

In the Know-Now

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Happy New Year !

2007 – A Tough But Good Year

By John Foran, CEO

Dear Praxis Colleagues,

Thank you for all your hard work in 2007. This past year was one in which the organization reached new levels of efficiency and effectiveness in its mission of stabilizing homeless clients with HIV/AIDS and providing wrap-around services to recover and lead independent lives. Thanks to you, Praxis clients report being much happier than they were in the past and more full of HOPE!

Three out of four of our resident facilities closed the year by achieving inspection ratings of zero deficiencies. The fourth was adversely affected by old windows that we are replacing. These excellent ratings mean that we are meeting our funders' goals for cleanliness and safety. Emphasis on teaching client Independent Living Skills and treatment adherence improved the quality of life for our clients. The introduction of a client-centered "Wellness" model together with the expansion of *Foothold*, a case management data base, places Praxis at the forefront of the client services in New York as well as nationwide. We took our clients on about 10 trips in 2007. Sites visited included the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Bronx Zoo, the Palisades, the 145th Street Park, the Statue of Liberty, the Community Center at 152nd Street for a World Aids Day Event and Fishing trips in the Long Island Sound on two days and one night.

It was a year in which Praxis and two of our Staff were recognized in Proclamations from the New York City Council for heroic work. Training played a major role in this recognition and became an all out effort which ultimately raised the level of performance beyond expectations. In addition the Praxis story as told through the lives of staff and clients has been the topic of numerous newspaper, and radio reports. Praxis is on the move and people are taking notice.

Residential Staff's rapid turnaround of rooms vacated and optimal working relations with our principal funder, HASA, has resulted in an occupancy level that averages over 97%. This combined with new and continued funding makes possible a well deserved general salary increases which will be effective beginning January 2, 2008.

2008 – Year of the Client

As we enter 2008, we look ahead with a great deal of hope that the best is yet to come. We are in the process of putting together a strategic plan covering the next 5 years. As we look at the overall US economy we see the strong likelihood of a downturn in the economy in general and in the financial service industries that drive the local New York City economy, in particular. The good news is that if it is a mild recession, it will have little or no impact on Praxis as the outlook for government funding over the next year looks very strong.

We will be entering into several exciting new programs and projects in this new year which in turn will mean more opportunities for our staff and we will be talking about these in the weeks to come.

However, we are taking some risk in putting our extra earnings into higher staff salaries and an increased *pay – for – performance program* starting in April. We are going to all have to step up our efforts to make this happen. That means even higher occupancy and better case notes and more properly housed independent clients with new jobs. But as we proved in 2007 – WE ARE BETTER THAN WE THINK.

John Foran, CEO

RIVERSIDE Jessie Landsman

Riverside has accomplished several things coming into the New Year, one of them being **0 deficiencies**, incentive services for our clients, such as **on-site barber services** and **hair salon**, as well as a **clothing room for outfits** to go on housing interviews. We obtained two housing specialists during the year and within the last month or so, over twenty residents obtained leases for independent living. We also implemented laundry services in the neighborhood for our clients to do their own laundry as an incentive for keeping their rooms clean and neat. We also developed and utilized a comprehensive case management reporting and review system via **Awards**. We look forward to continue to instill **HOPE** to our clients living with the virus.

SCATTER SITES Greg Feagin

The Praxis Scatter Site II program started operations in July of 2000. It has helped over three hundred clients find apartments. One hundred and twenty-eight clients have graduated from our program. This New Year we have continued to place homeless clients in their first apartment in years and provided them with the tools and skills to maintain an independent life style. The Scatter-Site II assists clients living in unsuitable situations relocate to safer and healthier apartments. This year we have provided help via our emergency pantry, warm coats and social outings along with our informative workshops. The Scatter Site II has a dedicated staff that places the needs of the clients first and want to make a difference in their lives. One of Praxis Scatter Site II best accomplishment this year was to have new clients request our services because previous clients told them how they were treated by the staff.

Welcome Aboard!

Main Office

Robin Allen-Payne Accounting Assistant

All Sites

Carrolann Joseph

Director, Workforce Development

LaDonya Bowie

Vocational Counselor

James Smallwood

Vocational Counselor

Cornelius Higdon

Vocational Counselor

Congratulations to all of you and every success

in your new positions!