

# National Recovery Month

September 2011

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## Recovery Month Planning Partners Ramstad-Kennedy Annual Award for Outstanding Leadership by a Single State Authority

**Background:** The *Recovery Month* Planning Partners have witnessed with appreciation as the Single State Agencies (SSA) have increased their critical role in supporting and promoting *Recovery Month* activities, materials and awareness in their states and within their agencies. The Planning Partners have also watched with appreciation the extraordinary and long-time efforts and passionate leadership of the Honorable Jim Ramstad (R-MN-ret) and the Honorable Patrick Kennedy (D-RI-ret) in the development, understanding and promotion of the legislative movement to bring equity to addiction and mental health treatment services.

In 2007 representatives of the *Recovery Month* Planning Partners met with the Board of the National Association of State Alcohol/Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) to thank the SSA Directors for their leadership within their home states. Additionally, the group discussed the need for greater collaboration to promote *Recovery Month* within their state and in coordination with national activities. The outcome was a recommendation for an annual award established to honor an SSA Director who demonstrated outstanding leadership in support of recovery and *Recovery Month*. It was also determined to name the Award in honor of Congressmen Ramstad and Kennedy as a way to acknowledge their commitment to issues of recovery.

Therefore, the first annual **Ramstad-Kennedy Award** was presented to Mike Botticelli, Massachusetts SSA, on August 20, 2008 during a Recovery Month celebration at the SAMHSA State Systems Development Program (SSDP) conference. The 2009 Award was presented to Karen Carpenter-Palumbo of New York at the June, 2009 NASADAD annual meeting in Syracuse, NY, and the 2010 award was given to Carol Falkowski, then the Minnesota SSA, in Baltimore, MD at the August, 2010 SAMHSA SSDP conference.

The 2011 **Ramstad-Kennedy Award** will be presented at the June 10<sup>th</sup> Awards Luncheon for NASADAD's national annual conference in Indianapolis, IN. To nominate an SSA director whom you think should receive this award, please complete the attached form.

**Criteria:** SSA who has:

1. Provided outstanding leadership and innovation in promoting the goals of the National Recovery Month in their state
2. Strengthened and expanded Recovery Month activities within their agency and throughout other state agencies
3. Provided support to strengthen and expand Recovery Month activities throughout their state
4. Expanded the number and impact of Recovery Month activities in their local communities
5. Encouraged and expanded recovery organizations in their state



