

Health Care Reform – Take Action Now!

Help ensure that addiction treatment is included in health care reform; CAADPE members urged to speak out. Ask Congress to support treatment. (Town hall meeting and contact information below.)

Weekly Memo

California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives

A REGULAR COMMUNICATION FOR CAADPE MEMBERS

Act now – treatment at risk in health care reform

With the health care reform effort in full swing, it is important that the addiction treatment community has both a seat at the policy table and voice that is heard in the halls of Congress. The August Congressional recess provides just the opportunity for members of the field to communicate to their Representatives the importance of including addiction disease treatment and the funds for tools and staffing of rehabilitation and recovery programs as part of basic health-care services.



The healthcare reform measure is a momentous effort that, if passed, will provide universal coverage to millions of Americans who do not otherwise have access to healthcare. Treatment professionals must convince legislators that addiction is a chronic disease requiring medical management and supervision and as such, chronic disease management must be an important part of that coverage.

Current versions of the proposed healthcare bills do include provisions for addiction treatment services, but such inclusion is not guaranteed. Now is the time for CAADPE members to speak up to ensure that their Representatives understand that the final version of health care reform must provide coverage for addiction services.

Legislature reconvenes after summer recess

The Legislature will return from summer recess on August 17 to complete the first year of the Legislature's two year session. Any bills that are to move forward this year must be passed by both houses by September 11, the date the legislature will recess for the fall interim.

CAADPE monitors proposed legislation throughout the year. With recommendations from the Legislative Committee, the Board of Directors takes positions on bills related to substance abuse treatment and client, workforce, and facility issues. The following is a list of bills currently under consideration by the Legislature:

The following bills still are supported by CAADPE.

AB 217 (Beall) Medi-Cal: alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services. AB 217 establishes the Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening and Brief Intervention Services Program (SBIRT) for the purpose of increasing the state's ability to make available alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services to Medi-Cal beneficiar-

A conference committee that is responsible for the final proposal must review the proposals. Addiction treatment provisions are still vulnerable as part of those negotiations and could be dropped at any time. The only way treatment coverage will remain in the final bill is if the substance abuse treatment community, with a unified and authoritative voice, lets Congress know that substance abuse is a critical element of comprehensive care.

Members of Congress are in their home districts – meeting with constituents and holding town hall meetings. Your Congressional representatives need to hear that the final version of the bill must provide coverage for addiction treatment.

How to Take Action:

- **Write** a letter. Visit www.capwiz.com to send an automated letter to your members of Congress.
- **Call** your congressional representative. For complete contact information visit your Representative's website: www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml#ca
- **Invite** a member to visit your program. Call his or her district office to set the meeting.
- **Attend** a town hall meeting. A partial list of town hall meetings is attached at the end of the *Weekly Memo*. Check your Representative's website for additional meeting dates.

ies who are pregnant women or women of childbearing age. The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 244 (Beall) Health care coverage: mental health services. AB 244 requires most health insurance plans to cover treatment for substance abuse and mental health services. The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 417 (Beall) Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Program: buprenorphine. AB 417 adds, until January 1, 2015, buprenorphine services to the list of Drug Medi-Cal services. The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

AB 750 (Bass) Deferred entry of judgment. AB 750 authorizes a superior court to create a deferred entry of judgment reentry program aimed at preventing recidivism among first-time nonviolent felony drug offenders. The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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Controller to end IOU's, will redeem those previously issued

State Controller John Chiang has announced that he will stop issuing IOUs to private vendors and others on September 4, a month earlier than previously projected, after a review of projected state cash flow.

Chiang began issuing IOUs, or "warrants," in July when the state ran short of cash. To date 327,000 of the interest-bearing warrants have been issued in lieu of checks for payment of the

state's debts. He said the state Pooled Money Investment Board, which controls the state's cash flow, will meet Aug. 21 to consider his request to end issuing IOUs and beginning redemption on Sept. 4, a month earlier than originally planned.

CAADPE members may visit the Controller's website (www.sco.ca.gov/) for more information on August payments and negotiability of previously issued warrants.

Rally & Advocacy Day in Sacramento

Call on the Legislature to implement criminal justice reforms to cut prison waste and improve public safety. The Legislature has promised to cut prison spending in August. Join us on AUGUST 18th to demand they stop incarceration – and restore treatment – for people whose only "crime" is drug addiction. The state spends \$1 BILLION a year on prison for petty drug offenses, but less than a tenth of that on treatment! Demand treatment, not incarceration! Join the sponsoring organizations –

Welcome our legislators back to work with the message,

"Cut prison spending to improve public safety!"

Rally sponsors: *Drug Policy Alliance, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, The ACLU of Northern California, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, and Families Against California's Three Strikes*

South Steps, State Capitol, Sacramento, Tuesday, August 18, 11a.m. – 2p.m.

For more information: mndooley@drugpolicy.org

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AB 777 (Bass) Inmates: identification cards. This bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a pilot program for the purpose of providing each inmate at those facilities, prior to his or her release, a valid California identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 845 (Bass) Corrections: Reentry Advisory Committee. This bill would impose additional requirements on Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a Reentry Advisory Committee, including that the committee seek and apply for federal funds, develop a comprehensive strategic reentry plan seeking to reduce the recidivism rate, develop a comprehensive resource guide for entities working

to address reentry issues, and issue reports. It would also expand the membership of the committee. The bill is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1198 (Swanson) Food stamps: eligibility: drug felonies. This bill removes the limitations on receipt of food stamps in certain drug-related felonies. AB 1198 is in Senate Appropriations Committee.

CAADPE opposes the following bill.

AB 564 (Portantino) Substance abuse treatment: prohibition of excessive salaries. AB 564 would establish compensation limits for substance abuse treatment executives and specify requirements for any officers of treatment programs to collect rent from a drug treatment facility. AB 564 is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Save the Date

August 19 CANCELLED Narcotic Treatment Programs Advisory Committee Meeting

To provide input and recommendations on issues and regulations affecting Narcotic Treatment Programs. ADP First Floor Conference Room, Sacramento. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Daniel Steinhart, 916-324-5510.

September 9 Director's Advisory Council The DAC is responsive to critical issues from judges, counties and the larger alcohol and drug field, identifies barriers to access for traditionally unserved/underserved populations, and provides feedback to the community. Stakeholders identify and discuss issues and build consensus in major policy areas that impact the alcohol and other drug service systems and clients. ADP First Floor Conference Room, Sacramento, 10:30 a.m. Tina Chiginsky, tchiginsky@adp.ca.gov.

September 28 Effective Clinical Supervision: Clinical Supervision in Practical Application (How to Support Positive Treatment Outcomes) L.A. CADA trainer Alan Lyme, LCSW (*national trainer and author*). CE units available. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30

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ATTACHMENT 1

Partial List of Town Hall Meetings

Check your Representative's website for more information:

www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml#ca

Rep. Susan Davis—San Diego

08/24 06:00 PM - 07:00 PM: Consumer Credit and Identity Theft Workshop - Bayside Community Center,
2202 Comstock Street, San Diego, CA, 92111

08/25 06:00 PM - 07:00 PM: Water Workshop - USD Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice,
5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA, 92110

08/26 12:30 PM - 02:30 PM: Grants Workshop - NTC Promenade Command Center,
2640 Historic Decatur Road, San Diego, CA, 92106

08/29 01:00 PM - 02:00 PM: Neighborhood Day - Spring Valley Branch Library,
836 Kempton Street, Spring Valley, CA, 91977

Rep. Sam Farr—Santa Cruz

08/31 06:00 PM: Salinas Town Hall - Salinas City Hall Rotunda,
200 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, CA, 93901

09/02 06:00 PM: King City Town Hall - King City Council Chambers,
212 S. Vanderhurst Avenue, King City, CA, 93930

09/03 06:00 PM: Watsonville Town Hall - Watsonville City Council Chambers,
275 Main Street, 4th Floor, Watsonville, CA, 95076

Rep. Dan Lungren - Sacramento

08/26 07:00 PM - 08:30 PM: Town Hall - Rancho Cordova City Hall,
2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA, 95670

Rep. Jackie Speier—South San Francisco

08/23 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM: Congress on the Coast - Cypress Meadows Conference Center,
343 Cypress Avenue, Moss Beach, CA, 94038

08/29 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Family Day - Burton Park,
900 Chestnut Street, San Carlos, CA, 94070

Rep. Fortney Stark - East Bay, Alameda, Hayward

09/12 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Town Hall Meeting - Ruggieri Senior Center,
33997 Alvarado Niles Road, Union City, CA, 94587

09/12 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM: Town Hall Meeting - Hayward City Hall Council Chambers,
777 B Street, Hayward, CA, 94541

09/12 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM: Town Hall Meeting - Alameda City Hall Council Chambers,
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA, 94501