



## HRA Challenged to Serve Adults In Need of Protective Services

**H**RA's Adult Protective Services program (APS) serves adults who need protection from themselves or others due to mental or physical impairment, and have no one to responsibly assist them. This caseload is extremely difficult to serve. Most services require voluntary consent and only 10% of APS clients initially seek APS services voluntarily. Roughly 40% of APS clients are under age 60. These clients are most likely to suffer from severe mental illness or substance abuse and to resist APS services. Fifty percent of APS clients are facing eviction when accepted for services. As a result of a rapidly growing elderly population, APS's cases have increased by more than two-thirds since January 2002.

Although handicapped by absence of a Federal funding stream for APS training, HRA has moved committedly to meet the demands of serving the growing population requiring APS services. APS has recently hired 52 new caseworkers (32 of these positions are newly created), redesigned its training curriculum and expanded it to 30 days. Manhattan's APS office has been divided in two offices, to accommodate the borough's client increase. To maximize the efficient use of staff, APS has separated its clients into those who have been stabilized, who require less visits, and those who are at risk and require a higher level of service and monitoring.

Concurrently HRA is advocating for the passage of the Elder Justice Act, which would create a dedicated funding stream for APS training and technology development. APS meets regularly with NYCHA and other agencies to discuss the coordination of services for shared clients. Commissioner Doar is leading HRA in broadening the network of service providers that participate in the responsibility for helping elderly and disabled people to remain in the community as independently as possible.

## Father's Day Picnic is a Grand Slam

by Shannen Fish

Spending a day with dad, combined with an official Brooklyn Cyclones' practice guarantees a fun, summer afternoon. But fun does not begin to describe the NYC Father's Day Picnic held to honor those who participate in fatherhood programs throughout New York City: it surpassed expectations. "The amount of support we have received today is a good indication of how many people recognize the vital role that fathers play in their children's lives," Commissioner Doar said.

Twenty-six different fatherhood programs were represented at the event from all five boroughs of New York City. Clear skies and lots of sunshine, coveted prizes including Nike gym bags, tickets to the New York Aquarium, and mini footballs (to name just a few), and lunch supplied by Snapple and Subway, all assisted in providing the perfect setting for fathers and their children to spend quality time with one another. "I can't think of a better way to celebrate Father's Day," stated Department of Youth and Community Development Commissioner Jeanne Mullgrav. "After all, what do dads want more than a picnic, the beach, baseball, and most importantly, a day with their kids?"



Food, prizes and Brooklyn Cyclones' baseball created a wonderful atmosphere.

Special guests added to the afternoon. There was an appearance from former New Jersey Nets star Darryl Dawkins, who considers dads to be the real stars! Dawkins met and signed autographs for those in attendance. "I'm just thrilled to be here and I'll definitely be back next year!" he said. Another famous guest- the Mets' mascot Mr. Met, also greeted families for the afternoon.

The picnic was the first of several exciting events that HRA will host throughout the year to celebrate fathers who are overcoming social and economic hurdles to build positive relationships with their kids. To commemorate the occasion, Spike TV and Snapple have donated \$10,000 each to the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC to enhance the city programs which offer financial and parenting support to dads.

Close to one hundred enthusiastic, HRA volunteers gathered in support of the cause, creating a memorable occasion.

## HRA Program Updates

### NYC Employers Work with OCSE on Child Support Payroll Deduction

Employers are a crucial partner in collecting child support. Over 70% of child support funds are collected through payroll deduction. On June 14, OCSE held a conference to assist NYC employers in important technical aspects of processing wage garnishments for child support and health insurance. OCSE has been very successful in gaining the commitment of employers to accurately accomplishing their role in child support collection. Staff of ninety-nine NYC employers participated as OCSE Deputy Commissioner Fran Pardus-Abbadessa, Asst. Deputy Commissioner Frank Olton and Bureau Chief Monique Rabideau of NYS Department of Child Support spoke and answered questions.

### Commissioner Doar Addresses City Council on APS

On June 14, Commissioner Doar testified before the City Council on HRA's proposed strategy for meeting the needs of an increased elderly and disabled population in need of protective services. Learn more about the challenges and on emerging HRA policy by reading his testimony. On the home page of HRA's Intranet, select "Legislative Affairs" under "Program Areas," and choose "Testimony."

### MICSA Opens Medicaid Reception Model Office

The Medicaid Reception Office located at MICSA headquarters serves about 400 consumers daily in all matters except applications, which must be made at community Medicaid offices. The model plan expanded its former office, which wasn't conducive to the volume, into a larger light, open area and implemented an advanced routing and customer service plan. Consumers and staff are delighted with the results. MICSA celebrated its new Medicaid Reception model office with a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 11.

### HRA Perspective Monthly Bulletin

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## BEGIN – 16 Years of Commitment to Employment Services

For over sixteen years, BEGIN Managed Programs has been providing coordinated services and dedicated teachers and mentors that have helped numerous New Yorkers make the transition from welfare to a career path in the workforce. On June 15, BEGIN held its 2007 Expo at The New School for Social Research.



Members of the FECS BEGIN Language Program do an English recitation in unison at the June 2007 BEGIN EXPO.

BEGIN, a collaboration between HRA and education and training providers, combines worksite assignments with literacy, ESL, and vocational training programs, such as its well-known

Culinary Arts Program. FIA's Executive Deputy Commissioner Seth Diamond described the expertise and dynamic spirit that characterizes BEGIN. "When you talk to BEGIN staff about their work, their pride is evident and is reciprocated by their participants," he said.



Nicolas Riveron, a client/student at the FECS BEGIN Language Program, reciting his personal writing.

Commissioner Doar thanked BEGIN staff for their vital work in accomplishing HRA's mission and Executive Director Georgia Salley for inspiring leadership. He asked BEGIN staff for their commitment as HRA collaborates with the Department of Homeless Services on the Work Advantage program to help homeless New Yorkers into permanent housing through employment. "People in the shelters need your services right from the beginning," he said.

Commissioner Doar introduced HRA's new Director of Employment Services, Raymond Singleton. "Our staff is phenomenal," Mr. Singleton said. "I see the work you do and it radiates out. I know that as a team we can bring new energy and ideas to the program."

As part of the program, 2007 awards were presented. ESL, GED and vocational training participants created presentations and spoke about the radical difference the assistance obtained through BEGIN has made in their lives.

## Event Calendar

### PAI LUNCH & LEARN WORKSHOP

Thursday, July 26, 2007  
HRA Headquarters, 180 Water Street, 16th floor conference room, 1:00 PM.  
Dr. Simonetta Sambataro, Associated Program Director of the Residency Program at Saint Vincent Hospital, will be speaking. Her subject: "All About Osteoporosis."

### HRA BLOOD DRIVES

Working together, the City's donor program broke its own record by making more than 30,000 blood donations in 2006. Please keep your vital donations coming.

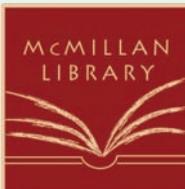
### DONATE BLOOD AT THESE HRA LOCATIONS IN JULY:

**Friday, July 27, 2007, HRA Headquarters, 180 Water Street,** 12th floor conference room, from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Kettly Ménard at (212) 331-3374.

**Friday, July 27, 2007, General Support Services (GSS)/Investigation Revenue & Enforcement Services (IREA),** 250 Church Street, 1st floor training room, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. To make an appointment, call Valerie Sheafe at (212) 274-6414.

### SUGGESTED READINGS:

*Voices of African-American Teen Fathers: I'm Doing What I Got to Do* (2006)  
by Angelia M. Paschal.



*The Importance of Fathers in the Healthy*

*Development of Children* (2006) U.S. Dept. Health and Human Services, Office of Child Abuse and Neglect.

**New!** Tips for every supervisor in the bi-weekly newsletter *Smart Supervision*.

Do you have a recommendation for the HRA McMillan Library? Send your suggestions to [HRALibrary@hra.nyc.gov](mailto:HRALibrary@hra.nyc.gov)

Search the library's catalog from your desktop:  
<http://hrawebbackup.hra.nycnet/hralib/default.asp>

## HRA Raises Record AIDS WALK Funds

HRA collectively donated \$16,143.73 for AIDS Walk 2007. We partnered with a college alumni group from the University of Georgia that had never walked before for a combined total of \$20,234.73. The teams enjoyed meeting each other while raising money. This year was our best ever in terms of number of participants and monies raised. Thank you to all who gave your time and money. We hope even more staff will join us next year in this important event for the benefit of HASA clients and for all people living with HIV/AIDS in our city.

## Partnering to Combat Elder Abuse

With the full support of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New York City observed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 to underscore the necessity of taking effective action against elder abuse. A difficult circumstance of living longer is that the elderly are the most frequent targets of financial exploitation through forgery, coercion, and predatory scams. The problems are complex, because the felon may be a stranger, but also a care provider or a family member.



**From left to right:** Commissioner Doar; Hebrew Home for the Aged, Riverdale President and CEO Daniel Reingold; Director, New School University Institute for Retired Professionals Michael Markowitz; DFTA Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago

On June 19, HRA was a co-sponsor of a multidisciplinary conference on financial elder abuse held at the New School for Social Research. The conference, entitled "Breaking Down Barriers," was dedicated to overcoming divisions and addressing the financial exploitation of the elderly as an interdisciplinary network of legal and social work professionals, within the framework of government and community support.

Commissioner Doar spoke on the panel introducing the conference. He committed HRA's partnership to the process of developing the New York Elder Abuse Network initiated by the Department of the Aging. He shared with the participants improvements HRA is implementing to the Adult Protective Services program to meet the challenges of protecting the adult population who are mentally or physically impaired, unable to manage their affairs and protect themselves.

As a basis for the plenary session discussion, the Department for the Aging (DFTA) presented a one act play, introduced by DFTA Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago and written by Mark O'Connell of DFTA. While the plenary session dealt with formulating a strategy for the crisis witnessed in the play, the afternoon workshops focused in on preventing and defending against financial elder abuse in other contexts, as well as treating abuse victims and addressing issues related to family member abusers.

Besides DFTA and HRA, the other conference sponsors were JASA, Hebrew Home for the Aged in Riverdale, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services, the New School's Institute of Retired Professionals and the Carter Burden Center for the Aging.