Prescription Drug and Heroin Addiction and the Children Left Behind

The scourge of the epidemic of drug use has spiked dramatically in the past few years. Stringently enforced policies have successfully made it more difficult to obtain prescription pills, but an unintended consequence has been a dramatic increase in heroin use. Staten Island has surpassed the other four boroughs in per capita heroin deaths, with 10.2 fatal heroin overdoses per 100,000 people.

Staten Island Mental Health Society’s management team has been at the forefront of this issue by participating in borough-wide efforts created to address these pernicious addiction problems. Our Mobile Integrated Health Team and the Sandy SafeTY.net program have been extremely effective in assisting those who suffer from addiction. Family life is dramatically affected when a child or parent has a debilitating addiction and it is a top priority for SIMHS programs to help families cope, heal, and thrive.

Healing in the Aftermath of Superstorm Sandy

Staten Island has had a long road to recovery after the traumatic experience of the worst storm in a century. SIMHS was at the forefront, providing much-needed services. The day after the hurricane hit, SIMHS was there to help, but long-term repercussions must still be addressed, including skyrocketing addiction rates for those suffering from post-traumatic stress.

This year SIMHS once again received many generous grants to implement these services from numerous private and public sources including the Tiger Foundation, Save the Children, Robin Hood Foundation, Children’s Aid Society, NYC Department of Education, Rotary Foundation, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYS Office of Mental Health, and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

In addition, our Mobile Integrated Health Team, run in partnership with Community Health Action of Staten Island, continues to provide crucial community-based medical and mental health services to residents devastated by the Superstorm.
Promoting Mental Health and Wellness for Staten Island Children and Families

As we complete our 120th year as an organization serving Staten Island children and families, the Staten Island Mental Health Society has much to be proud of. We have a long legacy of leadership on Staten Island and throughout New York City and State. Our skilled staff and devoted volunteers have enabled a large expansion of our programs, allowing us to meet the needs of a growing borough. In a time defined by economic uncertainty, SIMHS has remained a stable resource in the Staten Island community, continually providing quality service to improve mental health wellness in our borough.

As our community grows, new social service needs are arising among both children and adults in the different communities we serve. Heroin and prescription drug abuse have spiked to epic proportions. The disease of addiction is having a crippling effect on our families. To combat this, SIMHS operates two outpatient chemical dependency treatment and prevention centers for at-risk teens on the North and South Shores.

In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, the rate of both children and adults suffering from post-traumatic stress has dramatically increased. At SIMHS, our hard-working staff has risen to the challenge by providing much-needed services to these Staten Islanders. Thanks to numerous public and private grants, we offer many community-based services in various locations, houses of worship and at home. We have clinics at four schools to assist students suffering from PTSD. In addition, Island residents can receive free, in-home medical and behavioral health screenings and treatment through our Mobile Integrated Health Team operated in partnership with Community Health Action of Staten Island.

Like many organizations across the state, SIMHS is facing significant financial challenges. We have had to realign some programs to adapt to new funding streams, regulations, and policies. SIMHS has remained resilient and has not let these financial setbacks affect the stellar services provided on a day-to-day basis. We have managed to do more with less, continuing to provide programs that promote positive social, emotional and cognitive development for children.

In addition, this year we received multiple new grants from private foundations, government entities, and generous individual and business supporters. We know the challenges ahead and have taken steps to gain new strategic alliances and mutually beneficial partnerships that will help with our financial stability.

SIMHS has one mission: to provide access to high-quality comprehensive services for children and families. We pride ourselves in our ability to say to every child, “We are your friend, your voice, your advocate, and your ally. We are here when you need us.” This is the message that drives our volunteers, our staff, and our board of directors. We are here to meet the ever-changing mental health needs of the Staten Island community. We are ready to combat the challenge of substance abuse erupting on the Island. We continue to provide high-quality services at our Head Start programs and the Elizabeth W. Pouch Center for Special People. After 120 years, we are proud to be here to support the needs of our growing community.

Fern A. Zagor, LCSW, ACSW
President/CEO

John G. Tapinis
Chair, Board of Directors
Outpatient Clinical Services

Chait Children’s Mental Health Center
Dr. Kenneth Popler Children’s Center
South Shore Children’s Mental Health Center

SIMHS clinics provide comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic treatment services for children and young adults (to age 26) and their families. Medicaid and some third-party insurance accepted. Fees on a sliding scale and evening and Saturday hours available.

Early Recognition Screening

Parents can assess their child’s mental health by filling out a simple questionnaire, available at a number of community sites, that asks about the child’s behavior at home and in school. A clinician determines whether the youngster has emotional needs that should be addressed by a professional before they become more serious.

Day Treatment Centers

PS 25/IS 25 (West Brighton)
South Richmond High School (Tottenville)

Intense therapeutic services for children, ages 6 to 18, with severe emotional or behavioral challenges, combined with the NYC Department of Education curriculum. Small classes led by caring teachers allow each student to work at his/her own pace. The high school division, expanded to 60 slots, offers work-study and other off-site educational opportunities.
Health Services

On-Site
School Mental Health Program
PS14/78; PS 16; PS 44; PS 57; IS 27; IS 49
Our highly qualified professional clinicians provide school-based therapeutic services for at-risk students, with additional evening services for parents.

Teen Center
North Shore (St. George)
South Shore (Great Kills)
Our state-certified Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment Program provides intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment services exclusively for teens and young adults. This program also provides therapeutic services for the children of substance abusers. These services take an evidence-based approach, healing both the mind and body. The program also serves adolescents affected by Hurricane Sandy and offers DUI/DWI screening and referral.

SafeTY.net
SafeTY.net is an innovative program that serves adolescents and young adults, 16 to 23, with mental health challenges. This program helps to develop their crucial educational, vocational, housing, and community living needs.
Clinical Services
Skilled professional clinicians and physicians work together to provide comprehensive assessments, therapies, education, and support programs for more than 1,250 individuals of all ages challenged with developmental, intellectual, or neurological disabilities. The team also conducts interdisciplinary evaluations for children 3 to 5 years old who need specialized preschool services.

Head Start Integrated Classrooms
In two classrooms at the Osgood Head Start Center, 20 mainstream children and 20 children with diagnosed disabilities share the nationally recognized Head Start curriculum. Pouch Center special education teachers and Head Start teachers work together to manage the classrooms. Special education and related services, including counseling and speech, language, physical and occupational therapies, are delivered on site.

Training in Parenting Skills (TIPS)
SIMHS provides support for parents with our innovative TIPS program. Families in which one or both parents are developmentally challenged meet weekly for group education and discussion, counseling, and social activities to help them develop better family and parenting skills, with the added benefit of long-lasting friendships. During meetings, their children meet with Pouch Center staff for learning and social activities.

Additional Services
Club Saturday: Therapeutic socialization group for children, ages 8 to 11, who are challenged by autism spectrum disorders.

SUCCESS (Support, Counseling, Conversation, Education, Socializing Skills) Group:
Weekly group meeting for adults with mild developmental challenges to provide a space for them to share their diverse concerns and experiences.

SIDDSO (Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office): Clinicians provide assessments and speech and physical therapies for DDSO-based clients.
SIMHS was a pioneer in developing Head Start programs and services. Our Kingsley, Osgood, Port Richmond Day Nursery and Dongan Hills Head Start Centers served over 700, 3 and 4-year-olds whose parents met mandated income guidelines.

Our preschool mental health component, supported by continuing government and private grants, proved especially relevant at the Dongan Hills Center, where so many children had suffered Hurricane Sandy-related trauma.

At Head Start, the nationally acclaimed, evidence-based curriculum strengthens children’s academic and social skills and promotes healthy personality development. Each of the 18 classrooms at our four sites reflects the children’s multi-cultural backgrounds and most teachers are bi-lingual. Twelve Universal Pre-Kindergarten classrooms operate within the four sites. Our Dongan Hills site is dedicated to children in UPK.

In the two Integrated (inclusion) Preschool Classrooms at the Osgood Center, 20 children with special needs learn and play with 20 mainstream peers, helping all to develop their strengths and overcome their weaknesses.

Head Start parents have a strong voice in program planning, activities, and overall decision-making. Families receive an array of support services including medical and dental care, vocational planning, educational assistance, family skills training, and referrals.
Challenges and Triumphs

Karen Sorensen (left) and Doreen Tartaglia (right) received 2014 Community Service Awards from the Staten Island Not-for-Profit Association. SIMHS President/CEO Fern Zagor joins the award winners. The awards honor staff members who are often “unsung heroes” at the organizations where they work.

In the photo on the left, Borough President James Oddo accepted the 2014 Dr. Richard M. Silberstein Memorial Award for his commitment to health and wellness. The Borough President is joined by SIMHS President Fern Zagor and Michael P. Milham, Director of the Center for the Developing Brain at the Child Mind Institute.

2014 SIMHS Gala honoree John Tapinis received his award from SIMHS President Fern Zagor.

John Tapinis’ sons enjoyed the Gala.
District Attorney Dan Donovan (standing, left) joins students from PS 25, school administrators, and “Santa” at the Staten Island Rotary’s annual holiday party for the children in the SIMHS’ Day Treatment program.

Joining the Traamps are Chait Center Director Gerri Matthews and Pouch Center Director Jayne Cooper.

Billing Director Ancilla Cuffy gets her 70’s on.

Elizabeth (Libby) Traynor (left), SIMHS’s Chief Clinical Officer and Senior Vice President for Behavioral Health Services, received the 8th Annual Mid-Career Exemplary Social Work Leader Award from the New York Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Disco Night With The Traamps: “Staying Alive” 2014
A Night of Fun To Support Staten Island Children
Volunteer Services

Staten Island Mental Health Society is truly fortunate to have more than 500 volunteers who generously donate their time to support exciting SIMHS events and fundraisers. The members of our active Board of Directors provide oversight of our policies and programs and help us raise much-needed funds. The Annual Gala is our primary fundraiser and a harbinger of Spring. The Women’s Guild and the Elizabeth W. Pouch Auxiliary sponsor fundraisers including the Spring Luncheon, the Fall Dinner-Show, $10,000 Raffle, and other events, ensuring that crucial programs for Staten Island families continue without interruption.

Thrift Shops Support Staten Island Families

More 40 hard-working Thrift Shop volunteers staff and manage our “bargain boutiques” in Great Kills and Tottenville, assisted by the South Shore Clinic Committee. 100% of the proceeds support SIMHS and its programs that benefit children throughout Staten Island. Tax-deductible donations of clothing, housewares, and other items are welcomed at each site.

Volunteer and Advisory Committee Chairs

HEAD START PARENTS’ COMMITTEES
Dongan Hills - Mary Seton, chair
Kingsley - Octavia Carter, chair
Osgood - Rasma McCollin, chair
Port Richmond - Erica Townes, chair

HEAD START DELEGATE AGENCY POLICY COMMITTEE
Octavia Carter, chair

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION #242
PS 25 - DAY TREATMENT CENTER
Robin Cocozza, president
James McKeon, principal

SOUTH SHORE CLINIC COMMITTEE
Janet Kalriess, president

STATEN ISLAND CHILDREN’S THEATRE ASSOCIATION
Rosemarie Callahan, director

THrift SHOPS
Great Kills - Cheryl Keohan, president
Tottenville - Maria Morio, president

WOMEN’S GUILD
STATEN ISLAND MENTAL HEALTH SOCIETY
Vivian Carbonaro, president
Fran Habib, president-elect

WOMEN’S AUXILIARY
ELIZABETH W. POUCH CENTER FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE
Elizabeth Palagiano & Paulette Russo, co-presidents

Thrift Shop managers Maria Morio and Cheryl Keohan present a check for 2014 proceeds to SIMHS President/CEO Fern Zagor.

Great Kills Thrift Shop
10 Brown Avenue, 10308
Tel: 718-356-7448

Tottenville Thrift Shop
233 Main Street, 10307
Tel: 718-984-7439
Volunteer Programs

SI Children’s Theatre Association

For over 50 years, the Children’s Theatre Association has thrived as a self-sustaining program that is both a cultural resource for Island children and a source of positive mental health through the arts. The Performing Arts Company, now in its 30th year, nurtures youngsters from 5 to 18 in developing their stage talents during year-round musical theater workshops for two age groups.

Kirsten Kaiser as Laurey and Matt McComb as Curley at a performance of “Oklahoma” in December on the stage at South Richmond High School.

SI School Reading Volunteer Program

Reading comprehension is a crucial skill to prepare for a rapidly changing job market. Critical skills learned through reading improve confidence and overall mental health. Now into its 55th year of service to children who need extra help learning to read, this crucial program boasts more than 200 volunteers who donated more than 10,000 hours in 2014, bringing the academic boost and personal joy of reading and new bonds of friendship to over 600 children in 30 public elementary schools.
Board of Directors - 2014

Chair
John G. Tapinis

Treasurer
Anthony J. DeFazio

Secretary
Elizabeth Palagiano

Honorary Directors
Janet Kalriess • Ronna Lasher • *Mark Marcario
Rev. William Merryman

Directors
Michael Behar
Nancy Meyers Benbow
Christine Cea, PhD
* Robert Conti
Robert Cutrona, Esq.
Robert De Gennaro
Victoria Drumbakis
* Samir Farag
Ronald A. Gregg, Esq.
* John Hogan
Nellie Kemevor
* Former Chairs

Laura Kennedy
Al Lambert
Robin Lefkowitz
Joseph Milano
Toni Otway, MD
Michael Prendamano
Nancy Shanaphy
Deeptha Nedunchezian Sithian, MD
Roberta Vogel, PhD
Linda Wilson

Management Staff - 2014

Aruna Agni, MD
Rose Marie Belfini
Rosemarie Callahan
Roseann Catania
Patchara Changpertitum
Laura Chishoff
Carmen Chisvett
Beryl Clark
Jayne Cooper
Ancilla Cuffy
Valarie Daymond
Lenora DePrimo
Marie Farrell
Marie Fazzolari
Linda Ferrigno
Joan Fisher
Joan Gerstel

Cheryl Gonzalez-Thevenot
Janet Klein
Geraldine Matthews
Alicia Melendez
Clifford Mevs, MD
Robert Morrison, PsyD
Yezenia Ortiz
Rosemary Pannese
Michael Skinner
Robin Sklarin
Peggy Spurling
Zabrina Stokes
Maryann Striffolino
Elizabeth Traynor
Patricia Verardi
Lydia Walsh
Fern Zagor
Services to Staten Island Children
for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

| Children's Community Mental Health Center | 60,038 | 1,940 |
| Elizabeth W. Pouch Center for Special People | 11,798 | 1,253 |
| Head Start | 57,332 | 728 |
| School Reading Volunteer Program | 10,325 | 623 |
| Hurricane Sandy-Related Programs | 33,268 | 749 |
| **TOTALS** | **172,761** | **5,293** |

Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER</th>
<th>ELIZABETH W. POUCH CENTER FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE</th>
<th>STATE EDUCATION INTEGRATED PROGRAM</th>
<th>DAY CARE &amp; HEAD START</th>
<th>NON-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS AND PROGRAMS</th>
<th><strong>TOTALS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>New York City Contracts</td>
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<td>208,258</td>
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<td>–</td>
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<td>Department of Health and Mental Hygiene</td>
<td>35,418</td>
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<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
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<td>Fees for Service</td>
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<td>City and State Grants</td>
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<td>7,212,983</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous revenues</td>
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<td>907</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>22,100</td>
<td>1,467,794</td>
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<td>Non-governmental revenues</td>
<td>458,415</td>
<td>205,367</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>114,610</td>
<td>2,246,186</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>8,852,350</td>
<td>1,468,027</td>
<td>527,822</td>
<td>5,302,829</td>
<td>17,942,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Salaries & Professional Fees | 5,923,385 | 996,966 | 464,481 | 2,761,718 | 273,583 |
| Fringe Benefits | 2,035,330 | 268,546 | 171,950 | 848,126 | 45,275 |
| General Operating expenses | 2,511,685 | 194,655 | 208 | 1,683,197 | 4,389,745 |
| Depreciation | – | – | – | 273,115 | 273,115 |
| Non-governmental expenses | – | – | – | 509,944 | 509,944 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | 10,470,400 | 1,460,157 | 636,639 | 5,293,041 | 18,962,164 |

| EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES | | | | | |
| (1,618,050) | 7,860 | (108,817) | 9,788 | 689,055 | (1,020,164) |

| FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES | % TO TOTAL |
| Management & General Expenses | 879,942 | 4.64% |
| Fund Raising Expenses | 455,349 | 2.40% |
| Program Expenses | 17,626,873 | 92.96% |
| **18,962,164** | **100.00%** |

| STARTING NET ASSETS | 2,963,745 |
| ENDING NET ASSETS | 3,263,377 |

The books, accounts and fiscal practices of the Staten Island Mental Health Society, Inc. are audited on an annual basis by Neral & Company, CPAs, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and government auditing standards. The data presented above summarize these findings.