

Jason Brame

From: Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative [jasonb@communityadvocates.net]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2009 1:16 PM
To: Jason Brame
Subject: URGENT: Show Your Support for Mental Health / Addiction Parity at News Conference, 9:30 a.m. This Wednesday at the State Capitol



e-Newsletter

Upcoming MATI Committee Meetings

Oct. 5, 2009

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: [Hilary Chavez](#), (414) 270-2950.

Advocacy

• **Time, location TBD.** Contact: [Genyne Edwards](#), (414) 270-2952.

System Redesign

Dear Jason,

The *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008*, P.L. 110-343, which went into effect Oct. 3, 2009, will raise the level of insurance benefits for millions of men and women to better treat mental illness, and drug and alcohol addiction. However, the Wellstone-Domenici Act is not all-inclusive. In Wisconsin, the law does not apply to more than 700,000 men and women who work for small employers. Many of these people will be forced to forego costly addiction or mental health treatment because they are unable to afford it.

In order to close this gap in Wisconsin, Senator Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) and Representative Sandy Pasch (D-Whitefish Bay) are announcing the *Wisconsin Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity Act*. This bill will require all group health plans -- both the small employer plans that are not covered by the Wellstone-Domenici Act and the large employers that are -- to provide mental health and substance abuse disorder benefits at parity levels.

Senator Hansen and Representative Pasch will announce this bill during a news conference at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7 in the State Capitol Assembly Parlor in Madison. They invite you to attend the news conference to lend your support to this

· Time, location TBD. Contact:
[Robert Cherry](#), (414) 270-2953.

important bill.

Once the bill is introduced and circulated for co-sponsorship we will ask those interested to contact their legislators to sign on. We also hope to have information soon about a date for a public hearing in the Assembly. Please be on the lookout for more information about this in the coming days.

Resources

[MATI Web Site](#)

[MATI Blog](#)

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

[Community Advocates Public
Policy Institute](#)

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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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