

NAADAC/NAATP Public Policy Conference in Review
March 8-10, 2009
Washington DC

Approximately 100 members from NAADAC and NAATP, National Association of Addiction Treatment Provider Providers, participated in the Public Policy Conference.

Of primary importance:

- The Substance Abuse Block Grant for Addiction Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery
- Stimulus Package and emphasis on Workforce Development
- Counseling Needs for Veterans
- Parity from Bill to Law
- HealthCare Reform
- Keeping Drinking Age at 21

Daniel Guernarra, NAATP and NAADAC Government Relations Director facilitated the itinerary of the weekend.

Rob Morrison, NASADAD, National Association of Substance Abuse Directors, provided direction for the substance abuse block grant which is important in financing federal financial services. The current request is included in this report.

The Federal Stimulus package contained no funding for SAMHSA, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services, the federal government agency in charge of Substance abuse and mental health programs. However, there is funding overall for “wellness” for overall healthcare funding.

Workforce Development was emphasized, as the substance abuse clinicians are graying out... and salary does not match with other careers. Yet, there is a demand for professional alcohol and drug clinicians. We learned that we needed to ask for a workforce development stimulus.... and a need for education loan forgiveness.

With returning Iraq veterans, there is a huge need for alcohol and drug clinicians with an understanding of how to counsel trauma victims.

Regarding Healthcare Reform:

Some Key Behavioral Health “Needs”

- Need to implement more consumer control of health care and health (upstream factors)
- Need practical integration models:
 - 25 years lost to premature death
 - MH/SU comorbidities
 - Comorbidities with physical illnesses
- Need to update an aging workforce
- Need “comparative effectiveness” results
- Need to stem erosion of financial tools
- Need care coordinators and peer counselors

President’s 8 Principles of Reform

- Protect Families’ Financial Health
- Make Health Coverage Affordable
- Aim for Universality
- Provide Portability of Coverage
- Guarantee Choice
- Invest in Prevention and Wellness
- Improve Patient Safety and Quality Care
- Maintain Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability

Expected Legislation

- Senator Kennedy and Senator Baucus:
 - Insurance Coverage: 47 million +18/20 million (?)
 - System Reform: Medical/Health Home Model
 - Financing: Medicaid and SCHIP expansions, potentially Medicare, paid through employers who do not insure employees and recoup of HHS funds.
- Senator Harkin
 - Cover promotion and prevention interventions in insurance benefits

Expect legislation from Senator Baucus (Colorado) and Senator Kennedy (Massachusetts)

We need to let our Congressman know that addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery support must be included to the max in healthcare reform.

Health Care Reform:from

[Ron Manderscheid](#), SRA Intl. and Johns Hopkins University

Regarding Federal Parity for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Insurance Coverage - What does Passage Mean?

The major “guarantee” was inclusion of same parameters of coverage of other health care needs.

Second factor: Transparency of health care medical necessity guidelines. An insurer is to guarantee the provider and the patient a clear demonstration of how coverage met or did not meet health care coverage criteria.

Parity Implementation Timelines

- Public hearings and opportunities to provide feedback

will take place through the summer of 2009 towards the writing of the regulations

- Expect to hear about opportunities to speak up so that regulations are written to best meet our needs.
- October 2009 is the date to have completed regulations..
- January 2010 .is scheduled implementation.

Recommendations – Carol McDaid - Capitol Decisions, Inc. March 25, 2009

- SAMHSA should fund consumer education trainings
- SAMHSA & manufacturers should fund addiction consumer groups to develop and disseminate a brochure and trainings in key states in 2009
 - Brochure would inform consumers about new law & protections
- Manufacturers should fund PSAs about the new parity law and help fund a 1-800 number

And Keeping Drinking Age at 21

Support 21 Act of 2009 (H.R. 1028)

- Introduced 2/12/09 by Reps. Roybal-Allard (CA-34) and Bono Mack (CA-45)
- Affirms the effectiveness of and support for age-21 laws
- Builds on the STOP Act

- **Four key elements**
- **National media campaign on the public health and safety benefits** of the age 21 law (\$22M);
- Supplemental community and pediatric provider grants (\$8M);
- Enhanced CDC underage drinking prevention focus (\$5M);
- NAS/IOM Review of Evidence on Impact of Alcohol on the Adolescent Brain

Source – Center for The Science In The Public Interest

What We Can Do –

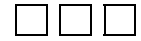
Ask Our National Legislators to Make Sure that Addiction Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery is covered

- **At The Highest Levels Possible in The Substance Abuse Block Grant
In Health Care Reform
In Workforce Development with Loan Forgiveness**
- **And That We Reduce Underage Drinking by Keeping Age 21 as the Legal
Drinking Age
*By supporting Support 21 Act of 2009 (H.R. 1028)***

Here are Massachusetts Congressmen's Addresses

Member Name	Legislative Contact	Contact Email
Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D- MA)	Connie Garner HELP Committee	shawn_daugherty@help.senate.gov
Senator John F. Kerry (D- MA)	Megan Thompson	megan.thompson@mail.house.gov
Representative John W. Olver (D - 01)	Lisa Wiehl	lisa.wiehl@mail.house.gov
Representative Richard E. Neal (D - 02) Representative James P. McGovern (D - 03)	Ann Jablon Lisa Salerno	Ann.Jablon@mail.house.gov lisa.salerno@mail.house.gov
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Take Action



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To modify your contact information or unsubscribe from the e-Advocacy Center, please [click here](#).

Tips on Contacting Congress

Remember that postal mail may never reach Congress because of security procedures--please use faxes or e-mail instead! More tips on contacting Congress can be [found here](#).

Please click on the hyperlinks below to learn more about NAADAC's Advocacy Programs!

1. [Core Activities](#)

2. [NAADAC Legislative Agenda](#)

A list and short explanation of the issues currently on NAADAC's Public Policy agenda.

3. [NAADAC Guide for Legislators](#)

A brief primer for those in public office which offers them a plan of action on issues of addictive disorders.

4. [NAADAC Membership within Federal Legislative Coalitions](#)

Thank you for allowing us to attend the conference for MAADAC.

Tim Stanton and Maryanne Frangules

We need your help – please contact Linda Mullis at
cadaclm@cox.net

