

SAAS, TCA and NAADAC Join Forces to Address Addiction and Health Reform

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The leading addiction-focused organizations in the nation are speaking out, and Congress is taking notice.

From April 16 to 17, 2013, the [State Associations of Addiction Services \(SAAS\)](#) , [Treatment Communities of America \(TCA\)](#) and [NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals](#)

, will host the

[Addiction Leadership Summit](#)

in Washington, D.C. The Summit will address the issues of healthcare reform, workforce development and access to quality addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

Want to join the conversation? [Register for the Addiction Leadership Summit](#) .

The partnership of SAAS, TCA and NAADAC is powerful as the three organizations respectively represent service providers focused on ensuring nationwide access to quality services (SAAS); over 600 program sites who provide an array of integrated services across the continuum of care (TCA); and the professional interests of more than 75,000 addiction counselors, educators and other addiction-focused health care professionals in the United States (NAADAC).

“TCA is pleased to co-sponsor the Advocacy Leadership Summit and work closely with the broader addiction treatment community as we engage leaders in Washington to shape the future of how people access treatment. Especially in light of the historic Affordable Care Act moving forward at the same time as sequestration, we must work tirelessly for smart policies and sufficient funding for care and services that are essential to people in need across the

country,” said Dr. Sushma Taylor, President of Treatment Communities of America.

Members of all three organizations will come together to share ideas and address the issues facing the addiction profession, culminating with a breakfast briefing on Capitol Hill and meetings with individual legislators and their staff members.

“With the dramatic changes to the delivery of services through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and significant reductions in revenue, the addiction treatment profession is challenged more than ever before,” said [Robert C. Richards, MA, NCAC II, CADC III](#), president of NAADAC.

“During the Advocacy Leadership Summit we will be working closely with all of our stakeholders to help us navigate through this difficult time,” emphasized Richards.

This initiative is the first public policy collaboration between the three groups and sets a model for the profession. As the field faces system-wide change, a unified strategy is critical to ensuring that the best interests of practitioners and patients are being met.

“SAAS is excited to be part of this group of dedicated and passionate advocates, all working together to educate the members of Congress on important public policy issues,” said Constance Peters, President of the State Associations of Addiction Services and Vice-President of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare of Massachusetts.

“With a focus on funding, workforce development and the implementation of parity and health care reform law, our joint advocacy effort is essential to ensuring the delivery of quality addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support services as well as improving access to treatment for the millions of people in need across the country,” she added.

For more information on the conference, please visit www.naadac.org/conferences/advocacy-conference

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About the Partners

Since 1987, the **State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS)** has been supporting service providers through their state provider associations and coordinating national advocacy with a mission to ensure access to quality services nationwide. Through our 40 State Association members, SAAS represents over 1800 individual providers.

More information at www.saasnet.org/

Treatment Communities of America (TCA) was founded in 1975 as a non-profit membership association on behalf of treatment communities across the United States and Canada. It is a national non-profit membership association representing the interests of over 650 substance abuse and mental health non-profit treatment programs in North America.

More information at www.treatmentcommunitiesofamerica.org/

Since its founding in 1974, **NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals**, has represented the professional interests of more than 75,000 addiction counselors, educators and other addiction-focused health care professionals in the United States, Canada and abroad.

More information at www.naadac.org .