

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

### **NYSRA LEGISLATIVE FORUM: FEBRUARY 4-5, 2008 SAVE THE DATE!**

Attend NYSRA's Legislative Forum and be the first to hear from key budget division staff about proposed Medicaid reform initiatives. State Commissioners have been invited to discuss their agencies proposed initiatives.

On February 4, you will receive timely analysis and information on how the Governor's proposed budget will impact your agency's provision of services.

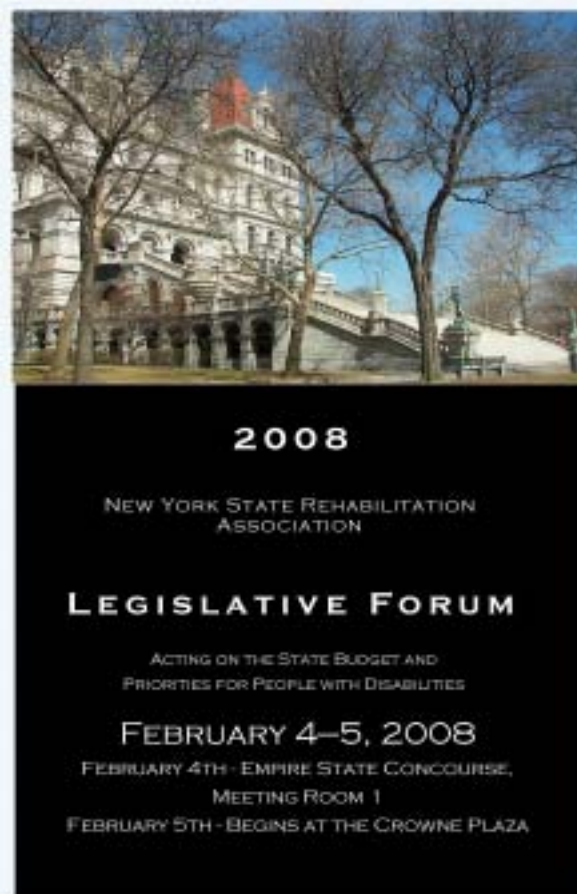
On February 5, NYSRA Leadership will meet with key legislators and their staff to inform, educate and advance our 2008 Legislative Priorities. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU** to schedule a meeting with your legislative representative this day. See upcoming issues of the ReSource on forum registration and to learn about March Lobby Days at the Capital for NYSRA's Vocational, Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Divisions. NYSRA's Legislative Priorities are available online at [www.nyrehab.org](http://www.nyrehab.org).

### **NYSRA USE LEGISLATIVE GAZETTE TO PROMOTE PRIORITIES**

The Legislative Gazette is a singular opportunity for NYSRA to advance the priorities of our members and the New Yorkers they serve. On February 4, the Legislative Gazette will publish a special report highlighting NYSRA Priorities and our members. The Gazette's special reports are noted for their wide circulation and high readership during the Legislative Session. Elected officials, key staff members, potential collaborators, and the public at-large read the paper. It is the best way to spread our message most efficiently and effectively.

Under the program, advertisers buy space with the knowledge that the association receives editorial space on a 1:1 basis with that ad space. Put another way, every column inch of advertising equates to a column inch of space in which we can provide editorial content to advance our members' message and focus attention on our issues. The more ad space that is sold, the greater the opportunity for us to provide information to this most important audience.

NYSRA will provide editorial content for the issue and we seek your support in this venture by asking you to purchase an advertisement in this special section. Ad deadline is January 14. See page 2 of *The ReSource* to learn how to place your ad.



#### **Inside Edition**

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# On February 4, 2008, The Legislative Gazette will publish a Special Report highlighting:



Be a part of this important section. Your advertisement will help NYSRA put information in front of the leaders of New York State Government.

————— Tentative Topics —————

- Employment of people with disabilities
- Workforce issues for agencies that care for people with disabilities
- Government funding support for services to people with disabilities
- Quality assurance issues regarding agencies' services
- Not-for-profit agencies as essential to service delivery

————— Net Advertising Rates —————

Full Page (10" w x 16" d).....	\$2366.40
Half Page (10" w x 8" d).....	1183.20
Quarter Page (5" w x 8" d).....	591.60
Eighth Page (5" w x 4" d).....	295.80
Sixteenth Page (3" w x 2" d).....	147.90
Spot Color.....	200.00
Full Color.....	800.00

**Hundreds of extra copies will be distributed by NYSRA.**

## Deadline for Advertising: January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Please Contact Kathy Howland: (518) 486-6514**  
or email: [khowland@legislativegazette.com](mailto:khowland@legislativegazette.com)



THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT

### The Legislative Gazette

## UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PLAN FOR NEW YORKERS ASSEMBLYMAN DICK GOTTFRIED UNVEILS PLAN

*Courtesy Daily News*

New York would become the fourth state to provide health care for all state residents under a plan to be unveiled by Assembly Health Committee Chairman Dick Gottfried.

A spokesman for Gov. Spitzer, who has pledged to create a universal health care program for New York, said, "The administration will weigh the chairman's proposal" as it develops its own plan.

Gottfried's plan, would eliminate income eligibility requirements for the publicly funded programs Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus, eventually phasing in an expanded version called New York Health Plus.

Participants could choose from managed care, point-of-service or fee-for-service plans. They would pay minimal co-pays and no premiums.

New Yorkers also could opt to stick with private, employer-sponsored insurance plans.

Gottfried (D-Manhattan) estimates the plan would cost \$59 billion annually, \$4 billion less than current levels. Funding would come out of the tax system, possibly in a paycheck tax similar to Social Security.

Workers who use their employer's plan would not pay for the state program.

"Almost every New Yorker would see less taken out than is taken today," Gottfried told The News. "The plan would be good enough that every New Yorker would want to enroll. This is not meant to be a plan meant only for low-income people or only for the uninsured."

Massachusetts, Vermont and Maine have universal or near-universal health programs. Other states considering them include California, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



### JONATHAN'S LAW

In response to the requirements of "Jonathan's Law," the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities has published a new brochure outlining the recent amendments to Mental Hygiene Law. It can be viewed online: <http://www.cqcapd.state.ny.us/Brochures/Access-to-MH-Records.htm>.

### OMRDD RFP

OMRDD announces Quality Improvement/Staff Training RFP. Funding totals \$2.5 million to support projects from public and non-profit organizations to develop quality improvement demonstrations that benefit Direct Support Professionals. RFP is available at <http://www.omr.state.ny.us/RFP/index.jsp>.- There is a required password -"provider".

### EARN

The Employer Assistance & Recruiting Network (EARN) is a free service that connects employers looking for quality employees with skilled job candidates. EARN is currently recruiting individuals with disabilities to fill jobs with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in several cities nationwide. This information has recently been updated, and can be accessed at: <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=10#>.

### PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH BILL

On November 5th, President Bush signed into law a veterans' suicide prevention bill (HR 327) that will require mental health training for Department of Veterans Affairs staff, mental health screenings for all veterans who receive VA care and a suicide counselor for each VA health care facility. The law also supports outreach and education efforts for veterans and their families, as well as peer support counseling and suicide prevention research. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Leonard Boswell, D-Iowa.

### OMH FUNDING TO PREVENT SUICIDE AMONG YOUNG LATINAS AND ASIAN WOMEN

The New York State Office of Mental Health announces the availability of funds to support public awareness and education campaigns designed to prevent suicide among young Latinas and Asian women. The Requests for Proposals (RFPs) can be found at <http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/rfp/>. Proposals are due January 11, 2008.

### TAX BENEFITS

Information on tax benefits in the forms of credits and deductions for businesses that accommodate people with disabilities, including: the Disabled Access Credit, Architectural Barrier Removal Tax Deduction and Work Opportunity Credit. Visit <http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=50>.

### WELLNESS SELF-MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

The State Office of Mental Health, working closely with the Urban Institute for Behavioral Health in NYC, is promoting the adoption of its Wellness Self-Management (WSM) initiative for adults with serious and persistent mental illness. This initiative is a "curriculum-based approach" designed in part to help promote awareness of how one's physical health affects one's mental health and recovery. For more information, visit <http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/wellness/>

## NEW YORK STATE RESOURCE: PARENT TO PARENT OF NYS LINKS DIGEST

As a part of the Family to Family Health Care Information and Education Center, Parent to Parent of NYS has established the Links Digest to provide links relevant to the issues of health care.



To access this resource visit Parent to Parent of NYS at: [www.parenttoparentnys.org](http://www.parenttoparentnys.org)

## HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION TO GIVE FORMERLY INCARCERATED PERSONS A SECOND CHANCE

The Second Chance Act of 2007 (HR 1593), passed in the U.S. House of Representatives last week, provides new hope for ending recidivism and allows for persons with mental health and addiction disorders being discharged from our nation's prisons to receive help and rebuild their lives in the community.

The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, which has long lobbied for passage of this significant legislation, commends the House for its bipartisan support and urges the Senate to follow suit before the end of the year. The National Council is the nation's association of community behavioral

healthcare organizations and works to ensure that all those who have a mental illness or addiction disorder can get effective and comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation in their communities.

"The Second Chance Act resurrects hope for strong, healthy, and safe communities," said Linda Rosenberg, President and CEO of the National Council. "If we have the resources to treat those with mental illness and addictions coming out of prison, we can keep them from going back, give them a chance to integrate into the community, save taxpayer dollars, and increase public safety."

Each year, nearly 650,000 people are released from prison to communities nationwide. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, half of these people will return to prison and nearly two-thirds will be re-arrested within three years. These high rates of recidivism are expected to cost taxpayers as much as \$27.5 billion on prisons alone over the next five years on top of current corrections spending.

"The revolving door response to crime cannot be sustained or justified," says Tammy Seltzer, criminal justice expert and the National Council's Director of State Policy. "With the right treatment and resources, those leaving prison can have meaningful and productive lives."

The Second Chance allocates \$360 million for a variety of essential reentry programs, providing ex offenders with a coordinated continuum of services that will keep them out of prison. The act reauthorizes the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Program, under which states

craft programs focusing on housing, jobs, addictions and mental health treatment, and services for families and children of incarcerated parents to help individuals transition into their communities upon their release.

"We know how to prevent recidivism of people with mental illness and addiction disorders, but not enough resources are now directed to what works," asserted Tammy Seltzer. She explained that community behavioral health organizations across the country have already used limited resources to craft innovative and effective programs to divert individuals with mental and substance use disorders who come in contact with the justice system into more appropriate community-based treatment and support services. These community interventions have produced impressive and cost-effective results.

"With adequate resources, these successes can be replicated across the country to ensure that people don't go back to prison simply because they have nowhere else to turn," said Seltzer. "The Second Chance Act provides hope for those leaving prison and for our communities."

## REPORT RANKS STATES BASED ON DEPRESSION STATUS

Mental Health America today released its report, "Ranking America's Mental Health: An Analysis of Depression Across the States," a first-of-its-kind study examining state and national data for statistical associations between access-to-care factors and actual health outcomes, namely a state's mental health status and suicide rate. Included in the study is a ranking of the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on rates of depression and suicide. South Dakota is found to lead the nation with the best depression status while Utah ranked last. For the complete rankings, visit [www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/state-ranking](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/state-ranking)

"It is important to note that regardless of where each state ranks on our mental health scale, there is much room for improvement," said Dr. David Shern, PhD, president and CEO of Mental Health America. "While a number of factors including biology and environment impact an individual's mental health, this study shows that states can significantly improve their populations' mental health status by adopting policies that expand access to mental health treatments."

In "Ranking America's Mental Health," Mental Health America found statistically-significant associations between the following factors and better depression status and lower suicide rates:

- 1) Mental health resources: On average, the higher the number of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers per capita in a state, the lower the suicide rate.
- 2) Barriers to treatment: The lower the percentage of the population reporting that they could not obtain healthcare because of costs, the lower the suicide rate and the better the state's depression status. In addition, the lower the percentage of the population that reported unmet mental healthcare needs, the better the state's depression status.
- 3) Mental health treatment utilization: The higher the percentage of the population receiving mental health treatment, the lower the suicide rate. Socioeconomic characteristics - The more educated the population and the greater the percentage with health insurance, the lower the suicide rate. The more educated the population, the better the state's depression status. In addition, the report found the following factor to be significantly associated with the level of mental health service utilization in a state:
  - 4) Health Insurance parity: The more generous a state's mental health parity coverage, the greater the number of people in the population that receive mental health services. "The findings of this study underscore the critical need to monitor the mental health status of Americans by examining depression and the states' policies that may impact it," said Shern. "Through regular and ongoing measurement of key indicators of depression, we will be able to understand how state public policies impact a population's depression level and suicide rate - and make adjustments to benefit the millions of American affected by depression."

In developing the state rankings of depression status, Mental Health America examined four measures: 1) the percentage of the adult population experiencing at least one major depressive episode in the past year, 2) the percentage of the adolescent population experiencing at least one major depressive episode in the past year, 3) the percentage of adults experiencing serious psychological distress, and 4) the average number of days in the last 30 days in which the population reported that their mental health was not good.

"Despite the fact that some states do better than others on rates of depression and suicide, no state can be satisfied with its current status," continued Shern. "These rates can be driven lower by encouraging state policies designed to improve coverage, end discriminatory practices in insurance, and assure that qualified mental health professionals are available to serve everyone in need."

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Director of Employment Services:

Dynamic visionary with proven track record needed to supervise an Integrated Employment Program and a Vocational Training Program in a Sheltered Workshop in a 25 million dollar diverse organization serving disabled individuals. Must be able to guide departments in attaining the highest quality goals of the organization, forecast needs and trends, provide leadership in the expansion/development of services, enhance bottom line performance and efficiency, and supervise management of multi-site facilities. Position requires a bachelors degree with a minimum of 10 years senior management level experience in a broad array of human service programs dealing primarily with people with disabilities. (or Masters degree in a relevant field or MBA plus 5 years experience). The successful candidate must be highly motivated, strong team leader/team player, demonstrate a successful track record in communication and problem-solving and be committed to ensuring the successes of our participants through dedication and perseverance. We offer an excellent salary and benefit package including health, dental, four weeks paid vacation per year. Send resume with cover letter and salary requirements to: Human Resources Department, REHAB Programs, Inc., 70 Overocker Rd., Poughkeepsie NY 12603, fax: 845-473-1270, e-mail: karensimon@rehabprograms.org AA/EOE.

## Director of Facilities Management & Purchasing:

Strong administrator needed to oversee facilities management and purchasing including oversight of agency property, asset management/procurement, maintenance operations, and long-range facilities planning. The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating facility leasing, acquisition, expansion, improvements, renovations, as well as purchasing with emphasis on activities that avoid redundancy, waste, and non-value-added activities and expenses. REHAB Programs, Inc. encompass a wide variety of buildings located throughout Dutchess County, including residential, day programs, offices, etc. Position requires Bachelors degree in related field plus a minimum of 7 years related senior-level management experience including general contracting and construction management. Strong analytical ability essential. A combination of education and experience will be accepted. REHAB Programs offers an excellent salary and benefit package including health, dental, four weeks vacation. Send application or resume to: Human Resources Dept., REHAB Programs, Inc. 70 Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie New York 12603, fax: 845-743-1270 or email ksimon@rehabprograms.org. AA/EOE.

## Director, Quality Assurance & Corporate Compliance:

This position will be responsible for establishing and implementing effective programs to ensure compliance with applicable quality standards and relevant industry regulatory requirements as well as administrative guidelines. In addition, this position will be responsible for developing and implementing programs that monitor and promote quality of services throughout the organization. **Qualifications:** Minimum of a Bachelor's degree including course work in QA practices and/or Compliance. A minimum of 10 years experience in organization compliance and quality assurance areas; plus prior supervisory experience are required. Knowledge of and experience with quality standards (CARF, ISO 90001, JCAHO) and knowledge of AbilityOne (formerly JWOD) and NYSID regulations and guidelines preferred. Please submit resume w/cover letter indicating salary requirements to [employment@fedcap.org](mailto:employment@fedcap.org) and indicate Director QA & CC in the subject line of the email. EOE/M/F/D/V. Detailed job announcement available at [www.nyrehab.org](http://www.nyrehab.org).

## Director of Research and Training

Full-time position involving coordinating activities around change in the field of service delivery to individuals with various disabilities; promoting strategic partnerships, coordinating inquiries into current research and training; investigating revenue streams to fund research and training opportunities; and managing research and training activities through developing and implementing work plans within a budget. **Qualifications:** Advanced degree and at least 4 years' experience in health/human services research, training and/or policy development, plus a demonstrated understanding of disability and rehabilitation issues. Fiscal management experience as well as excellent writing and communication skills required. **Compensation:** Competitive salary commensurate with experience. A full package of benefits is offered. Resume and Cover letter to: NYSRA/RTTI CEO, 155 Washington Ave. Ste. 410, Albany, NY 12210. EOE.

## Director of Vocational Services Developmental Disabilities Institute

DDI seeks an energetic and creative individual with excellent communication skills to oversee and expand our vocational division, providing services to autistic and developmentally disabled adults and children through Pre-Vocational and Supported Employment services. To qualify you must have a BA (Master's preferred), with 3 - 5 years related experience. A proven record in administering vocational programs for this population and extensive knowledge of OMRDD, VESID and DOL is required. Experience in grant proposal writing is a plus. We offer excellent benefits with a competitive salary. E-mail resume to [jobs@ddiinfo.org](mailto:jobs@ddiinfo.org) or fax 631)366-2966.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the largest Nonprofit Organizations, providing a continuum of services to both the Children and Adult population in Orange County, NY, is recruiting for an Executive Director who has the vision, knowledge and discipline to meet the unmet needs of all our program recipients. Working with the Board of Directors, the successful candidate must have an excellent track record of effective leadership, coupled with an exemplary educational background in overseeing that Individual Service or Educational Plans are successfully delivered to the population being served in a multi-program/multi-funded operation requiring OMRDD, SED and MEDICAID regulatory compliance. Please send resume and salary requirements in strict confidence to PO Box 589, Newburgh, NY 12551.



**February 4-5, 2008**

Legislative Forum  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York

**May 13-14, 2008**

Trainers' Institute  
Century Inn  
Latham, New York

**June 5-6, 2008**

Executive Team Management  
The Gideon Putnam  
Saratoga Springs, New York

**September 15-17 2008**

Leadership Training Summit  
The Desmond  
Albany, New York