

OMH's Hogan Invites Participation at Statewide Children's MH Plan Forums

AN INVITATION FROM COMMISSIONER HOGAN Planning for the Statewide Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health Services

IMPROVING THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN NEW YORK STATE

I would like to invite you to take part in the 2008 Public Forums and Dialogues for the Statewide Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health Services. In coordination with the Mental Health Services Council, the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, and Field Office staff from the Office of Mental Health, this year's forums will focus on the needs of children, youth and their families.

The Children's Mental Health Act of 2006 has created a unique opportunity to come together to chart a course for improving the mental health and well-being of New York's children, youth and families. Therefore, this year's annual Comprehensive Plan activities will concentrate on creating a statewide Children's Mental Health Plan. It will guide child- and youth-serving systems in promoting, supporting and integrating the mental health of our children over the next 10 years. This Plan will aim to improve outcomes for children and their families, such as intervening earlier; using effective preventive strategies; identifying children and youth with needs earlier in their developmental trajectory; increasing access to mental health services and supports; strengthening collaboration and systems integration at the state and local levels; and enhancing training and educational opportunities for workers serving children and their families.

Consistent with the Act, the Office of Mental Health has brought together a broad cross-section of individuals invested in the well-being of children. These individuals come from local and state governments, children's service provider agencies, family and youth advocacy organizations, academic institutions and more. In all, these individuals have been working hard in specific groups to develop a set of recommendations that will ultimately become the core of the Plan. It is their recommendations that will be presented for public review and discussion during the forums and dialogues.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT EACH FORUM AND DIALOGUE?

Welcome and a Personal Perspective:

Successfully Supporting the Well-Being of Children, Youth and Families

Parent Advisors from the Office of Mental Health will provide welcoming remarks. They will also invite family members to speak from their hearts about the profound ways in which services and supports have affected them and the lives of their children and families.

Remarks and Presentations by Commissioner Hogan and Deputy Commissioner Woodlock

Dr. Hogan and Mr. Woodlock will provide an overview of a vision for children's mental health in New York and the outcomes desired. In addition, they will highlight the planning process and recommendations drafted by the children's mental health planning workgroups.

Public Dialogue

There will be discussion with panel members composed of workgroup members and others involved in developing recommendations for the Children's Mental Health Plan. The discussion may include topics relevant to children's mental health, but we are asking you especially to concentrate on the recommendations. In particular, we are interested in hearing your thoughts on the following:

- Are there any omissions or gaps in the recommendations?
- Do any of the recommendations require enhancements or further development?
- How do the recommendations flow or integrate into current local planning efforts?
- How should we continue to work together and use the recommendations to improve children's mental health and well-being?

HOW CAN I HAVE MY VOICE BE HEARD?

Come, listen, ask questions, and share your insights using the "Comment Card." (Comment cards will available at www.omh.state.ny.us on April 7, 2008. They will also be available at each Forum.) Encourage others to participate! You can find information on the dates and times of the forums on the accompanying schedule.

If you are unable to come, then be sure to send your thoughts using the Comment Card so we can also use your feedback to build a stronger Plan.

If you wish special accommodations (for example, a sign language interpreter), please refer to the schedule and let the appropriate Field Office Coordinator know.

On behalf of the many individuals involved in the planning process, we look forward to having you take part in this year's forums and dialogues. Our goal is to shape a shared vision for children's mental health and well-being over the next decade.

Michael F. Hogan, PhD
Commissioner

2008 Forums and Dialogues Statewide Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health Services

IMPROVING THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN NEW YORK STATE

Date	Time	Place	Field Office Coordinator
Wednesday May 7	Forum 10:00 AM – 12:45 PM <i>Brown Bag or Lunch on Your Own</i> Dialogue 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Holiday Inn 503 Washington Avenue Kingston, NY 12401	Laurie Tirpak Hudson River Field Office Telephone: (845) 454-8229 Email ohctllt@omh.state.ny.us
Thursday May 8	Forum 10:00 AM – 12:45 PM <i>Brown Bag or Lunch on Your Own</i> Dialogue 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Fordham University Lincoln Center Campus Pope Auditorium 155 West 60th Street New York, NY 10023	Curletta McClanhan-Michael New York City Field Office Telephone: (212) 330-1651 Email cocbcm@omh.state.ny.us
Friday May 9	Forum 10:00 AM – 12:45 PM <i>Brown Bag or Lunch on Your Own</i> Dialogue 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center* 197 Half Hollow Road Dix Hills, NY 11746	Lisa Legendre Long Island Field Office Telephone: (631) 761-2820 Email pgaslxl@omh.state.ny.us
Tuesday May 27	Forum 10:00 AM – 12:45 PM <i>Brown Bag or Lunch on Your Own</i> Dialogue 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Bohn's Restaurant 5256 Clinton Street Batavia, NY 14020	Patti Sugg Western New York Field Office Telephone: (716) 885-4219 Ext. 221 Email owsupas@omh.state.ny.us
Wednesday May 28	Forum 10:00 AM – 12:45 PM <i>Brown Bag or Lunch on Your Own</i> Dialogue 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Renaissance Syracuse Hotel 701 East Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13210	Mary Rathbun Central New York Field Office Telephone: (315) 426-3930 Email ocadmmr@omh.state.ny.us

*OMH policy precludes using or carrying cellular phones in any area of OMH psychiatric centers accessible to patients.

Should there be any special accommodations (e.g., interpreters) needed, please let the Field Office Coordinator (listed above) know in advance.