

A number of helpful materials have been developed in recent years, and many more are in the process of being developed. For example, Arc U.S. has excellent materials available for law enforcement, including a curriculum to teach officers about mental retardation and to make them aware of unique needs and characteristics of people with mental retardation. The curriculum, entitled *Understanding Mental Retardation: Training for Law Enforcement*, is available from Arc's publications department (800/433-5255). The National Sheriff's Association is in the process of developing a handbook for law enforcement to assist them in responding to crime victims with mental retardation, as well as crime victims with other disabilities. The handbook, entitled, *First Response to Crime Victims*, will be available free of charge from the Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center (800/627-6872).

## **Prosecutors**

Prosecutors have a crucial role to play in addressing this problem. Prosecutors can increase the number of cases reported and investigated simply by filing more of these cases. In light of the high rate of victimization, and the statistical likelihood that these victims will be re-victimized, prosecutors must work with the community, train law enforcement, develop close relationships with disability groups in the community, and file these cases. It is also imperative that prosecutors seek substantial sentences upon conviction.

But what about prosecutors' concerns that these cases will take up too many resources, or can't be won? Admittedly, some of these cases will take more resources than others, as it will be necessary to adequately investigate the victim's ability to consent, ability to testify, or assess other cognitive abilities. The investment is well worth it. Identifying a serial rapist who drives a bus or who works in a group home is worth it. Giving a sexual assault victim the knowledge that the criminal justice system values her is worth it. And the chances for success should not be underestimated. Experience has shown that victims with autism and mental retardation often have very good memories. Recent research has shown that after viewing videotapes of live staged events, persons with developmental disabilities were as competent as people without disabilities when it came to remembering details of the crime. In fact, their testimony is sometimes more reliable because it is less subject to distortion (Henry and Gudjonsson, 1999). Increasingly, materials are being developed to assist prosecutors in presenting these cases (e.g., *Admissible In Court: Interviewing Witnesses Who Live With Disabilities*. Document number 778 at <http://www.cavnet2.org>).

## **Victim Advocacy Organizations**

Developing a relationship with disability rights organizations, police, and prosecutors is widely recognized as essential for successful

advocacy. Too often, however, victim advocacy organizations fail to integrate people with expertise in the needs of crime victims with disabilities. It is very helpful in meeting the needs of crime victims with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities to foster good relationships with local and national resources, such as Arc chapters, Protection and Advocacy organizations, disability rights attorneys, University Affiliated Programs, and Independent Living Centers. CAVNET (Communities Against Violence Network) has developed a mailing list to assist with this effort. The Criminal Justice Network for People With Disabilities, an invitation-only/application-only mailing list, brings together experts and advocates in disability rights and experts and advocates in criminal justice issues to address the needs of people with disabilities in the criminal justice system. An application to join is located on the Web site.

## Judges

Even if police arrest, prosecutors file, witnesses testify, and a conviction results, if judges do not sentence appropriately, women with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities will continue to be victimized and remain afraid to report the crimes against them. Judges need to be willing to send a strong message through the setting of bond conditions pretrial, and through sentencing post-trial and at probation revocation hearings, that they take crimes against women with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities seriously. They must get training in these cases so that they can help bring about the changes the criminal justice system so desperately needs.

## Conclusion

The problem of the victimization of women with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities is one society is beginning to recognize and address. Each player in the criminal justice system is part of a seamless web, and each must endeavor to address this problem professionally. Together, the criminal justice system is capable of delivering what it promises – justice to victims of crime, including its most vulnerable victims.

## References

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Sobsey, D. & Doe, T. (1991). Patterns of sexual abuse and assault. *Sexuality and Disability*, 9(3), 243-259.

*Marc Dubin is a Senior Trial Attorney with the Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. and former Special Counsel, Violence Against Women Office, U.S. Department of Justice. He is also the founder and Executive Director of CAVNET (Communities Against Violence Network). The views expressed in this article are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the position or views of the U.S. Department of Justice. CAVNET is not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Justice. Many of the materials cited in this article as well as others are available on the CAVNET Web site, at <http://www.cavnet2.org>. Marc Dubin may be reached at 202/307-6075 or by e-mail at [mdubin@pobox.com](mailto:mdubin@pobox.com)*

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**[Resources: Resources Related to Violence Against Women with Developmental and Other Disabilities](#)**

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The [print design version](#) (PDF, 448K, 28 pp.) of this issue of *Impact* is also available for free, complete with the color layout and photographs. This version looks the most like the newsletter as it was printed.



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TO: SERVICE COORDINATORS  
FROM: JUDY DEIASI  
DATE: January 5 2012  
RE: AHRC PROGRAM VACANCIES



[www.ahrcnyc.org](http://www.ahrcnyc.org)

*Please look through this list of services offered by AHRC that have projected vacancies for January (or immediately) and contact the person indicated if you have someone who is in need of the service.*

**OVERNIGHT RESPITE:** Guests must be age 4 and up, and must be weight bearing if non-ambulatory. Cannot be seriously medically involved where extra nursing staff would be necessary. *Families should apply for respite before the need arises; the application has to be approved beforehand.* Contact the Referral and Information Center at (212) 780-4491 or 4493.

**IN-HOME RESPITE:** Waiting list for people ages 3 and over in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx, and Queens. Require proof of developmental disability. Contact the Referral and Information Center at (212) 780-4491 or 4493.

**COMMUNITY HABILITATION:** Waiting list for people from birth (with EI Service Coordination) and up in all 5 boros. Person must meet eligibility for Medicaid Waiver. Contact the Referral and Information Center at (212) 780-4491 or 4493.

**EMPLOYMENT and BUSINESS SERVICES:**

**Manhattan Day Hab without Walls:** Metro cards provided as needed, volunteer work experience provided in the community, and recreational activities included. Ages 18-25, meets Monday through Friday between 9am - 3pm. Contact Andrew Pfadt-Trilling (212) 634-8700 or Flora Nikoghosyan (212) 634-8651

**Brooklyn Day Hab:** Some of the services and activities provided are: personal hygiene skills, self care, socialization skills, money management, mobility training, life skills training, reading and writing, anger management, relaxation techniques, proper nutrition, healthy exercise and recreational type activities. Additionally, individuals volunteer at different sites and participate in diverse community events. Contact Shameeka McDuff at 646-845-6013.

**Senior Retirement Services:** Day Hab Without Walls program for individuals over age 55, must be a Bronx resident. Contact Ana Kuharik at 718 944-5099.

**Job Connection Center-Psycho-social Clubhouse (Brooklyn):** A small innovative program, with highly trained and experienced staff, specifically designed to support individuals who are dually diagnosed (MR/MI) in obtaining and maintaining a job. Call Shameeka McDuff at 646-845-6013.

**Staten Island Day Hab Without Walls:** This program offers the opportunity for community activities including volunteering and social outings. The primary premise is to prepare people to move out of the DH and into employment.

**Staten Island Janitorial Training program:** Pre-Vocational training program for S.I. residents with DD 18 years and older. 11 weeks of training combining classroom instruction with internship at S.I. institutions. Upon successful completion, graduates will be placed in janitorial careers with high earning potential. For all S.I., call Candi Genovese, 718-981-3452.

**Youth Careers/Janitorial Training Program/ Food Service Training program:** OSY Pre-Vocational training program for NYC residents with DD or LD and/or low income; 18 - 21 years old. 15 weeks of training combined classroom instruction and unpaid internship at major NYC institutions. Upon successful completion, graduates will be placed in janitorial careers with high earning potential. For Brooklyn, call Alexis Hines, 212-895-3380 or Gohar Gharibyan at 212-895-3370; for Queens call Derek Johnson, 646-210-0066. This training is no longer offered in the Bronx or Manhattan. Currently recruiting for Cycle 2, which begins in December.

**HIRE** - Supported Employment, placement in jobs dependent on applicant's skills and abilities

Brooklyn - Sofiya Nibelitskaya, 212-895-3325

Queens - Martha Nieves, 718-639-5500, x232

Bronx - Ana Kuharik, 718-944-5099

Staten Island - Candi Genovese, 718-981-3452

Manhattan - 212-634-8642

**Brooklyn Non-Medicaid Service Coordination:** The service includes information and referral services, outreach, parent networking and service access assistance for individuals and their families. Service Coordinator is able to make connections with diagnostic, residential, habilitative, educational, vocational, medical and recreational services. In addition, the Service Coordinator can assist with accessing benefits and entitlements, such as Medicaid and SSI. Criteria for program enrollment: Brooklyn Resident, No Medicaid, and Eligibility. Call Michael Wright, 212-895-3467.

**Nicosia Family Reimbursement:** The service provides the opportunity to be reimbursed for purchased services and goods, and the possibility of purchasing services and goods that are not funded through any other sources. The goods and services have been deemed appropriate to meet the needs of the person being served. Criteria for grant: Reside in the 5 Boroughs and Eligibility. Call Michael Wright, 212-895-3467.

*Continued*

**ADULT DAY SERVICES:** A variety of programs where individuals become valued community members in different ways, including volunteering, shopping, visiting local attractions, etc. The programs offer many life enhancing experiences in the arts, travel training, and vocational services. There are also programs that operate solely in the community, and in higher education programs in cooperation with local colleges. For more details, contact a program below, or call Central Intake at 212-780-4493/4491.

<i>Program</i>	<i>Contact Name and Number</i>
Mayflower (Bronx)	Tarlach MacNiallais, 718-792-9810
Kings Highway (Brooklyn)	Verna Hutchinson, 718-237-4587
Far Rockaway	Costa Xystris, 718-327-2809
Fisher (Manhattan)	Inna Grinshpun, 212-987-4160
Pendler NY League (Manhattan)	Eamon O'Tuama, 212-803-7352
Weingold (Queens)	Michael Kaplan, 718-639-1200
Sobriety Day Hab (Brooklyn)	Ana Sostre, 718-832-2309
W.M. Siegel Center (Brooklyn)	Witemberg Cabral, 718-455-5473
TBI Bronx/Citywide	Ana Sostre, 718-994-5092
Brooklyn Work Readiness	Ana Sostre, 718-832-2309
Bronx Intensive Supports Day Hab	Charlotte Diaz, 718-597-3400
Bush Terminal (Brooklyn)	Ana Sostre, 718-832-2309
Redfield Center (Manhattan)	Wanda Pawalowska, 212-513-7489
Manhattan Day Hab Without Walls	Heather Gazzaley, 212-780-3465

**Camping & Recreation:** Hotel Respite (overnight) for individuals residing in Queens or Manhattan, Saturday Children's recreation for individuals residing in Manhattan and Brooklyn and Queens with door to door transportation, Saturday recreation programs for adults who reside in Manhattan and Queens with door to door transportation. After school programs in all five boroughs. Contact Referral and Information line – 212-780-4493 or 212-780-4491.

**ADEPT:** AHRC has openings for the ADEPT (Assessment Diagnosis Evaluation Planning and Treatment) program. The interdisciplinary ADEPT team was created to serve aging adults with developmental disabilities, who are exhibiting sudden changes in behavior or geriatric syndromes. Openings are available for individuals age 40 and over with: memory loss; sleeplessness; incontinence; falling; agitation; depression; or other challenging changes in behavior, refer them to Melissa Fogel at 646-845-6028 for more information and to schedule an ADEPT evaluation. Testing is based on the needs of the individual and may include: a geriatric evaluation; an in-depth examination of previous medical work-ups; psychological testing; psychiatric testing; psychosocial assessment; and functional assessment by rehab specialist.

**Article 16 Clinic Services:** Ongoing vacancies in Manhattan for psychological and psychosocial evaluations, individual and group counseling. Immediate vacancies in the Bronx for individual counseling, psychological, and psychosocial evaluations at our 2488 Grand Concourse Clinic. Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Bronx residents who do not have Medicaid and are developmentally disabled are eligible for psychological and psychosocial assessments at no cost. Services are available in English and Spanish. Anyone interested in these programs should contact Clara Cordero at (212) 780-2387.

**REHAB Services:** Immediate openings for physical, speech, and occupational therapy. Call Robin Phillips at (212) 780-2762 for more information on how to request services.

**FREE Psychological/Psychosocial Evaluations:** AHRC Article 16 Clinic is offering FREE Psychological Evaluations and FREE Psychosocial Evaluations for individuals who are developmentally disabled that do not have Medicaid and are residents of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, or the Bronx. Services are available in English and Spanish. For more information or to make a referral call AHRC call Central Intake at 212-780-4493 or 212-780-4491.

**ACCESS Community Health Center:** (formerly AHRC Health Care Inc.) FQHC has ongoing vacancies at the 83 Maiden Lane site on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and the Pelham Parkway site in the Bronx for **primary medical services, psychiatry, neurology, podiatry, speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.** **Dental and Chemical Dependency services** are available at the Maiden Lane site only. Contact the intake department at (212) 895-3410 for more information. Most services available in English and Spanish for adults and children.

**RESIDENTIAL:** **Netherland IRA (Bronx):** An opportunity for an ambulatory male with mild IDD; **Glen Oaks IRA (Qns):** An opportunity for an ambulatory male between the ages of 18 and 21, diagnosed with Autism and mild to moderate IDD; **Kensington IRA (SI):** An opportunity an ambulatory female with moderate IDD; **Manhattan IRA:** An opportunity for an ambulatory male/female with mild to moderate IDD; **Armstrong IRA (Qns):** An opportunity for an ambulatory female with Autism and moderate to severe IDD; **Isaacson IRA (Bklyn):** An opportunity for an ambulatory female with moderate IDD; **Kraus IRA (Manhn):** An opportunity for an ambulatory male with moderate to severe IDD; **Manhattan Supt. Apts:** An opportunity for an ambulatory female with mild IDD; **Jacobs Supervised IRA (Manhn):** An opportunity for an ambulatory male with mild IDD; **Rossi IRA (SI):** Two opportunities for an ambulatory female with moderate to severe IDD; **BX Supt Apts:** An opportunity for an ambulatory female with mild IDD.

If you have any questions or would like to make a referral, please contact: 212-780-4457

cc: Department Heads A. Spallino E. Rosman L. Martinez E. Centeno H. Amorini E. McNutt  
P. Minkoff J. Russo S. Krakauer B. Nugent J. Hunt K. Kelly



## PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

January 2012

Call (718) 728-8476 for inquiries

### Queens

1. Early Intervention Center based (8:30-10:30 & 12:30-2:30) and In-Home contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
2. SEIT contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
3. SETSS contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
4. Day Habilitation contact: Farzana Karim ext. 1233
5. Emergency Respite Funds contact: Annie Washington ext. 1219
6. Medicaid Service Coordination contact: Farzana Karim ext. 1233
7. Non-Medicaid Res. Hab./Training contact: Farzana Karim ext. 1233
8. Parent training/ Parent support group/ Sibling support group Anne Denning ext. 1516
9. Evaluations for individuals without Medicaid (Psychological/Psychosocial): Kristen DuMoulin ext. 1517
10. Family Reimbursement(Goods & Services, and Transportation) contact: Annie Washington ext. 1219
11. CPSE Evaluations contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512

### Brooklyn

1. Emergency Respite Funds contact: Annie Washington ext. 1233
2. Early Intervention (In-Home) contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
3. SEIT contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
4. SETSS contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
5. Non-Medicaid Service Coordination contact: Johanna Arteaga ext. 1217
6. Medicaid Service Coordination contact: Farzana Karim ext.1233
7. Family Reimbursement(Goods & Services, and Transportation) contact: Annie Washington ext. 1219
8. CPSE Evaluations contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512

### Bronx

1. Parent Support Group contact: Jason La ext. 1208
2. Medicaid Service Coordination Contact: Farzana Karim ext. 1233
3. SEIT contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
4. SETSS contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
5. Early Intervention (In-Home) contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
6. CPSE Evaluations contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
7. Early Intervention (In-Home) contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512

### Manhattan

1. After School Program contact: Dita Ruc ext. 1418
2. Social Skills Group- Aspergers/High Functioning Autism contact: Dita Ruc ext. 1418
3. Parent Support Group contact: Annie Washington ext. 1219
4. Family Reimbursement(Goods & Services, and Camp) contact: Annie Washington ext. 1219
5. Early Intervention (In-Home) contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
6. SEIT contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
7. Medicaid Service Coordination contact: Farzana Karim ext. 1233
8. Saturday Recreation contact: Dita Ruc ext. 1418
9. Hourly Waiver Respite contact: Johnny Nunez 1222
10. SETSS contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
11. CPSE Evaluations contact: Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512

### Long Island

1. Sibling/Parent Support Group and Parent Training contact: Anne Denning ext. 1516
2. Day Habilitation contact: Farzana Karim ext. 1233
3. SEIT contact (Nassau only): Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512

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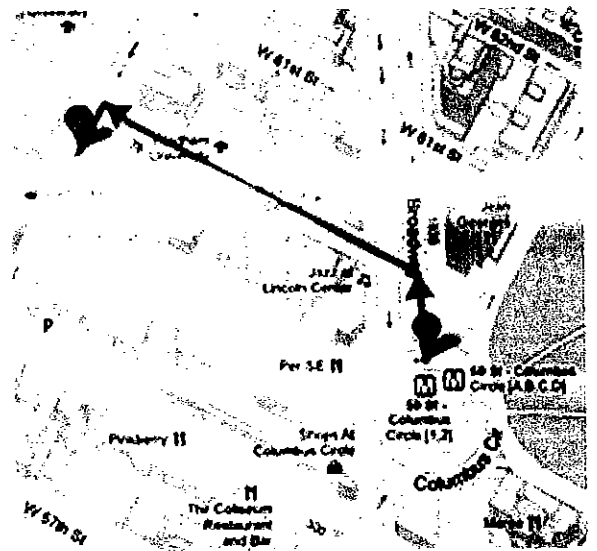
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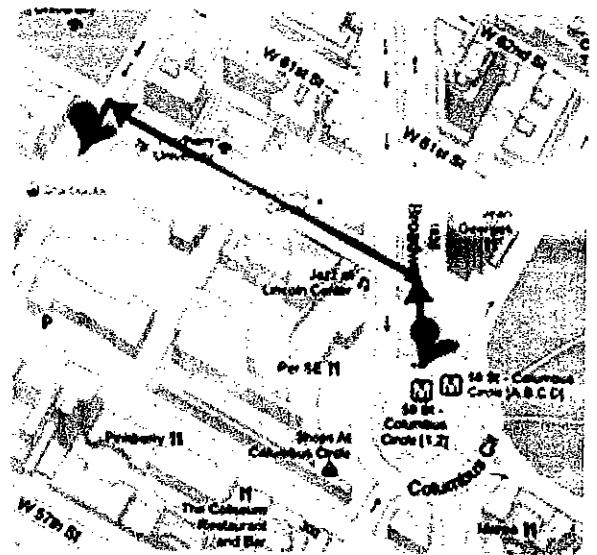
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