

***The Urban Institute for Behavioral Health of New York City:  
FY 2005-2006 Mid Year Update***

We are pleased to share the important progress that has been made over the first two quarters of the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year. It is outlined below:

**Operations**

- Ms. Sheetal Rayancha was hired in September 2005 as the UIBH Executive and Research Assistant. Since that time she has assumed responsibility for many administrative functions and played a role in the development of the WSM manual, and a recent federal grant submission.

**Grants**

- In December, the MICA SIG responded to a joint RFA from NIMH and SAMHSA. Five UIBH agencies participated in the grant submission including: The Bridge, Comunilife, FECS, ICL, and SUS. Additionally, the group developed research partnerships with Dr. Mary Jane Alexander of the Nathan Kline Institute, Dr. Dei-In Tang of the Nathan Kline Institute, Dr. Colleen Gillespie of NYU, Dr. Mary McKay of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and Ms. Laura Travaglini a certified trainer in Motivational Interviewing. The group has presented a practice improvement project to assess the use of a Learning Collaborative as a means of disseminating Motivational Interviewing to increase engagement/ retention of dually diagnosed consumers in “generic” treatment settings. This grant marks UIBH’s first federal submission and if funded will provide approximately \$220,000 (excluding consultant and materials costs), to UIBH and the participating agencies over a three year period.
- UIBH staff have also begun the planning process for a potential SAMHSA grant submission in Spring, 2006. Additionally, several foundation grant opportunities will be pursued.

**Wellness Self-Management (WSM) Project**

- The WSM initiative with OMH has continued to develop with particular emphasis placed on the refinement of the SAMHSA Illness Management and Recovery toolkit. The updated WSM manual will be completed in early 2006. The initiation of the learning collaborative and the dissemination of the treatment model is scheduled to begin in Spring 2006.

**Special Interest Groups (SIGS)**

- UIBH SIG’s have continued to develop in the first half of the fiscal year and several projects are reaching critical stages of development. The MICA SIG submitted a joint NIMH and SAMHSA grant application (described above). The Children’s SIG comprised of 7 UIBH agencies is partnering with Dr. Mary McKay (Mt. Sinai), and Dr. Oriana Linares (NYU) to disseminate the empirically supported Incredible Years Parent Training Program to address the needs of children with disruptive behavior disorders. The Co-Occurring Disorders—Intellectual Disabilities SIG is working to develop a program model for the

provision of community based residential services to consumers with co-occurring mental health and intellectual disabilities. The Cultural Competence SIG is presently recruiting research partners to help examine the issue of engagement in addition to informing the work of other groups as they develop projects.

Over the past several months UIBH has formed three additional SIG's to meet ongoing agency needs. These groups are described below:

- The Housing SIG is chaired by Dr. Yves Ades, and consists of several UIBH agencies and DOHMH. The group is writing a white paper on innovative housing models in New York City which incorporates the literature base in housing services for persons with serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders. This group will then develop a plan for the evaluation of existing or new housing models
- The Middleware SIG is chaired by the State Office of Mental Health, and its membership includes 4 UIBH members, and the Coalition. The group is developing a pilot project to use middleware to bridge the gap between agency software and the OMH CAIRS system. At present all outcome data must be separately keyed into both systems and the pilot will allow for electronic conversion of the data. At the conclusion of the pilot this middleware solution will be made available to the NYC behavioral health provider community at large
- Our Evaluation SIG, chaired by Ms. Jessica Fleisher of JBFCS, is scheduled to meet in January 2006 and will bring together representatives from different agencies that are responsible for quality improvement/ program evaluation efforts. This group will work on methods for evaluating programmatic efforts. We are very pleased at the initial response to this group, with seven UIBH members expressing interest in participating.

### **Membership**

- Astor Services for Children and Brooklyn Psychiatric Centers joined UIBH in Summer, 2005 and we continue to welcome new members.

### **Outreach & Dissemination of UIBH Activities**

- In collaboration with The Coalition and OMH, UIBH is planning a conference on the use of Evidence Based Practices in New York City. We envision such a meeting combining the expertise of practitioners and researchers to jointly address opportunities and challenges of providing evidence based practices in real world treatment settings.
- UIBH has reached out to the academic community to form partnerships with research scientists at New York University, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and the Nathan Kline Institute.
- A UIBH website is being developed and should debut in Winter/ Spring 2006.