



Headline DC

September 15, 2013

Participate in *Kickoff to the Fall ACA Insurance Enrollment Initiative*, a webinar to better prepare us all to help people enroll in this history-making program. The date: Friday, September 20, 3:00-4:30 PM, EDT.

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/127223848>

Hill & Legal Happenings: Policy and Politics

- **They're Back, and at It Again.** House celebrated its return with its 41st anti-ACA vote, this time by banning new subsidies to help people purchase health care coverage. The House then delayed a vote to keep the federal government running after September 30. Why? To decide how the continuing resolution can be used to derail the ACA without a government shut-down. Other Republican proposals are being floated: (1) to delay and defund the ACA until 2015 while funding the rest of government to please hardliners; and (2) to impose a 1-year delay on the entire ACA as a condition of raising the debt limit, due to expire in mid-October. Yet, a House committee has been assured that ACA enrollment processes and the enrollment data hub are both on track for October 1 start-up.

Around the Agencies: News and Opportunities

- **New Warning Label.** “Black box” FDA warnings for extended-release, long-acting narcotics containing morphine or oxycodone have been proposed: one to restrict use to those needing around-the-clock, long-term pain management for whom other drugs haven't worked; another to alert pregnant women to the danger of newborn narcotic withdrawal syndrome.
- **SAMHSA ACA Toolkit.** *Getting Ready for the Health Insurance Marketplace Toolkit*, a 3-section SAMHSA product on the ACA, is live at <http://tiny.cc/TreatmentProviders>. Complete the registration to access the toolkit with many useful, downloadable features. **Rate Review Pays Dividends.** HHS reports 6.8 million people saved around \$1.2 billion on health care premiums in 2012, due to the “rate review” provision of the ACA that requires insurance companies to justify any proposed health premium hikes of 10% or more.
- **Integrated Care Reimbursement.** CMS has told state Medicaid directors the reimbursement methodologies to adopt in the context of Integrated Care Models to improve quality and outcomes and reduce costs by sharing program

savings with high performing providers. Go to:

www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Federal-Policy-Guidance.html

- **National Survey on Drug Use and Health Unveiled.** SAMHSA's 2012 NSDUH survey findings were released at the 24th annual National Recovery Month observance. Read more at: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2012SummNatFindDetTables/Index.aspx>

Organizationally Speaking

- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.** *Health Gaps: Substantial Disparities in Health and Health Care Persist Among Populations Across the United States.* Go to: http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2013/rwjf407420
- **Grantmakers In Health/Hogg Foundation.** *A Window of Opportunity: Philanthropy's Role in Eliminating Health Disparities through Integrated Health Care* gives foundations ways to help improve the health of vulnerable populations. Go to: http://www.gih.org/files/FileDownloads/Eliminating_Health_Disparities_through_Integrated_Health_Care_August_2013.pdf
- **Congressional Research Service.** *PTSD and other Mental Health Problems in the Military: Oversight Issues for Congress*, describes behavioral problems in the military. Go to: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R43175.pdf>
- **SAMHSA.** *Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit* gives communities, consumers, providers and first responders information to help prevent opioid-related overdoses and deaths. To order or download, go to: <http://store.samhsa.gov//product/SMA13-4742>

Etcetera

- **NADD-Ohio.** Annual State IDD/MI conference, "*Mental Health Aspects: Treatment and Support*", Columbus Ohio, September 30-October 1, 2013. Go to: <http://thenadd.org/ohio-highlights/>
- **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* (54th 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. ###