NYS OASAS and the state of Oklahoma on the implementation of Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention-State Implementation (STAR-SI), a four year grant (2006-2010) which promoted state-level implementation of process improvement methods to increase access and retention in outpatient treatment for people with substance use disorders. The STAR-SI program was a joint initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the federal Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The full report may be accessed at www.rwjf.org/files/research/59317.final.pdf

18 NYC and Long Island Outpatient Providers Use Web-Based Performance Measurement System Developed by OASAS IT Department

At OASAS, Principal Investigator and Practice Improvement manager, Susan Brandau, led a team consisting of Bonnie Cohen, Project Director; Kathleen Caggiano-Siino, Executive Sponsor; Dawn-Lambert-Wacey and Katie Chanecka (Haverly), Data Coordinators; and Thomas Zastowny, NYS Coach. Eighteen outpatient providers in NYC and Long Island utilized a web-based performance measurement system called STAR-QI to track and monitor their progress in positively impacting client access and retention in treatment data. The STAR-QI system was developed specifically for the project by an amazing IT team at OASAS under the leadership of David Gardam and included Peter Koletzke, Igor Gorbunov and Laura Frost. The system features 45 graphical indicator reports that are available to providers in real-time. The STAR-QI system remains available to any outpatient provider that would like to focus on early engagement and retention in treatment. An IRM-15 form must be submitted for approval to access the system, and tutorial training is available and may be accessed within the OASAS applications web-pages. More information on the STAR-QI system may be obtained at http://oasasapps.oasas.state.ny.us/portal/page/portal/OASAS_APPS. Simply click on User Guides and the STAR-QI content will appear.

Whole Systems Change -Creating a Culture of Quality Improvement

In addition to the core STAR-SI team, the following individuals joined Whole Systems Change: Communities of Commitment, an initiative developed by CSAT to assist in promoting the sustainability of STAR-SI efforts: Lisa Lite-Rottmann; Dora Ricci; Henri Williams; Rob Piculell;

Gerry King; Tim Williams; Jean Audet; Mat Roosa; Sue Frohlich; Rick Kinsella; Trish Stampfli; regional Field Office staff; and numerous consumer volunteers. These team members devoted significant resources and expertise and are to be commended for their contributions and accomplishments, including the convening of the six World Cafes and the projects that were designed based upon the World Café feedback including the *100 Walkthroughs in 100 Days* campaign; OASAS walkthrough tool-kit (www.oasas.ny.gov/hps/cos/WSCwalkthrough.cfm#toolkit); medical professional cafes and Recovery Coach train-the-trainer-training to support OASAS' efforts to build its capacity to foster the development of recovery coaches throughout the state. These projects were aligned with the goal of STAR-SI to create a culture of quality improvement within the initial participating agencies and then spread that culture to the state as a whole through regional and statewide learning communities. This effort will continue in early 2012 as OASAS launches its new *Process Improvement Learning Tuesday* which will highlight and feature providers that are implementing process improvement and other evidence-based practices to enhance client access and retention in treatment.

For more information on any of the above items, please contact Susan Brandau at (518) 457-6129 or SusanBrandau@oasas.ny.gov



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).

For questions and/or comments about this newsletter, please contact: Jannette Rondó, OASAS

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