

Hill Day 2010 Letter Writing Campaign

This year at our 6th Annual Public Policy Institute & [Hill Day](#), the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare is offering our first-ever Letter Writing Campaign contest. The goal of the Letter Writing Campaign is for organizations to generate letters to their elected officials in support of community mental health and addiction services. We encourage members to provide the [form](#) we've created to consumers and their families, staff, and board members. Consider making copies of the form and leaving them in your waiting room so consumers can fill it out while they're waiting for their appointments.

The state whose members generate the highest total number of letters, along with the individual organization that collected the most letters on its own, will be recognized at the Member Reception during the 2010 Public Policy Institute and Hill Day.

Contest Rules

1. Letters should describe the need for supporting high-quality MH/SUD services, including personal stories about how MH/SUD impacts your communities and the positive effect of treatment programs or services provided by our members. We will provide a sample letter template with plenty of room for letter writers to add their personal stories.
2. Every letter **must include** the organization's name, city, state, and zip, so that the Congressional staff can verify that letter writers are from their district and so that National Council staff can tally the totals from each state and organization. This information may be added by the letter writer or by the organization's staff. We encourage you to complete the Organization Name, State, & Zip Code prior to making photocopies of the form to simplify the process.
3. Participants should enlist as many people as possible to write letters – this could include consumers, board members, family members, coworkers, friends, etc. This will ensure our elected officials hear from everyone, even those who are unable to join us for Hill Day.
4. Letters should be mailed to the National Council (Attn: Rebecca Farley) or emailed to rebeccaf@thenationalcouncil.org, preferably in a single mailing rather than one-by-one. Letters must be submitted by June 21 in order for them to be counted before Hill Day.
5. National Council staff will count the letters prior to Hill Day. Last-minute additions will be counted on June 29th.
6. Copies of the letters will be given in a packet to each state's Association Executive, who will decide how to most effectively distribute the letters to their Congressional offices on June 30th.

Questions? Contact Rebecca Farley at rebeccaf@thenationalcouncil.org or 202-684-7457 ext. 235.