

Select Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse sets fall hearings

The Assembly Select Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has released its calendar for hearings during the Legislature's fall recess. The mission of the Committee is to develop sound policies to effectively treat Californians suffering from substance abuse. Committee Chair Assemblyman Jim Beall, Jr. (D-San Jose) has taken the lead on many of the bills that support the AOD professions and their clients.



The Committee is inviting concerned parties and stakeholders to suggest topics for additional hearings. Committee consultant Sunshine Borelli -- (408) 282-8920 -- will facilitate those requests. To date, the scheduled hearings are listed below.

Friday, September 18. *Dangers of Alcohol and Drug Abuse to Senior Populations.* San Diego County Administration Center, 3rd floor, South Board Chambers, RM 358. 9:30am-11:30am.

Committee Host: Assemblymember Lori Saldaña (D-San Diego). This hearing will examine emerging drug and alcohol issues in the senior community and discuss strategies and remedies. The Select Committee will also receive an update on San Diego's screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) program operating in emergency rooms and review SBIRT data that is specific to older adults.

Invited Guests: *San Diego County Alcohol Policy Panels*, County of San Diego Alcohol and Drug Programs, San Diego State University Research Center, Center for Alcohol and Drug Studies.

Tuesday, October 6, 2009. *Implementation of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Federal Parity Law: Defining Services, Barriers to Accessing Services in Existing Programs.* San Francisco, specific location and time TBD. The Wellstone-Domenici Parity Act, enacted into law on October 3, 2008, is intended to end health insurance benefits inequity between mental health/substance use disorders for group health plans with more than 50 employees. The law becomes effective on January 1, 2010. This informational hearing will provide legislators an opportunity to clearly understand how this new law will affect the health insurance plans of the millions of Californians suffering from mental health or substance abuse disorders.

Invited Guests: Department of Managed Health Care Director Cindy Ehnes, Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs Director Renee Zito, State Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner, California Mental Health Directors Association, Assembly Health Committee and a federal expert

Monday, November 16, 2009. *Licensing and Certification for Alcohol and Drug Counselors (SB 707).* 11:00-1PM, State Capitol, room TBD. The informational hearing will provide a progress report from the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (DADP) regarding SB 707. The purpose of the hearing is to facilitate discussion and understand the key issues identified by stakeholders in an effort to build consensus and minimize opposition to SB 707. The intent of SB 707 is to craft a uniform standard for all alcohol and drug (AOD) counselors to ensure that all individuals seeking treatment are offered the same quality of care across all sectors.

Invited Guests: Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs' Director Renée Zito, certifying organizations and key community stakeholders

Legislative update Bills move out of committees for action in 2009

Between August 31 and September 11, bills may be heard in floor sessions only in the Senate and Assembly. The last day for any bill to be passed in the Senate and Assembly is September 11, when the legislature is scheduled to begin its fall recess. The following bills are still moving toward passage and will be heard on the floors of the respective chambers in the next two weeks. Letters of support/opposition should be sent to your Senate and Assembly representatives. CAADPE members can find links to CAADPE's letters of support/opposition for these bills on the CAADPE Legislative Bill Monitoring page, www.caadpe.org.

Check the CAADPE website to obtain the contact information for your representative.

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 for the purpose of increasing the state's ability to make available alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are pregnant women or women of childbearing age. CAADPE is SUPPORTING AB 217

AB 564 (Portantiono) *Substance abuse treatment: prohibition of excessive salaries.* AB 564 was amended in the Senate Appropriations Committee to require county contracts to include provisions for executive compensation and to shift the oversight and auditing of the contracts to the counties in order to avoid the estimated state costs of

See "[2009 bills](#)" continued on page 2

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President**

Albert M. Senella
Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.
Kern, Los Angeles, Orange,
Ventura Counties

Vice President

Trisha Stanionis
Project Help
Sacramento County

Secretary

William Dombrowski, Ph.D.
Didi Hirsch CMHC
Los Angeles County

Treasurer

Norman Sprunck
Western Pacific Med/Corp
Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura
Counties

Lynne Appel

Southern California Alcohol &
Drug Programs, Inc.
Los Angeles, Orange Counties

Jack Bernstein

CRI-HELP, Inc.
Los Angeles County

Kimberly Bond.

Mental Health Systems,
San Diego, San Bernardino,
Imperial, Riverside, Santa
Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern,
Stanislaus, Fresno and Orange
Counties

Margaret Gold

Jelani, Inc.
San Francisco County

Kimberly Hendrix

Volunteers of America
Los Angeles County

Shawn Jenkins.

WestCare California
Fresno, El Dorado, Kern,
Sacramento Counties

Rod Libbey

Walden House, Inc.
Kings, Los Angeles, Madera,
San Francisco,
and Sutter Counties

Stephen Maulhardt

Aegis Medical Systems
Butte, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles
Merced, Placer, San Bernardino,
San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo,
Santa Barbara, Stanislaus,
Sutter, Ventura, Yuba Counties

Luis Montes.

Narcotics Prevention
Association, Los Angeles

Henry van Oudheusden

Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Los Angeles, Orange Counties

Irene Redondo-Churchard

SPIRITT Family Services
Los Angeles County

Elizabeth Stanley-Salazar

Phoenix Houses of California,
Inc., Kings, Los Angeles,
Madera, Orange, San
Bernardino, San Diego,
Ventura Counties

Sushma Taylor, Ph.D.

Center Point, Inc.
Contra Costa, Marin, Riverside,
Sacramento, San Diego, San
Joaquin, Solano, Toulumne
Counties

Brenda Wiewel

Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol
& Drug Abuse
Los Angeles County

Additional Online Resources and Loan Repayment Funds Now Available

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Workforce Development Division (HWDD) has announced new online resources for students looking toward a healthcare career. Additional opportunities for loan repayment for some mental health clinicians working in the substance abuse treatment field, namely Licensed Clinical Social

Workers and Licensed Professional Counselors are also available. However, certain conditions apply, including location, type of facility, and length of service. HWDD's online resource includes information on scholarships and loan repayment funds. For more information on eligibility and service commitment, visit: <http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/>

2009 Bills, continued from p.1

\$400,000 or so to implement the bill. CAADPE is **OPPOSING** the bill, calling it redundant federal and state law and costly to administer.

AB 750 (Bass) Deferred entry of judgment. AB 750 would authorize a superior court, with the concurrence of the prosecuting attorney of the county, to create a deferred entry of judgment reentry program aimed at preventing recidivism among first-time nonviolent felony drug offenders, sending them to treatment/community supervision rather than prison. CAADPE is **Supporting** AB 750.

AB 845 (Bass) Corrections: Reentry Advisory

Committee. AB 845 imposes additional requirements on Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a Reentry Advisory Committee, including that the committee seek and apply for federal Second Chance Act 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. CAADPE is currently a member of Reentry Advisory Committee and **SUPPORTS** AB 845.

AB 1198 (Swanson) Food stamps: eligibility: drug felonies. AB 1198 removes the limitations on receipt of food stamps in certain drug-related felonies. CAADPE is **SUPPORTING** AB 1198

Save the Date

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 un-served/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 10 & 21 The Substance Abuse Research Consortium 39th and 40th Semi-Annual Meetings The 2009 meetings will provide overviews of the National Quality Forum (NQF) Voluntary Consensus Standards. Subsequent presentations will focus on how counties and programs within California are adopting NQF Standards. The meeting will conclude with an overview of research and policy recommendations that focus on strategies to incorporate evidence-based practices into the existing treatment system. 9/10: Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel. 9/21: Sheraton Grand, Sacramento. Register online: www.nattc.org/regCenters/activityDocs/11/SARC_2009_Meeting_Series_Flyer_FINAL2.pdf

September 15-18 22nd Annual National Prevention Network Prevention Research Conference

California is hosting the 22nd Annual National Prevention Network Prevention Research Conference. Hyatt Regency Orange County, Garden Grove. Contact: Andrea Howard, 916-323-1854, ahoward@adp.ca.gov, www.adp.ca.gov/Prevention/prevention.shtml

September 16-17 Southwest Regional Integrated Behavioral Health Conference: Building Clinical Excellence for Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Professionals, presented by Mental Health Systems, Inc. Explore complex issues of integrating treatment for clients with addiction and mental health disorders: internationally known presenters explore trends in treatment, program design, human behavior change research, evidence based methods to increase client engagement and outcomes, models of leadership, and innovative culture and gender programs. Choose from sessions in four tracks: Leadership/Management, Integrated Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders, Gender Responsive Services, Inclusion and Cultural Competency. Westin Hotel, San Diego. Phone: 858-573-2600 Ex. 1700, Lorena Duarte lduarte@mhsinc.org or Erin Scally escally@mhsinc.org

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 p.m. Location: The California Endowment 1000 North Alameda St, Los Angeles. Call 562.906.2686 for more information.

October 21 Counselor Certification Advisory Committee Meeting The Counselor Certification Advisory Committee Meeting is designed to provide information and to foster discussion regarding issues and regulations associated with counselor certification. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., ADP First Floor Conference Room, Sacramento. Contact: Sherry Celio, 916-327-9502, scelio@adp.ca.gov

The *Membership Memo* is a benefit of your CAADPE membership dues. © 2009 by CAADPE. Republication or broadcast of this material constitutes acceptance of fair use conditions which includes adequate citations. If you know someone who would like to receive this weekly communication and join CAADPE, send us his or her name and e-mail address. We will send a complimentary trial subscription.

1127 11th Street, Suite 208, Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 329-7409 ■ Fax (916) 442-4616 ■ e-mail caadpe@pacbell.net ■ www.caadpe.org

Buprenorphine law, licensing reform stall in 2009, become 2-year bills

Two of the year's bills of major interest to CAADPE members appear to be headed toward becoming two-year bills. Neither the CAADPE sponsored Buprenorphine bill nor the CAADPE supported measure that would make major reforms in licensing and certification met the deadline for passing out of committee and were held in suspense in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Opposition from the Department of Alcohol and Drug programs appeared to be the primary reason for the Senate Appropriations Committee to hold **AB 417, Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Program: Buprenorphine** (Beall, D-San Jose), in Committee last week. The failure of the Committee to approve AB 417 brought efforts to integrate Buprenorphine in Drug Medi-Cal's Narcotic Treatment Programs to a screeching halt and effectively killing the measure for this year. The Department's financial analysis which was released just days before the hearing, appears to take an "apples and oranges" approach to cost comparisons, relies on comments taken out of context, and suffers from omission of relevant information. The net effect of the report is to provide the Legislature and the Governor with a report aimed at preventing the inclusion of Buprenorphine as reimbursable in Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Program benefits, even though the annualized global costs of Buprenorphine and methadone are about the same, about \$6,421.80 for methadone and \$6,256 for the Suboxone (Buprenorphine) treatment plan for new clients entering treatment for opioid addiction. CAADPE will continue to pursue passage of the bill by providing the Governor and the Legislature with accurate cost analyses and appropriate procedures for allowing use of Buprenorphine as a treatment modality in NTP settings.

The other bill, **SB 707 (DeSaulnier) Alcohol and other drug counselor licensing and certification**, was also held in the Appropriations Committee suspense file. The bill would make ADP the certifying body for all counselor licensing. It would create a tiered system that establishes career paths in the substance abuse counseling field. It would insure continuity in educational courses, testing, and licensing. As the bill is currently written it authorize the Department to commence issuing these licenses, registrations, and certificates on January 1, 2012. CAADPE supports the bill with amendments. ADP has signaled the intention to pursue passage of the bill in 2010.

**The CAADPE Office
Will Be Closed
for the Labor Day Holiday,
Monday, September 7, 2009**

Support Parity – AB 244

Assembly Member Jim Beall's bill, AB 244, which would require parity in health insurance for substance abuse and mental health treatment is on the Senate floor and is expected to pass. It is absolutely critical that people write to the Governor urging him to sign AB 244 MH/Substance Abuse parity. This Governor and past ones have vetoed similar parity efforts several times in the past. A sample letter is attached at the end of this *Weekly Memo*.

LA Recovery Month activities announced

September marks the 20th anniversary of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month and Los Angeles County is now in its 6th year of participation with the Los Angeles County Recovery Month Planning Partners. Events this year include the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adoption of a Proclamation at the Tuesday September 1st meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Special events include the Rally for Prevention and Recovery (Wednesday September 2nd) and the Los Angeles Dodgers Celebrate Recovery (Wednesday September 16th). The Dodger game is an afternoon game beginning at 2:10 pm, with pre-game recovery activities starting at 11 am. Dr Wesley Clark, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) will be in Los Angeles to attend the Dodger game! Contact Barbara Smith at 310-328-1460 to arrange for a vendor booth at the rally and Candy Cargill-Fuller, CAADPE member, Behavioral Health Services at 310-675-4431 to purchase Dodger tickets.

**Post job offerings,
promote your events and services
to CAADPE Members**



**Advertise
in the
Weekly Memo**

caadpe@pacbell.net

free design service

ATTACHMENT 1

August 21, 2009
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I urge you to support the hundreds of thousands of Californians suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders and sign AB 244 the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity bill into law.

AB 244 ends discrimination against people with mental disorders and substance abuse addictions by requiring health insurers to cover treatment for those illnesses, equivalent to the coverage provided for other medical conditions.

AB 244 makes fiscal sense and saves taxpayers, businesses, and the state millions of dollars each year with a minimal increase to monthly health insurance premiums. According to an independent review by the California Health Benefits Review Project (CHBRP)

AB 244 would have no cost to the state and the cost to insurance beneficiaries would be a monthly increase of pennies. This minimal increase in premiums pales in comparison to the savings policy holders would see in reduced out-of-pocket expenses because their treatment needs would be covered.

AB 244 saves California businesses money, especially important in today's competitive market place. According to a National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence study of nine New Jersey industries, alcohol and substance abuse cost businesses billions in health care costs, lost productivity, and high absenteeism. These industries paid approximately \$2 billion in alcohol-related health care cost such as hypertension and liver disease. They lost \$1 billion due to absenteeism and decreased productivity caused by problem drinking; approximately \$150 million was lost due to illicit drug use.

Substance abuse and addiction cost federal, state and local governments at least \$467.7 billion in 2005 according to a study conducted by National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. AB 244 directly addresses these costs by ensuring Californians have access to the necessary care to manage their illnesses, thus reducing the demand for more expensive acute care, while simultaneously putting a stop to the practice of private insurers shifting this cost to taxpayers. According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report, "National Expenditures for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment from 1993 to 2003," the private health insurance industry has been dumping the costs of treating certain illnesses onto state and local governments (i.e. the taxpayer).

As a result of the above information, the federal government has responded by passage of the Wellstone Mental Health Parity Act, (under the Bush Administration) and a re-authorization of SCHIP, now requiring insurers to provide children with mental health coverage (under the Obama Administration). The federal law does not require coverage for businesses with fewer than 50 employees. AB 244 fills this gap in coverage for those employees.

The State of California can no longer afford to absorb these cost shifts, especially in light of the recent decision by a three judge panel that ruled the state must release 44,000 inmates over the next two years. A significant portion of California's prison population is diagnosed with a mental health or substance abuse disorder. Without proper treatment, these individuals will continue to struggle to adapt to life in the community and will likely end up incarcerated once again.

As Health insurers enjoy record profits in the billions, it is time "health" insurance covered all aspects of "health", equally. This bill is a cost effective way to help people who are paying for health insurance to actually get the full scope health insurance they need.

I urge you to sign AB 244 into law.

Sincerely,

Your name
Title, Agency Name