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National
Recovery Month
Prevention Works · Treatment is Effective · People Recover
SEPTEMBER 2011

Show Taping 5/16/11 at 9 a.m. Supporting National Recovery Month

Show Topic:

Health Reform: What It Means for People With Substance Use and Mental Disorders

Host: Ivette A. Torres, Associate Director for Consumer Affairs, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Invited Panelists: Deb Beck, MSW, President, Drug and Alcohol Services Providers of Pennsylvania; Richard Frank, Ph.D., Professor of Health Economics, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Patrick Hendry, Senior Director of Consumer Advocacy, Mental Health America; John O'Brien, Senior Advisor for Behavioral Health Financing, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Program Abstract:

With the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly known as health reform, important and far-reaching changes are underway in our Nation's health system. The Affordable Care Act gives Americans more freedom and control over their health care, as well as new benefits that ensure they will receive the care they need at a more reasonable cost. In addition, changes will include the adoption of electronic health records, allowing the comprehensive management and secure exchange of health information among insurers, primary care practitioners, general practitioners, pharmacists, and those in specialty fields such as pediatrics, cardiology, oncology, orthopedics, and treatment and recovery in behavioral health. There are many questions about what health reform changes will take effect and when the changes will be implemented. This show will provide information to help answer these questions and suggest other means for consumers to stay informed and determine what health reform will mean to them.

Key Questions:

- What are the major ways that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) affects the behavioral health system?
- What is the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) and how is this law fundamentally connected to the ACA?
- What are the costs of behavioral health care in the Nation today?
- Why is it important to reduce the number of uninsured persons in this country with respect to treatment for substance use and mental disorders?
- How do the prevention and wellness provisions of the ACA connect to behavioral health care?
- Why is it important to integrate primary health care with behavioral health care?
- How will ACA improve the quality of health care?

Taping Location:

ICF Macro Studio

11420 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852

Contact: Jessica Fonoroff, 240-747-4936

Panelists should be at the studio by 9am for pretaping instructions, sound checks, and staging.

Show Air Date: July 6, 2011

Event to be archived online at <http://www.recoverymonth.gov>.