

**CO-SPONSORS:**  
New York State  
Office of Mental Health,  
New York City Field Office



New York City Department of  
Health and Mental Hygiene,  
Office of Consumer Affairs



The Frances L. & Edwin L.  
Cummings Memorial Fund

New York University, Steinhardt School of  
Culture, Education and Human Development



Conference Details Inside

Center For Rehabilitation & Recovery  
90 Broad Street, 8th floor  
New York, NY 10004

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Professionals, educators, policy-makers, administrators, youth and students working with adolescents and young adults in a wide range of settings.

**FEE:** \$75 payable to The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc. Scholarships available for consumers, youth and students. Contact the Center at 212.742.1600 x235 for more information.

**REGISTRATION:** Go to:  
[www.coalitionny.org/the\\_center/](http://www.coalitionny.org/the_center/)

*Participation in this conference counts for up to 5 hours of continuing education credits toward the Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP) credential.*

**LOCATION:** New York University Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012. Take the A, B, C, D, E, F, V Trains to West 4th Street, 6 Train to Bleecker Street.

**CANCELLATION:** Conference fee will be refunded if notice is received by June 16th, 2008. No refunds will be given after this date.

**ACCOMODATIONS:** NYU Kimmel Center is wheelchair accessible.



# READING BETWEEN THE LINES:

Rethinking  
Mental Health and Literacy  
for Youth in Transition

Monday June 23rd, 2008  
9 am - 4 pm

New York University  
Kimmel Center



THE  
COALITION

OF BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH  
AGENCIES, INC.

The goal of this interdisciplinary conference is to investigate how we can better reach New York City's disconnected youth, ages 16-25, through education and mental health services. Information and discussion will focus on the impact of systems on the learning process and how they affect a student's sense of self and emotional and behavioral health; the importance of creating a productive learning atmosphere, either in public school or in a mental health setting, that approaches literacy and mental health as largely interconnected facets; and how we can encourage youth in transition to adulthood to embrace as many opportunities as possible in their academic pursuits and beyond.

## Program

**8:30-9:00**

### REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

**9:00-9:15**

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Alysia Pascaris, Director, Center for Rehabilitation and Recovery, The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.

Phillip A. Saperia, Executive Director, The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.

Anita Appel, LCSW, New York State Office of Mental Health, Director, New York City Field Office

David Rosin, M.D., Executive Deputy Commissioner for Mental Hygiene Services, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

**9:15-10:00**

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

#### ***Remedies to Racial Inequity and Special Education***

**Daniel J. Losen, J.D., M.Ed.**, Senior Policy Associate, The Charles Hamilton Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School & Senior Education Law and Policy Associate, The Civil Rights Project at UCLA

**10:00-12:45**

### PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

**Samantha Jo Broderick, MSW, LSW**, Adolescent Practice and Permanency Unit, New Jersey Department of Children and Families

#### ***Overcoming the Stigma of Misdiagnosed Behavior***

**Divine Pryor, Ph.D.**, Deputy Executive Director, Center for Nu Leadership on Urban Solutions, CUNY Medgar Evers College, School of Professional and Community Development

#### ***Trauma and Resilience: Implications for Education***

**Caroline S. Clauss-Ehlers, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology, Graduate School of Education, Rutgers, State University of New Jersey

**1:00-2:00**

### LUNCH (on your own)

**2:00-4:00**

### AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

#### ***Effectuating Change: Advocacy for Youth and Families***

*Facilitators: Gisela Alvarez, J.D., Senior Program Director, Advocates for Children, and RueZalia Watkins, Educational Services Specialist, Mental Health Association of New York City*

Why are certain students being pushed out of mainstream public school? Is there a disproportionate drop-out rate for students with disabilities? How can obstacles to academic achievement be surmounted? This workshop will explore how young people and their families can claim their right to a meaningful education that ensures graduation, especially for over- or under-credited students.

#### ***Making Literacy Relevant***

*Facilitator: Evan Elkin, M.A., Director of Adolescent Portable Therapy, Vera Institute of Justice*

Young people enduring the stresses of family separation, street life, detention, or prison are often deprived of an environment conducive to learning. With reading and writing levels often years behind their actual age, it is difficult for transition-age youth to find meaningful vocation in their communities. This workshop will explore

specific approaches to imparting literacy skills in a relevant context for young people who have been forced into the margins of our culture.

#### ***Continuing Education: Bridging Secondary and Higher Education***

*Facilitators: Matthew S. Joffe, M.A., Senior Director, CUNY, LaGuardia Community College, Student Services and Disabled Students Programs, and Millie Pacheco, LCSW, CASAC, Transition Coordinator and Emilie Zarchin, Ph.D., School Psychologist, Horizon Academy, District 79, New York City Department of Education*

How can professionals working with youth—especially those with disabilities—best expose them to the world of higher education and encourage opportunities for further academic achievement? This workshop will also explore the demands of college life and how students might best prepare themselves for its challenges.

#### ***Integrating Mental Health and Education***

*Facilitators: Anthony Diaz, LCSW, Director of Adolescent Services, Mental Health Association of New York City, W. Christian Burgess, LMSW, Director of School Programs, Safe Horizon, and Scott Bloom, LCSW, Director of School Mental Health Services, Bureau of School Health, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*

Be it in a community mental health or a public school setting, teachers and mental health staff are well-positioned to effectively address the impact of emotional disturbance on the learning process. This workshop will explore how educators and mental health professionals can create an atmosphere of safety, relevance, and stimulation for youth in transition to ensure the acquisition of crucial reading and writing skills.