



...Because every child deserves a childhood

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** June 19, 2012

**Astor's Dr. Joan DiBlasi to Receive Founders Award from  
The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc.**

**Rhinebeck, N.Y.** — Joan DiBlasi, LMSW, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director (AED) for Astor Services for Children & Families, is the 2012 recipient of the Founders Award from The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Inc., for her outstanding contributions to the field of mental health. The ceremony will take place on **Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at Pfizer Headquarters, 235 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, New York, from 5:00-7:00pm.**

As a Coalition member for over 30 years, DiBlasi has served in the capacity of Board Member, Chair of the Children's Committee and Chair of the Regulatory Committee. She has always focused on children and families as primary partners in the mental health service delivery system, including children's outpatient services and children's day treatment.

DiBlasi received her Master's Degree from SUNY, Albany and her PhD from Brunel University in the United Kingdom. DiBlasi is motivated by her commitment to life long learning. While at Astor she has been the AED for its Bronx programs. In that capacity she has embraced the pursuit of evidence-based practices and has sought to involve families as partners in decision making and planning for their own care. She has said, "You have to have a real passion and desire to be inclusive to be a professional in the field of social work and mental health. It's the only way you make contributions to individuals and to society as a whole."

DiBlasi follows the traditional Irish music scene in the Hudson Valley and the greater metropolitan area playing the Bodhran with local session musicians. She has also taught the Bodhran at the Arts Center in Manhattan and the Tara Circle in Yonkers.

*Since 1953, Astor Services for Children & Families (formerly The Astor Home for Children) has been providing behavioral and educational services in a caring environment where children and their families find strength, healing, hope and trust. Now serving over 6,000 children and families annually, Astor's current range of services to families in the Mid-Hudson Valley and the Bronx include: Residential Treatment, Therapeutic Foster Family Care, Early Childhood Programs, and Community-Based Behavioral Health and Prevention Services. For additional information about Astor Services for Children & Families, please visit their website at [www.astorservices.org](http://www.astorservices.org) or call Astor Services for Children & Families: Home for Children Foundation at (845) 871-1117.*

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