



**NEW YORK STATE**

**OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM  
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**  
1450 Western Avenue, Albany, New York 12203-3562  
Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo, Commissioner

**OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
44 Holland Avenue, Albany, New York 12229  
Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D., Commissioner

November 9, 2009

Dear OMH or OASAS Clinic Director:

Two major training and technical assistance initiatives are underway in support of our collaborative efforts to improve services for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in New York State. Both are directly related to the work of the NYS Task Force on Co-occurring Disorders and its recommendations to promote integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders in OMH-licensed or OASAS-certified programs, outpatient clinics in particular.

Supported by the NYS Health Foundation, one initiative involves the provision of on-site training and technical assistance for a number of OMH or OASAS outpatient clinics through the Center for Excellence in Integrated Care established by the National Development and Research Institutes. The second initiative, developed by the Evidence-Based Practice Technical Assistance Center of the NYS Psychiatric Institute, involves web-based co-occurring disorders skills training for OMH and OASAS providers and distance learning implementation supports.

Each initiative utilizes different approaches and media, but both seek to obtain changes in staff and program competency to realize our vision of a system of care where individuals with co-occurring disorders can be screened, assessed, and receive integrated treatment in a single setting licensed by OMH or certified by OASAS. These are complementary initiatives that, at their core, share the same information and knowledge base.

As noted below, the opportunities that these initiatives offer you and your staff to improve and support the care, treatment, and recovery of individuals with co-occurring disorders in your program are considerable. We urge you to take full advantage of them.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo  
Commissioner, OASAS

Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D.  
Commissioner, OMH

### **CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTEGRATED CARE**

Stanley Sacks, PhD, CEIC Director; National Development and Research Institutes, 71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10010; Phone: (212) 845-4429; Email: stansacks@mac.com

- Provides direct, hands-on assistance to increase co-occurring disorders treatment capability, including implementation of recommended screening, assessment, and evidence-based practices
- Involves leaders at all levels in a regional Leadership Forum to understand their current co-occurring capability and to facilitate continued development
- Creates peer-learning program collaboratives with input from these regional leaders
- Offers on-site technical assistance to each program in the collaborative, using a direct-observation survey (Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction [Mental Health] Treatment) to determine each program's co-occurring capability
- Holds a Building Capability Forum, bringing the members of the collaborative and regional leaders together to review survey results, identify consistent themes, and enhance their co-occurring disorders treatment capability
- Conducts a peer/recovery development workshop for the collaborative
- Employs Learning Communities to sustain and enlarge these improvements
- Consults regional leaders periodically to modify and further regional planning and development
- Uses data gathered from Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction [Mental Health] Treatment and other surveys to capture the status of program capability statewide

### **EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER**

Nancy H. Covell, PhD, Project Director; EBPTAC, NYS Psychiatric Institute, 1051 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10032; Phone: (646) 945-00227; Email: covelln@pi.cpmc.columbia.edu

- Practitioners will be able to access up to 35 half-hour distance learning modules on integrated treatment any place and any time they have internet access.
- Practitioners will also be able to access technical assistance supports such as Practice Improvement Networks, webinars, and Ask-the Expert sessions online.
- Knowledge learned will include understanding the recommendations of the NYS Task Force on Co-occurring Disorders; the importance of integrated treatment; and how to target services to a client's stage of change or treatment.
- Skills acquired will include using motivational enhancement approaches; screening and assessing for co-occurring disorders; creating and implementing effective treatment plans; and conducting stage-wise individual and group sessions.
- Skills acquired will also include providing such services as coping skills training, relapse prevention, family work, pharmacotherapy, and supported employment.
- Supervisors will be able to do all of the above, plus learn how to provide clinical supervision for those treating clients with co-occurring disorders; use outcome-based data in supervision; and track supervisees' learning progress.
- Program Directors will be able to do all of the above, plus learn about leadership activities that support integrated treatment; how to use data to track outcomes and the uptake of training modules; and how to compare data with other programs.