



# Health Care Reform Update

**Charles Ingoglia, MSW**  
**Vice President, Public Policy**  
**National Council for Community Behavioral  
Healthcare**

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# Today...

- Summary of Action to Date
- Substance Use and Mental Health Highlights
- We need your help

# In Previous Calls

- Discussed overall structure of the bills
  - Medicaid expansion
- Health insurance exchange/gateway
  - Minimum benefit package that includes MH and SUD services



# House Tri-Committee Bill

## America's Affordable Health Choices Act

# General Provisions

- Prohibits pre-existing condition exclusions
- Guaranteed issue and renewal for insured plans
- Ensuring adequacy of provider networks

# Substance Use and Mental Health Provisions



- Nondiscrimination in benefits; parity in mental health and substance abuse disorder benefits
- Essential benefits package includes “Rehabilitative and habilitative services” as well as “Mental health and substance use disorder services”
- Includes Outreach activities to educate individuals about Exchange program to include those with mental illness
- Auto-enrollment - Individuals who are eligible for the Exchange are automatically enrolled in appropriate Exchange-participating health benefits plan.

# Substance Use and Mental Health Provisions



- Discount pharmaceutical pricing (340B) expanded to mental health and addiction treatment organizations
- Licensed Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists covered in Medicare, Rural Health Clinics, and Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Promotes the coordination of health services (inc. MH) through medical homes and Accountable Care Organizations
- Awards grants to mental health and substanprofessional training programs

# Medicaid Expanded based on Federal Poverty Status

-All persons at 133% of FPL eligible  
(including childless adults)

-2013 – 2015: 100% Federally financed.  
After 2015: 90% Federally financed

# Impact of Medicaid Expansion

- “The uninsured population is primarily low-income and many have significant health care needs”
- “.....one in five (20%) reports a mental health problem, such as depression, bipolar disorder, autism, dementia, schizophrenia or psychosis.”

*Source: Medicaid as a Platform for Broader Health Reform: Supporting High-Need and Low-Income Populations, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, May 2009*

# Impact of Medicaid Expansion

## Further Analysis Reveals:

- Fully 2.8 million have conditions severe enough that they require the intensive services provided by specialty multi-service mental health organizations like community mental health centers.
- This would increase the number of persons served in America's public mental health system by 50%.

*Source: Unmet Mental Healthcare Needs of Indigent, Uninsured Americans.  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, July 2009*

# Energy and Commerce Committee Amendments

Amendment offered by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Doris Matsui (D-CA).

Creates “Federally-Qualified Behavioral Health Centers” to be certified by SAMHSA.

First step in the development of national standards and benefits for these entities.

# Senate Finance Committee

- “Gang of Six” negotiations ongoing
  - Chairman Baucus, Sen. Conrad, Sen. Bingaman, Sen. Grassley, Sen. Enzi, Sen. Collins’
  - Sept. 15 unofficial deadline for release of proposal



# *Opportunities and Challenges ....*

# Questions Remain

- Timing...if not this year, then unlikely
- Reconciliation of 3 bills in House – done by the Rules Committee
- Regular order of Budget Reconciliation in Senate?
- Negotiation over size (House v. Senate)

# August Recess

- The Pressure is on
  - Opponents and supporters of healthcare reform will be making their voices heard
  - Members of Congress conducting “Town Hall” meetings
  - National Council has developed “Talking Points” to assist you.

# Together We Will!

- **Keep Eye Out for Action Alerts, PPU**
- **Start Planning for Hill Day Next Year**
- **Become Part of our Key Contact Network:**
  1. **Three contacts with members of Congress**
  2. **Build relationships – share information; offer assistance; participate in campaign activities**

Contact me – [chucki@thenationalcouncil.org](mailto:chucki@thenationalcouncil.org)

# Future Webinars: Health Care Reform Update

All webinars are at 2 pm EST:

- Sept. 9
- Sept. 22

Register online: [www.thenationalcouncil.org](http://www.thenationalcouncil.org)