



New York Association of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers, Inc.

1 Columbia Place, Suite 400 • Albany, New York 12207
518-426-3122 • Fax: 518-426-1046 • E-Mail: asap@asapnys.org • www.asapnys.org

Executive Committee

President

Ira Marion
Albert Einstein College
of Medicine

First Vice President

Kathy Ayers-Lanzillotta
Catholic Charities Diocese
of Rockville Centre

Second Vice President

Ronald Williams
New York Therapeutic
Community, Inc.

Third Vice President

Raul Russi
BASICS/Promesa, Inc.

Secretary

Beth Lawyer
North Star Chemical
Dependency Services

Treasurer

Martin Teller
Finger Lakes Addictions
Counseling and Referral
Agency, Inc.

Immediate Past President

Chris Wilkins
Loyola Medical Associates

Personnel

Herb Barish
Lower East Side Service
Center

Public Policy

Kathleen Riddle
Outreach Project

By-Laws

Luke Nasta
Camelot of Staten Island

Cultural Diversity

Sonskeshana Kornegay
Phase Piggy Back

Membership

John Tavalacci
Odyssey House

Member-at-Large

Richard Pruss
Samaritan Village

Member-at-Large

Robert Ross
St. Joseph's Rehabilitation
Center

Member-at-Large

Mary Silberstein
The Pederson Krag Center

Executive Director

John J. Coppola

Reduce the State Deficit: Invest in Treatment, Prevention, and Recovery Support Services

The Executive Budget proposal recognizes the need for additional resources to support implementation of drug law reform and to help address the alarming increase in substance use disorders in NYS. It is critical that the legislature support and strengthen the Governor's proposal. We ask for Senate and Assembly support with the following concerns:

Spiking Healthcare Costs and Lack of COLA Threaten Workforce

Health care costs are increasing by 15% - 20% for community-based chemical dependence and problem gambling services providers. The proposed budget does not contain resources to meet this increased cost or to help adjust low salaries to retain employees. ASAP recommends adding \$10 million to help meet the cost of rising health insurance premiums and to help fiscally distressed programs provide modest salary adjustments to retain staff.

Support the Four Year Extension to Social Work Licensure Exemptions

Implementation of social work licensing legislation has significant workforce implications for chemical dependence and problem gambling treatment, prevention, and recovery service providers. The Governor has proposed a four year extension to the sunset of scope of practice exemptions, allowing time for a workforce impact analysis and development of amendments to the legislation that would mitigate layoffs, service reductions, and other problems. We ask the legislature to support the proposed four year extension.

Pass Legislation Limiting Scope of OMIG's Actions

Treatment programs are receiving severe disallowances and fines for clerical errors, billing delays, and other reasons having nothing remotely to do with fraud, abuse, or waste. As a result, programs are experiencing significant fiscal distress and services are being cut. ASAP strongly urges the Senate and Assembly to pass legislation that precludes OMIG from levying severe fines for administrative imperfections.

Renew NYS's Commitment to Prevention Services

The President and Congress eliminated the Safe and Drug Free Schools program from the federal budget causing a cut of more than \$23 million for NYS prevention services. ASAP urges our legislature to pass a resolution asking Congress to renew its commitment to prevention by ensuring that funding, at least equal to the SDFS cut, is restored. We ask the legislature to also restore SED cuts that will diminish the availability of prevention services.

Ensure that Programs Receive Resources to Implement APGs

As chemical dependence and problem gambling services providers transition to the Ambulatory Patient Groups billing system, NYS must provide resources for software, and staff training to ensure that implementation of APGs does not become an unfunded mandate. ASAP encourages the legislature to work with OASAS and DOH to identify the cost and allocate resources as appropriate.

Coalition Members Addiction Treatment Centers of OASAS • Addiction Treatment Providers Association • Association of Addiction Recovery Care Homes • Association of New York City Addiction Programs • Central New York Alcohol & Drug Association • Coalition for Community Services • Coalition of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Programs of Northeastern New York • Committee of Methadone Program Administrators of New York State • Consortium of Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services • Council on Addictions of New York State • Hudson Valley-Catskill Coalition • Nassau Coalition of Chemical Dependency Providers • Mid-Hudson Addiction Recovery Centers, Inc. • Northern Tier Providers Coalition • Quality Consortium of Suffolk County • Recovery Net • Statewide Black & Puerto Rican/Latino Substance Abuse Task Force • Therapeutic Communities Association of New York • Westchester Putnam Coalition of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Programs • Western New York Chemical Dependency Consortium

Reinvest Savings from Adult Prison and Juvenile Justice Facility Closings into Chemical Dependence Treatment for Adolescents and Adults

As persons with substance use disorders are increasingly diverted from prisons and juvenile justice facilities into prevention, treatment and recovery services, NYS will be able to close facilities and realize significant savings. We ask that the Senate and Assembly pass legislation that would provide for reinvestment of some of the savings into prevention, treatment and recovery services. This reinvestment funding is vital to ensure that services are available for adults and youth in every region of the state.

Supported Housing for Families and Young Adults

Funding for Supported Housing for Families and Young Adults (SHFYA) has been eliminated because increasing TANF caseloads have drained the TANF surplus fund that had been the funding source for SHFYA. Failure to fund SHFYA will result in a loss of housing assistance for nearly 1,200 families. The cost of currently housed individuals being forced into shelter care will increase the state deficit. We ask the legislature to provide funding for SHFYA.

Sale of Wine in Grocery Stores

ASAP opposes the budget proposal that would permit the sale of wine in grocery stores, a move that will lead to increased underage drinking and a consequent increase in teen deaths from accidents and alcohol poisoning. We are concerned that the Governor's proposal *does not* include funding for OASAS to provide training for grocery store personnel, community education and prevention, and to monitor compliance with responsible grocery store policies.

Revenue Recommendations

ASAP asks the Senate and Assembly to pass legislation to increase the alcohol beverage tax and to utilize funds generated to pay for chemical dependence treatment, prevention, and recovery services.

Gambling has expanded significantly throughout New York State without any investment in treatment and prevention of problem gambling. We ask that the legislature dedicate one half of one percent of all new gambling revenue to support problem gambling prevention and treatment.

Budget Restoration Requests

ASAP requests that the legislature restore the following cuts:

- \$300,000 for five gambling prevention programs
- \$300,000 for three recovery centers
- \$450,000 for a statewide prevention survey to support statewide planning
- \$85,000 for the peer review program

Chemical dependence and problem gambling treatment, prevention, and recovery services create savings for NYS by reducing criminal justice, juvenile justice, child welfare, health care, social service, and many other systems' expenditures. Continued investment in these vital services is imperative if NYS is to effectively address its economic crisis while improving the lives of individuals, families and communities throughout NYS.