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upport the Community Mental Health Services Improvement Act (H.R. 1011)

NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

OVERVIEW

The Community Mental Health Services Improvement Act (CMHSIA) – introduced in the House by Representatives Gene Green (D-TX) and Tim Murphy (R-PA) on February 12, 2009 – would amend the Public Health Service Act to include provisions to co-locate primary care and specialty medical care in community-based mental health and addiction treatment organizations. In addition, the bill includes training and loan assistance programs designed to address the recruitment and retention of qualified behavioral healthcare workers, particularly in health professional shortage areas.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE CMHSIA:

- > > Creating a new federal grants program to support co-locating primary care/chronic care services at community mental health facilities funded at \$50 million in FY 2010 and authorized through FY 2014.
- > > Integrating treatment for mental health and substance abuse co-occurring disorders funded at \$14 million in FY 2010, \$20 million in FY 2011, and authorized through FY 2014.
- > > Improving the mental health workforce through grants for the recruitment and retention of mental health professionals funded at \$10 million in FY 2010 and authorized through FY 2014.
- > > Enhancing behavioral and mental health education and training program through a new grants program to establish or expand accredited programs funded at \$4 million in FY 2010 and authorized through FY 2014.
- > > Establishing a new \$20 million federal grants program to finance infrastructure costs for telecommunications technology supporting telepsychiatry and patient education at community mental health facilities located in rural and other medically underserved areas.
- > > Requiring the Secretaries of the HHS and DVA to collaborate with the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology and SAMHSA to develop and implement a plan for ensuring that various components of the National Health Information Infrastructure address mental health and substance abuse provider needs supported by \$10 million in funding in FY 2010 and authorized through FY 2014.



Request

Sign on as a co-sponsor in support of the Community Mental Health Services Improvement Act

