

Focus on Substance Use Treatment

Daytop Opens New Facility to Serve More People, Address Heroin/Opiate Crisis
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EHCA Provides Treatment, Education to Give Inmates Opportunities for Many Successes
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CGE Raises Great Expectations for the Future of Young Women and their Children
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CarePlus and Turning Point Celebrate Partnership in Recovery

Ribbon tying ceremony demonstrates collaboration to address co-occurring disorders.

See details on page 12.

Seize the Opportunity to Gain Essential Clinical and Business Skills – and CEUs – at NJAMHAA’s Annual Conference, April 15-16, 2015

NJAMHAA has designed the program for its Annual Conference, *Inspiring Progress, Seizing Opportunities*, to provide all staff and provider organizations the knowledge and skills they need for them to succeed both as individual professionals and as organizations. To achieve this goal, NJAMHAA has lined up experts to present workshops on topics along several tracks: Clinical – Adult Mental Health; Clinical – Substance Use Disorders; Organizational; and Children & Youth.

Plus, nationally renowned experts will deliver keynote and plenary presentations from which attendees will gain not only invaluable knowledge, but also keen insights into current and future situations of the state’s and nation’s mental healthcare and substance use disorder treatment systems.

Keynote and Plenary Presentations



- Day 1 Keynote: *Current Advances in the Science of Mental Illness*, Hussein K. Manji, MD, FRCPC, Global Therapeutic Area Head, Neuroscience, Janssen Research & Development, LLC



- Day 1 Plenary: *An Update on Federal Policy and its Implications for your Day to Day Operations*, Paul N. Samuels, Director and President, Legal Action Center. This session is approved for 1.25 non-clinical Social Work CEU’s.



- Day 1 Plenary: *Breaking Bad: Is Risk Resilience?*, Genevieve E. Chandler, RN, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst,



and Eric C. Arauz, MLEP, President, Trauma Institute of New Jersey. This session is approved for 1.25 non-clinical Social Work CEU’s.



- Day 2 Keynote: *Serving Individuals in the Criminal Justice System: An Overview of the Population and Best Practices*, Fred C. Osher, MD, Director, Health Systems and Services Policy, Council of State Governments Justice Center

- Day 2 Plenary: *Redefining Behavioral Health Delivery and Outcomes in New Jersey*, Elizabeth Manley, MSW, Director, New Jersey Children’s System of Care, and Lynn A. Kovich, MEd, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Workshops

Adult Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

Day 1: *Fresh Start: Brief, Motivation-based Treatment for Co-occurring Serious Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders*: Kim T. Mueser, PhD, Executive Director, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Boston University, will describe the Fresh Start program, a manualized brief intervention aimed at engaging persons with severe mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in treatment, educating them about the nature of their disorders, motivating them to endorse substance use reduction or abstinence as a goal, and then developing plans to achieve goals.

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Mercadien Helps Providers Prepare for Fee-For-Service and Much More

When Kyle Neeld, CPA, began working for the Mercadien Group 15 years ago, he was a consultant for the long-term care services group, conducting financial and market feasibility studies for organizations looking to develop assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. With this experience, he then transitioned into auditing for long-term-care clients and afterwards, began to focus on financial audits for other types of nonprofit organizations, as well as some for-profit companies.

Currently, Neeld is a managing director of the firm and co-leader of Mercadien's Nonprofit Services Group. "It's very rewarding because many nonprofit clients do not have the financial expertise or resources so they rely on us to provide assistance and offer insight. This requires additional time to train their staff and provide assistance, which is rewarding knowing that you have helped someone and made a difference. Our clients have come to rely on this level of client service that we provide. We know that the assistance provided ultimately benefits organizations in the long run and adds to the betterment of their staff," Neeld said.

In fact, training has become a more significant part of Neeld's work in the past three years. "Sharing our expertise and experience is a part of our business development strategy. In addition to helping clients when we conduct their audits, we offer free seminars. Our focus is on providing value-added services to our clients," he said. Mercadien also offers Continuing Professional Education credits for seminar participants.

Over the past several years, many significant changes, such as regulatory changes and tax law changes (expanded 990 form), have impacted nonprofits. "We provide post-audit presentations to clients and their boards to discuss upcoming accounting changes and industry trends and to review the 990 form. These presentations help to ensure they understand their role in the tax and financial reporting process and their fiduciary responsibility," Neeld said.

Services Aligned with Hot Topics: Risk Assessment and Fee-for-Service

Many agencies that are part of the Fee-for-Service (FFS) transition, will be implementing electronic health records systems and perform Medicaid and other billing through the Internet. This means they will be subject to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations. Risk assessments are required as part of the HIPAA security rule, according to Neeld. To help NJAMHAA members meet this requirement and prepare for the FFS transition, Mercadien recently presented a seminar on risk assessment and is planning

to hold another one. "July 1st is the hard deadline for when organizations funded through the Division of Developmental Disabilities will transition to the new FFS environment. Under this structure, organizations will no longer receive guaranteed funding under a cost-reimbursement agreement arrangement. Organizations will have to understand their costs of providing services and determine if the service rates will cover their costs. Some organizations may have to consider merging or affiliating with others in order to survive," according to Neeld.

Mercadien not only conducts risk assessments for NJAMHAA member agencies, but also examines information technology functions from a risk assessment perspective. "Providers need to have safeguards in place to protect data and to avoid breaches and associated fines," Neeld stressed.

To help agencies prepare for the transition to FFS, Mercadien can perform gap analyses, evaluate processes and controls, and determine what alternatives are available to survive in the FFS environment.

In addition, when the FFS rates are set, Neeld and his team can help agencies project their revenues, which will help them decide if mergers or other business strategies may be worth exploring to ensure the agencies' ongoing viability. "Small organizations in particular should consider mergers and other strategies to ensure the best service for their clients. It's about readiness and being prepared," Neeld said.

Mercadien can help agencies prepare for FFS by:

- Conducting risk assessments
- Performing gap analyses
- Evaluating processes and controls
- Developing checklists
- Developing financial models
- Helping agencies understand provider costs

Learn More!

Visit Mercadien's booth at the Annual Conference on April 15th!