

The ReSource

April 20, 2007

FOR PERSPECTIVE AND ANALYSIS

The Source of information for providers of community-based services for people with differing abilities.
A member service of NYSRA.

“WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS”

By Jeff Wise, NYSRA President & CEO

The controversy recently ignited by the offensive remarks of radio host Don Imus already seems to have ebbed a bit. Today's controversies, it seems rise and fall as mercurially as April temperatures.

This may be because, regardless of the merits of any public discussion these days, the matter often morphs into an examination of the messengers rather than the message. Is Don Imus a racist? Are his detractors demanding apologies for the wrong reasons of self-interest? How should the Rutgers University Women's Basketball Team respond, and why, to racist/sexist remarks that essentially put its members in a cultural crossfire?

Those are all relevant questions, but focusing only on them risks losing sight of the offense itself. It seems highly possible that Mr. Imus is not a racist, but his remark is offensive in and of itself.

The disabilities community can relate.

Virtually all of us, I think, are aware of comments that may come from truly good, genuinely fair-minded people. Even among the most enlightened circles we may hear comments, intended as disparagements (even in humor), that invoke myths and misunderstandings from the world of developmental disabilities or mental illness.

The insensitivity of such remarks may not be felt, even by usually sensitive speakers. But the remarks are hurtful nonetheless.

While this is not acceptable, it is understandable on some level. Our society has a history of disparaging those among us who are different. It is a dubious history, of course - one in which certain references and labels became institutionalized just as some of our fellow individuals became institutionalized. The notorious words, “three generations of imbeciles are enough,” cited to allow state governments to forcibly sterilize those deemed intellectually lacking, came from no less a station than the U.S. Supreme Court, and no less a judiciary icon than Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Generations later, one can still ask if Justice Holmes's words are truly off the table. If they are not, it is up to all of us in the rehabilitation field to work to clear them away and improve society's mind-set.

Even as we acknowledge America's history of ill treatment of the vast array of our minorities, we can also note that, for all of them, champions have emerged to assert interests, right wrongs, and work to change people's thinking.

In the rehabilitation arena, those champions should be - and are - ourselves.

As an association of members serving widely diverse populations, NYSRA is uniquely positioned to be a champion of all of them. With that unique positioning comes a unique responsibility, one that we do not take lightly.

We pursue that responsibility every day, pushing for resources, seeking a “people first” mind-set from our policymakers, offering best-practices programming designed to improve services to those New Yorkers who rely on your work.

As we do that, we should all be aware that there are those unfamiliar with the rehabilitation field, who have yet to completely shake the thinking of Justice Holmes but whose minds can be changed by our efforts to inform their thinking.

We can do that by working with policymakers, bureaucrats, clinicians, self-advocates, professional colleagues, and, of course our membership. At the association level, that may just be the best of best practices.

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GERIATRIC MH DEMONSTRATION GRANTS

The NYS Office of Mental Health and the Office for Aging have announced nine grants for geriatric mental health services. Three are for community gatekeeper programs, six are for projects to integrate health and mental health services. Four grants are for NYC, with one each for Long Island, Lower Hudson River Region, rural Hudson River Region, Central Region, and Western Region. Grants ranged from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

Sixty-eight proposals were submitted. Sixty-five were scored. This is the largest response to an RFP to the Office of Mental Health in history, clearly a reflection of statewide attention to and need for geriatric mental health services.

Gatekeeper projects selected are:

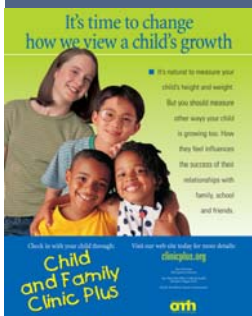
- St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers - Manhattan
- Family Services of Westchester - Lower Hudson River
- Onondaga County - Central NY

Physical-Mental Health Integration Programs selected are:

- Metropolitan Hospital Center - East Harlem
- Flushing Hospital Medical Center - Queens
- New York-Presbyterian Hospital - Manhattan
- Warren and Washington Counties - Northern Rural
- University of Rochester - Western NY
- Long Island Home - Long Island

Details will soon be on OMH's website at <http://www.omh.state.ny.us/>

ACHIEVING THE PROMISE FOR NY'S CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



An opportunity to learn about the shared goals and new directions that the NYS Office of Mental Health and the NYS Education Department are undertaking for the children of New York State.

School Administrators, teachers, parents, advocates and mental health providers will gather to celebrate children's healthy development and to learn how we can promote mental health in schools, how to recognize mental health issues earlier and how to access services to treat children and their families who are struggling with

serious emotional disturbances. Discover how a holistic approach to wellness and learning leads to success in academics and life, and how an integrated wellness and learning approach may offer support and hope to families.

Take part in this event on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Huxley Theatre, Cultural Education Center at the New York State Museum in Albany on Madison Avenue. You must RSVP by May 1st to 518-474-4403 or email Susan Watson at colespw@omh.state.ny.us.

NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE AWARD DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 31ST.

US Department of Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao is accepting nominations for the New Freedom Initiative Award. Nominees must be individuals, businesses, or non-profit organizations whose activities exemplify the goals of President George W. Bush's New Freedom Initiative, which include the Office of Disability Employment Policy's mission of increasing employment opportunities for youth and adults with disabilities. Nominations may be submitted by other persons and entities with the knowledge and permission of the nominee. Self-nomination is also encouraged. Nominees must have developed and implemented a multi-faceted program directed toward increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities through increased access to assistive technologies, and use of innovative training, hiring, and retention techniques. For more information about this award visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/freedominitiative/freedominitiative.html>.

Geriatric Mental Health Alliance Conference

***"Geriatric Mental Health:
Challenges and Opportunities
Across the Horizon"***

May 31, 2007 • 9:00am-4:00pm
Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, NY

To Register:
(518) 281-2754

SMALL COMMUNITY BASED GRANTS

The Employment and Training Administration U.S. Department of Labor has announced the availability of \$3,000,000 in grant funds for eligible "grassroots" organizations with the ability to connect to the local One-Stop Delivery System.

The selected grantees will be expected to achieve the following objectives:

- Help unemployed or underemployed individuals with barriers to employment through (1) providing services that complement and support those offered by the identified One Stop Career Center, such as pre- and post-job placement mentoring, intensive case management, job retention support, life skills training and employability skills training; (2) connecting individuals with the existing training, apprenticeship and job opportunities of the One-Stop Career Center or other local affiliates of DOL's national business partners; and (3) providing post-job placement services to increase job retention.
- Expand the access of faith-based and community-based organizations' clients and customers to the training, job and career services offered by the local One-Stop Career Centers;
- Leverage volunteer hours and in-kind donations to maximize DOL's investment in grants to grassroots" FBCOs;
- Thoroughly document the impact and outcomes of these grant investments through quarterly and final reporting; and
- Establish methods and mechanisms to ensure sustainability of these partnerships and participation levels beyond the life of the grant.

DOL expects to award approximately 40 grants. The grant amount for each "grassroots" organization will range between \$50,000-\$75,000. The period of performance will be 18 months from the date of grant execution.

Eligible "grassroots" organizations must be non-profit organizations that:

- Have an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) status at the time of application submission.
- Have social services as a major part of their mission.
- Are headquartered in the local community to which they provide these services.
- Have a social services budget of \$500,000 or less.

Populations to be served can include but are not limited to such groups as: ex-offenders, immigrants, limited English-speakers, veterans, victims of violent crime, single working mothers, homeless persons, individuals living in specific low-income area and individuals with disabilities.

For more information visit <http://www.doleta.gov/sga/forms.cfm> and www.grants.gov.

VISTA PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The New York Field Office of the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) has announced the availability of applications for the creation of new AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) projects. AmeriCorps*VISTA members help to build the infrastructure of nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to creating sustainable solutions for eliminating poverty through capacity building and empowering the low-income community. While all applications will be considered, CNCS is especially interested in developing projects that: serve re-entering prisoners and their families; address financial asset development for low-income families; provide mentors for youth; support rural community and Tribal community development; engage students in community service; and assist youth who are aging out of foster care.

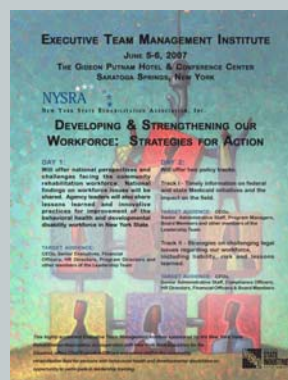
ELIGIBILITY: Public or private nonprofit organizations.

FUNDING: Contact the CNCS NY Field Office for details.

DEADLINE: Concept papers are due by May 1, 2007.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For an application package or for more information, please contact the CNCS NYS Field Office at (518) 431-4150 or at ny@cns.gov. For more background on CNCS and its programs, please visit their website at www.nationalservice.gov.

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NYSRA's
Executive
Team Management
Institute

June 5-6, 2007

Gideon Putnam Hotel &
Conference Center
Saratoga, New York

For a brochure visit:
www.nyrehab.org or
call: (518) 449-2976

Education Program Assistant (EPA, Grade 14): VESID is seeking qualified candidates to join the Interagency, Legislative, Family, & Community Affairs (ILFCA) unit at VESID to manage the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), assist the ILFCA Coordinator with government relations and provide administrative assistance to the ILFCA unit. Essential Function: SRC Management and Coordination.

Qualifications: Masters Degree preferred or a bachelor's degree with five years experience in program management or human services. A working knowledge of State Vocational Rehabilitation Services and familiarity with the State legislative process is a plus.

Salary: Approximate hiring rate \$35,428; maximum grade rate \$43,840. For More information on how to apply contact Ed Placke, Assistant Commissioner, VESID at 473-4818.

Director of Communications & Public Policy: The position is responsible for maintaining a communications plan for the Association, in conjunction with the Executive Director, to ensure information flow between member agencies, and to represent the interests of area agencies on aging to the Legislature, government entities, seniors and caregivers, and the community. Analyze state and federal legislation and aging policies. The position works closely with meeting and membership coordinator to ensure delivery of information to members stakeholders and the public. The positions reports to the Executive Director. Send cover letter and resume by email to laura@nysaaaa.org at New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Director of Medical Rehabilitation Clinic: Dynamic visionary needed to direct and expand the operations of our DOH Article 28 Clinic. Services include OT, PT, SP, Psychiatry, early intervention, and DME. Programs in both educational and out-patient settings for children and adults. Day to day operation of the clinic including: staff supervision, collaboration with community agencies, operating budget, policy and procedure reviews, quality assurance, clinic compliance with regulatory agencies, and expansion/development of services. Master's Degree in related field preferred with a minimum of 5 years experience in a supervisory/managerial position. Organizational, multi-tasking, motivational, and leadership skills essential. Experience in operating an Article 28 clinic preferred.

We offer an excellent salary and benefit package including health, dental, four weeks vacation. Send resume to: Human Resources Dept., REHAB Programs, Inc. 70 Overocker Rd., Poughkeepsie NY 12603, fax 473-1270, e-mail karensimon@rehabprograms.org. Visit our website at www.rehabprograms.org. AA/EOE.

Director of Medical Rehabilitation Clinic: Mountain Lake Services seeks an experienced, dynamic, results oriented person to join a progressive management team providing services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Incumbent is responsible for the overall operations of a highly success

ful woodworking environment and vocational rehabilitation center.

Incumbent reports to the Executive Director and assumes responsibility for development and oversight of manufacturing processes. Developing alternate work experiences in community settings essential. Master's degree in Human Services, Industrial/Manufacturing Engineering or a related field with substantial administrative/management work experience preferred. Bachelor's in human services, engineering or equivalent with progressive managerial responsibility in lieu of a masters degree may be considered. Excellent organizational and interpersonal skills essential. Competitive salary and exceptional benefits package.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT SARATOGA BRIDGES:

Assistant Residential Manager II
Behavior Specialist
Day Hab Assistant
Individual Support Aides
Day Hab Instructor II
Medical Trainer, RN
Registered Prof. Nurse
Shift Supervisor II

Saratoga Bridges offers a pleasant work environment, paid training, and excellent full-time/part-time benefits (health/dental insurance, generous time off, retirement plan, and more). Interested applicants should apply online at www.saratogabridges.org or contact Human Resources at 518-587-0723 for more information.



NEW YORK STATE REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

MAY 2007

4: VOC REHAB DIVISION MEETING – NYC

9: DD DIVISION MEETING – ALBANY

11: MH DIVISION MEETING – ALBANY