

Up to the Minute

OACBHA UPDATE

September 16, 2009

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE RELEASES HEALTHCARE REFORM BILL

Senator Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, released the committee's version of the healthcare reform bill today. The proposed bill would cost \$856 billion over 10 years, but according to Senator Baucus would not add to the federal deficit. The bill would require all individuals to purchase healthcare or pay a fine. It would also prohibit insurance companies from charging more for individuals with more serious health problems. The bill would drop the government run public option and instead create nonprofit healthcare cooperatives. To read this article in its entirety, please visit: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/09/16/health.care/index.html>.

2008 NATIONAL SURVEY ON DRUG USE AND HEALTH RELEASED

According to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) the misuse of prescription drugs among individuals ages 12 and older has decreased significantly between 2007 and 2008. The survey shows that the overall level of current illicit drug use has remained level at 8%. While the survey shows that there have been decreases in methamphetamine and cocaine use in 2008, there were significant increases in the use of Ecstasy and LSD among youth over the past few years. The 2008 NSDUH found that 23.1 million Americans are in need of specialized treatment for substance abuse problems, but only 2.3 million are receiving that treatment. The NSDUH is an annual report issued by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). To view the survey results, please visit: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k8nsduh/2k8Results.cfm>.

STUDY ON HEROIN AND OPIATE ADDICTION TREATMENT IN PRISONS RELEASED

According to a study by The Miriam Hospital, Brown University, and the Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, many prison systems across the country do not offer medical treatment for heroin and opiate addiction, even though a quarter of a million people addicted to heroin are incarcerated each year in this country. The study also found that only 23 states provide referrals to treatment for inmates when they are released from prison. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued guidelines saying that prisoners should be offered opiate replacement therapy for the treatment of their opiate dependence. To read this article in its entirety, please visit: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/163362.php>.

HEALTH FOUNDATION LAUNCHES HEALTHCARE REFORM WEBSITE

The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati has launched a website on healthcare reform. The website contains information on how the healthcare system works, healthcare terms, how it will affect individuals, local opinions on healthcare reform, and answers to healthcare reform questions. For more information, please visit: <http://reform.healthfoundation.org/>.

REQUEST ADVOCACY POSTCARDS NOW

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and the Coalition for Healthy Communities advocacy postcard campaign is going strong. To request cards or the printable files, contact Stacey Frohnapfel-Hasson at (614) 224-1111 or sfrohnapfel@oacbha.org.

For more information about behavioral health issues in Ohio please visit:
www.oacbha.org

To remove your name from our mailing list or for questions or comments,
please email kthomas@oacbha.org