

# Weekly Memo

## Governor demands accounting of Federal Economic Stimulus money

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has launched a website to ensure transparency and accountability of federal economic stimulus funding as it is received and expended by the state. The Web site will provide Californians with new tools to monitor ongoing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act activity and provide up-to-date information about how and when their federal tax dollars are spent. The Web site will also post the geographic distribution of expenditures through the use of digital mapping technology.



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With treatment programs reporting staff layoffs and program closures, CAADPE members will want to keep track of retrofitting rebates, grant

opportunities, and other opportunities that may be available to programs and facilities.

In addition to providing information on federal funds as they are received and expended, the Web site will also be used by the state to fulfill federal reporting requirements. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requires states and other grantees to report project status, spending, and job creation and retention to the public on a regular basis.

Reporting included on the Web site will also include announcements for grant competitions, allocations of formula grants and awards of competitive grants. The President's Council of Economic Advisors will report quarterly on the estimated impact on employment and economic growth. The website is [www.recovery.ca.gov](http://www.recovery.ca.gov)

## CAADPE calls on President Obama to address addiction

CAADPE has joined 20 other AOD organizations in asking President Barack Obama to include addiction and mental health in healthcare reform.

The request reminds the president that millions of Americans suffer from untreated mental illness and/or addiction to alcohol and other drugs. Medical experts agree that addiction and mental illnesses are chronic diseases that can be prevented and treated effectively. Further, the letter thanks President Obama for his strong support of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 while serving in the U.S. Senate and supporting inclusion of mental health and addiction parity principles in national healthcare reform as a presidential candidate.

Unfortunately, only 18 percent of the 22.6 million people in need of help for an alcohol and/or drug use problem received any form of treatment in the past year. The financial costs and social consequences of untreated addiction and mental illness to families and communities, child welfare and criminal justice systems, the healthcare system, and to our nation as a whole are staggering.

Further, the letter tells the President that it is essential that the full continuum of addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery, and mental health services are effectively incorporated into healthcare reform. Specifically, successful reform of the national healthcare system must:

- Include equitable and adequate coverage of addiction and mental health treatment and recovery support services;
- Require all public and private health insurance to cover these critical treatment and recovery services, and promote comprehensive communitywide prevention, early

intervention, recovery and research for adults and youth;

- Make addiction and mental health services fully available to all those in need, including family members.

A total of more than 100 organizations have joined the national effort to keep accessibility for substance abuse, addiction, and mental health treatment as a priority while the president looks for solutions for the current economic crisis.

At the local level, CAADPE members are urged to keep the issue in front of their elected officials. Members may meet with their congressional representatives in their district offices or invite them to visit treatment programs. With spring recess just around the corner, it is the perfect time to contact congressional offices to ask for an appointment or to extend an invitation. For contact information or to determine which Representative to call go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

## CADA sets Public Policy Conference — calls for sponsors

The Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations has set May 5-6 for its 2009 Public Policy Conference. The annual event will be held, once again, at the Sacramento Sheraton Grand, within walking distance to the Capitol.

Calls for sponsors have been sent out, but CAADPE members can help insure an effective and economical conference by referring vendors to CADA. a display tables, advertise in the program, Vendors may set up a display tables, advertise in the program, and network with prospective clients. Contact [caadpe@pacbell.net](mailto:caadpe@pacbell.net) for information

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## Proposal would extend services to “aged-out” foster kids

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles), along with Assembly Human Services Committee Chair Jim Beall, Jr. (D-San Jose), has introduced Assembly Bill 12, *the California Fostering Connections to Success Act*. This legislation will allow California to receive newly-available federal funds to provide enhanced support for foster youth between 18 and 21 years old, who have “aged out” of eligibility for foster care services. The eligibility change will help foster youth lead more productive lives

If a child is twelve years old and in foster care, he or she has a 90% chance of “aging out” of foster care. Each year in California, 5,000 youth “age out” of foster care when they turn 18. The California Department of Social Services found that 65% of these foster youth face imminent homelessness and are without employment. Former foster-care youth are prone

to jail and life on the streets at a far greater rate than others the same age. Within two years of aging out, the majority of former foster kids are homeless, suffer from substance abuse or mental health issues, or both. Within two years, 25% have been incarcerated.

A 2007 study from the University of Chicago concluded that both male and female former foster youth are ten times more likely to be arrested since age 18 than youth of the same age, race and sex. According to the California Budget Project, the associated costs of these arrests and incarcerations are considerable, with the per capita cost of adult incarceration in California in 2006 reaching \$43,287 annually. Supporting foster youth until age 21 is one practical way to invest in the state’s youth and help them achieve their potential and to avoid entry into the criminal justice system.

## White House Forum on Health Reform in Los Angeles

A public discussion on the need for health care reform will take place in Los Angeles on April 6. In December 2008, then President-elect Obama invited Americans to host and participate in Health Care Community Discussions to talk about how to reform health care in America.

CAADPE submitted a list of priorities related to substance abuse, addiction, and treatment. CAADPE’s concerns along with those of individuals and organizations from across the country are the basis of the report that HHS submitted to the President at the White House Forum on Health Reform in early March. The public forums will continue in four American cities.

3,276 group reports were systematically analyzed and the information generated by the Health Care Community Discussions are captured in the report available at [www.healthreform.gov/reports/index.html](http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/index.html).

CAADPE members may submit further questions and concerns to [www.healthreform.gov/regionalhealthforum.html](http://www.healthreform.gov/regionalhealthforum.html). The time and place of the forum will be announced at a later date.

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### Save the Date

**April 17-19 23rd Annual CAADPE Conference** The Politics of Addiction Treatment and Prevention. Doubletree Hotel Sacramento Lori Phelps 805-641-1677 [caadpe@sbcglobal.net](http://caadpe@sbcglobal.net) <http://www.caadpe.org>

**April 17-19 Community Addiction Recovery Association (CARA) Conference Annual Conference** "Brain Repair for Addictive Disorders: Successful, Cost Effective, Drug-Free Therapies" Hilton Arden West, Sacramento; [www.carasac.org/Conference/index.shtml](http://www.carasac.org/Conference/index.shtml), Carolyn Reuben, 916-485-2272, [carolynreuben@aol.com](mailto:carolynreuben@aol.com)

**April 22-23 Ninth Annual National Information Management Conference and Exposition: Addressing the Needs of Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Programs.** Hosted by the California Institute for Mental Health. Nearly all the software vendors serving the California behavioral health care market will exhibit there, and the larger-than-ever exhibit hall is nearly sold out. The program features a faculty of over 40 experts, including several nationally prominent keynote speakers. Attendees represent all areas of behavioral health including clinical operations, information technology, quality management, consumer and family member advocacy, data analysis and evaluation. Crowne Plaza Hotel in Anaheim. For information about the program, CEUs, registration go to <http://elearning.networkofcare.org/CiMH/EventOverview.asp?id=171694>.

**May 5-6, CADA Annual Public Policy Conference.** The conference will focus on the pressing issues of the day including budget matters, the proposed licensing and certification regulations, and workforce developments. Participants will meet with their legislators and deliver packets of information at the Capitol. Sheraton Grand, Sacramento. Registration available online soon. For information, [caadpe@pacbell.net](mailto:caadpe@pacbell.net)

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