



HEADLINE DC

MAY 15, 2013

Hold May 16, 2-4 PM EDT, for an HHS/SAMHSA webinar on Parity, the first of 3 over the next several months.

HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.** The House of Representatives will vote yet again on ACA repeal, the 40th vote taken to eliminate a program that already benefits millions with behavioral disorders and/or I/DDs who lack health coverage. And for the 40th time, the Senate will reject the proposal.
- **CURBING SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT.** Congressman George Miller (D-CA and ranking member of the House Education & Workforce Committee) and Congressman Gregg Harper (R-MS) introduced the Keeping All Students Safe Act, HR 1893, a bill to protect all students nationwide from restraint and seclusion.
- **MENTAL HEALTH AND GUNS.** The future of the mental health elements of the Senate-rejected gun control legislation remains in doubt. The entire measure, including its mental health components, was pulled from consideration when 60 votes couldn't be mustered to begin debate. But, stay tuned; the Senate is likely to reconsider the entire package.

AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **NEW UNDERAGE DRINKING PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED.** SAMHSA has launched *Talk. They Hear You*, a national public service announcement campaign to empowers parents to talk to young children as early as 9 years old about the dangers of underage drinking.
- **ACA BENEFITS FOR THOSE WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.** SAMHSA has developed state-by-state estimates of uninsured individuals with behavioral health conditions who will be ACA-eligible through Medicaid expansion and Healthcare Marketplaces. The data provide prevalence and other data by disorder in each state compared to the nation. Go to: <http://www.samhsa.gov/healthReform/enrollment.aspx>
- **WHITE HOUSE/HHS HONOR MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH.** President Obama has signed a proclamation stating "Mental health problems remain a serious public health concern, but together, our Nation is making progress. This month, I encourage all Americans to advance this important work by raising awareness about mental health and lending strength to all who need it." Read full proclamation at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/04/30/presidential-proclamation-national-mental-health-awareness-month-2013>

ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTORS.** *The Interplay between Medicaid DSH Payment Cuts, the IMD Exclusion and the ACA Medicaid Expansion Program: Impacts on State Public Mental Health Services* examines DSH payment cuts and the ACA's effects on state mental health funds. Go to: http://www.nasmhpd.org/docs/publications/TheDSHInterplay04_26_13WebsiteFINAL.pdf
- **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY.** *The Continuity of Medicaid Coverage: An Update* explores the impact of Medicaid "churning" (cycling beneficiaries on and off Medicaid within a single year) and makes recommendations for improvement. Go to: http://www.communityplans.net/portals/0/coverageyoucancounton/Continuity_of_Medicaid_Coverage_Update_4-2013.pdf
- **ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION.** Roadmap to Health Prize to communities working to honor communities improving health applications due May 23. Nominate YOUR community behavioral health program! Go to: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/roadmaps/prize>
- **COMMONWEALTH FUND.** Findings from *Insuring the Future: Current Trends in Health Coverage and the Effects of Implementing the Affordable Care Act* underscore why it is critical that ACA implementation continue on schedule, with nearly half of all adults uninsured or underinsured. Go to: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Fund-Reports/2013/Apr/Insuring-the-Future.aspx>

ETCETERA

- **MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS.** Improving Outcomes Finance & Quality through Integrated Information, June 6-7, 2013 at Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa, Thompsonville, MI. Go to: <http://www.macmh.org>
- **NATIONAL RURAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE.** June 9-13, Menomonie, WI. Go to: <http://www.uwstout.edu/profed/nri/index.cfm>.
- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MENTAL HEALTH.** The NARMH annual conference. *Lassoing Rural Solutions for Rural Challenges*, is slated for July 31-August 3, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. A preconference will focus on veterans; a special peer track is being featured as part of the conference proper. To register and for more information, go to: www.narmh.org.
- **AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.** 141 Annual Meeting, November 2-6, Boston, MA. Go to: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting>
- **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF OPIOID DEPENDENCE.** 2013 National Conference, November 9-13, Philadelphia, PA. Go to: <http://www.aatod.org/national-conference/2013-aatod-conference-philadelphia/conference-at-a-glance/> ###