

Jason Brame

From: Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative [jasonb@communityadvocates.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 1:35 PM
To: Jason Brame
Subject: URGENT -- Encourage Your Congressional Representatives to Sign on to Rep. Kennedy's Parity Letter by Wednesday, Sept. 23



e-Newsletter

Upcoming MATI Committee Meetings

Program and Policy Committee

• **Wed., Oct. 14, 9-10:30 a.m.**
 Topic: Addiction as a public health issue. (Location TBD)

Upcoming MATI Work Group Meetings

Communications

• **Wed., Oct. 7, 9-10 a.m.**
 (Location: Springfield College, 744 N. 4th St., Ste 300) Contact: [Hillary Chavez](#), (414) 270-2950.

Advocacy

• **Wed., Sept. 29, 8-9 a.m.**
 (Location: Wlser Choice Resource Office, 2947 N. MLK Jr. Dr.) Contact: [Genyne Edwards](#), (414) 270-2952.

Sept. 21, 2009

Dear Jason,

Ask your Congressional representatives to sign on to an important letter requesting the issuance of regulations to implement the *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008*. This landmark civil rights legislation will ensure that individuals and families who have mental health and addiction disorders will receive health care on par with other medical conditions covered under group health insurance.

Representative Patrick J. Kennedy -- one of the chief sponsors of the Wellstone-Domenici Act -- is circulating a [letter](#) asking the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Treasury to issue parity regulations for mental health and addiction treatment services as soon as possible. Representative Kennedy requests regulations that are in line with Congressional intent by clarifying important issues such as scope of services, medical management strategies and the use of treatment limitations. You can read Representative Kennedy's letter [here](#).

Please ask your Congressional representatives to sign on to Representative Kennedy's letter by the deadline -- 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23. You can send a letter to your representative through the [Faces and Voices of Recovery Web](#)

System Redesign

· **Wed., Oct. 14, 10:30 a.m.-noon.** (Location: TBD) Contact: [Robert Cherry](#), (414) 270-2953.

[site.](#)

The Wellstone-Domenici Act requires that regulations be issued to implement the law by Oct. 3, 2009. The Act goes into effect for most plans on Jan. 1, 2010, whether or not regulations have been issued. It's very important to have regulations issued in a timely manner, with clearly outlined implementation details, so that it can have the greatest possible positive impact.

Resources

[MATI Web Site](#)

[MATI Blog](#)

[Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap](#)
(Open Society Institute)

[Community Advocates Public Policy Institute](#)

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[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

The Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI) is a collaboration among local stakeholders -- including treatment providers, public health agencies, law enforcement, faith-based agencies, advocates and members of the recovery community -- to close the addiction treatment gap in Milwaukee County and ensure that everyone who needs treatment can receive it. MATI is sponsored by a grant from the Open Society Institute, Baltimore, with additional funding from the Helen Bader Foundation, the Zilber Family Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Visit MATI online at www.ca-mati.org.

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