



# HEADLINE DC

AUGUST 15, 2013

## HERALDING AN NACBHDD FIRST

On August 8, the HHS Secretary visited one of our stellar programs: the Center for Hope, Bexar County, TX. Hats off to Leon Evans and his staff. Pictures in our next Newsletter

## HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **HOME IS WHERE THE HOUSE—AND SENATE—ARE.** Congress is in recess until after Labor Day. Then, they're back in session for 9 days before FY 2013 ends! During the recess, much time will be spent with constituents. Get involved. Advocate for full implementation of the ACA on behalf of the people we serve.
- **ONE GOOD THING BEFORE THEY WENT.** Before leaving town, Reps. Tim Murphy [R-PA] and Ron Barber [D-AZ] introduced the *Behavioral Health Information Technology Act*, enabling behavioral health providers to qualify for incentive payments under the HITECH Act's "Meaningful Use" program. As you may recall, the original measure left mental health and addiction providers out.
- **AND SOME NOT SO GOOD THINGS.** Before leaving, the House took its 40<sup>th</sup> vote to defund the ACA and another to keep the IRS from implementing the ACA. The House also voted (232-183) to require Congress to sign off on high-cost regulations – including those for the ACA. And some in the House and Senate are threatening to shut the government and hold the debt limit ceiling hostage unless the ACA is repealed. It could be a bumpy September! Stay tuned.
- **ACCOMPLISHMENTS?** Congress has accomplished less than ever before: 22 measures have become law—the lowest number in history. Is it a surprise that public opinion of the House and Senate together is also the lowest in history?

## AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **UPCOMING IRS AND LABOR DEPARTMENT REGS LIKELY.** The IRS is preparing to finalize its rules for the penalty for those who don't have health insurance by 2014. Looks like \$95 per year or 1% of household income are the targets. And the Labor Department is gearing up at last to close a loophole and require minimum wage and overtime be paid to in-home healthcare aides.
- **NEW RECOVERY SUPPORTS WEBPAGES.** SAMHSA has launched a series of webpages for its Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy. Go to: <http://www.sasmhsa.gov/brss-tacs>

## ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **COMMONWEALTH FUND.** *Implementing the Affordable Care Act: Key Design Decisions for State-based Exchanges*, examining key design decisions made by the 17 states (and DC) that are establishing state-based exchanges, found states made significant progress in exchange structuring, with states varying in their design decisions. Go to: <http://www.issuelab.org/resource/implementing-the-affordable-care-act-key-design-decisions-for-state-based-exchanges>
- **UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY.** *The Case for Inclusion 2013* is the annual report of how well Medicaid programs serve Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Go to: <http://www.issuelab.org/resource/case-for-inclusion-2013-report-the>

## ETCETERA

- **NY ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION SERVICES .** *Annual Conference: Keeping the Focus on Recovery and Rights*. September 10-12, 2013, Kerhonsen, NY. Go to: <https://registration.nyaprs.org/?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm/event/info&id=8&reset=1>
- **HOSPICE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA.** *Supporting Individuals with I/DDs through Serious Illness, Grief and Loss Webcast*, October 24, 2013, 2-4 pm. Go to: <http://register.hospicefoundation.org/programs/supporting-individuals-with-intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities>
- **APHA.** *141 Annual Meeting*, November 2-6, Boston, MA. Go to: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting>
- **AATOD.** *2013 National Conference*, November 9-13, Philadelphia, PA. Go to: <http://www.aatod.org/national-conference/2013-aatod-conference-philadelphia/conference-at-a-glance/>
- **NACBHDD/WICHE.** *The Evolving World of Behavioral Health on the Eve of ACA Implementation* (54<sup>th</sup> annual National Dialogue) November 10-13, 2013, Renaissance Arts Hotel, New Orleans, LA. For more, contact NACBHDD office.
- **NACBHDD.** *Fall Board Meeting*, November 14-15, 2013, New Orleans, LA. Stay tuned.
- **NACBHDD.** *Spring Board Meeting*, March 2, 2014, Cosmos Club, Washington, DC; *Legislative/Policy Conference*, March 3-5, 2014, Cosmos Club Washington, DC. Stay tuned. ###