



2010 Advocacy in Action Conference
Issue Briefs and Hill Visit Meeting Outline
(Do Not Give to Congressional Staff)

The NAADAC Public Policy Committee (PPC) has chosen to focus on the following three priority issues, or “asks” for this year’s Advocacy in Action Hill Visits:

1. Increasing federal funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant,
2. Gaining Congressional support for the “HITECH Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010,” which would amend current law to make certain providers of addiction services eligible for Health Information Technology funds, and
3. Encouraging Representatives to join the bipartisan Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus and the Youth Drug Prevention Caucus

Issue 1: Urge Your Representative and Senators to Support Increased Funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant

Background:

The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT) is the single largest funding stream for treatment programs and the most important program that affords addicted individuals treatment. The SAPT Block Grant is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The SAPT Block Grant serves our nation’s most vulnerable, low income populations – those with HIV/AIDS, pregnant and parenting women, youth and other vulnerable groups – by ensuring access to substance abuse services.

The SAPT Block Grant is distributed by formula to all states and jurisdictions. The program provided treatment services for approximately two million client admissions in 2007. During the same year, at discharge from treatment, 73% were abstinent from illicit drug use; 80% were abstinent from alcohol use; 89% had no involvement with the criminal justice system and 49% were employed or in school.

An independent study of the SAPT Block Grant, released in June 2009, found the program to be effective in a number of areas, including (1) positive outcomes as measured by increased abstinence from alcohol and other drugs; increased employment; decreased

criminal justice involvement and other indicators; (2) improvement of state infrastructure and capacity; (3) development and maintenance of state agency collaborations; (4) and effective planning, monitoring and oversight.

The President’s proposed FY (fiscal year) 2011 budget, released in February, would level-fund the SAPT Block Grant at about \$1.8 billion. On July 29, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a FY 2011 funding bill for the Department of Health and Human Services, which would also level-fund the SAPT at \$1.8 billion. (The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education approved its draft funding bill on July 15, but has not released any funding numbers). No further action is expected on FY 2011 appropriations bills until after the mid-term election.

SAPT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011 Obama Request	FY 2011 Senate Approps Comm	NAADAC FY 2011 Request
\$1.76 billion	\$1.78 billion	\$1.8 billion	\$1.8 billion	\$1.8 billion	\$2.01 billion

Action Needed:

Ask your Representative and Senators to support an increase of \$210 million for the SAPT Block Grant in the 2011 fiscal year.

Message/Talking Points:

- The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT) is the **single largest** funding stream for treatment programs and the most important program that affords addicted individuals treatment.
- The SAPT Block Grant serves our nation’s most vulnerable, low income populations.
- Funding for the SAPT Block Grant has been stagnant for the last several years, yet the demand for services continues to rise.
- **Please support an increase of \$210 million for the SAPT Block Grant in FY 2011.**

Issue 2: Urge Your Representative and Senators to Co-Sponsor the HITECH Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010, a Bill to Make Addiction Providers Eligible for HIT Funds

Background:

On April 14th, Congressmen Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Tim Murphy (R-PA) introduced H.R. 5040, the “Health Information Technology Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010.” On August 5, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced S.

3709 - the companion bill to H.R. 5040. H.R. 5040/S. 3709 would amend current law to make certain providers of addiction and mental health services eligible for HIT funds.

Specifically, H.R. 5040/S. 3709 would add clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities, and psychiatric hospitals to the list of entities eligible to receive incentive payments. The bill also makes these entities eligible for assistance from Health IT Regional Extension Centers.

These funds would include HIT resources provided through the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009” (ARRA), which allocated funds to many health service providers but excluded most providers of addiction and mental health services from eligibility.

H.R. 5040 is awaiting review in the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees. The full text and status of H.R. 5040/S. 3709 can be found at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

Currently, there are 69 [Co-sponsors](#) in the House and six co-sponsors in the Senate. To ensure that the legislation quickly moves toward passage, additional bi-partisan co-sponsors of H.R. 5040/S. 3709 are needed today.

Action Needed:

Ask your Representative and Senators to cosponsor H.R. 5040/S. 3709, the “Health Information Technology Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010.”

Message/Talking Points:

- As a health care professional who specializes in addiction and your constituent, I urge you become a co-sponsor of H.R. 5040/S. 3709 the “Health Information Technology Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010.”
- Most providers of addiction and mental health services were not eligible for the health information technology funds allocated through last year’s stimulus bill.
- H.R. 5040/S. 3709 would make providers of lifesaving addiction and mental health treatment services eligible for these funds and strengthen support for cost-effective, quality care.

Note: If your Representative or Senator(s) are already a co-sponsor, thank them!

Issue 3: Urge Your Representative to join the Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, and the new Congressional Caucus on Youth Drug Prevention.

Background:

Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus

The bipartisan Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus was founded in 2004 to serve as a groundbreaking forum to inform, educate and raise awareness about addiction and recovery and to increase legislative support for expanding access to care for people with addiction. The bipartisan caucus brings members of the House and their staffs together to focus attention on their shared interest and build support for policies that will support addiction recovery. (See list of current ATR Caucus Members).

Congressional Caucus on Youth Drug Prevention

In an effort to raise awareness about the need for and impact of prevention, Representatives Sander Levin (D-MI) and Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) established the Congressional Caucus on Youth Drug Prevention earlier this year. (See attached list of current YDP Caucus Members). This is the first Congressional Caucus ever to focus specifically on substance use/abuse prevention. The mission of this newly formed Caucus is to:

1. Educate members of Congress and federal agencies about the benefits of youth drug prevention (including the prevention of underage drinking);
2. Raise awareness about the consequences of youth drug use among children, parents and families;
3. Raise awareness about the effectiveness of comprehensive, community-wide approaches, including the involvement of parents, schools, teachers and the media; and
4. Ensure that substance use/abuse prevention is included in all appropriate authorizing and appropriations legislation and garner support for such legislation.

Action Needed:

Ask you Representative to join the Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus and the new Congressional Caucus on Youth Drug Prevention. (Use the Commitment Sheets found in your folders).

Message/Talking Points:

- As a health care professional who specializes in addiction and your constituent, I urge you to join the bipartisan Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus and the newly formed Congressional Caucus on Youth Drug Prevention.
- I would be happy to serve as a resource for you and your staff about the impact of addiction in our home state.
- I look forward to working with you on these issues in the future.

Note: If your Representative is already a member, thank him/her!

Meeting Outline

1. Upon entering the Representative's/Senator's office, identify yourself and tell the receptionist you have an appointment with _____ of the Representative's/Senator's staff.
2. Introduce yourself to the staff member when she or he comes out. Once you're situated and the meeting starts, exchange business cards and talk about where you're from in your state and what kind of work you do. Briefly, break the ice by talking about what part of the state the staffer is from, how long they've been in Washington, what the weather's like back home or other low-key issue. Don't forget to tell the staffer about NAADAC.
3. Begin the "serious" part of the meeting. Tell the staffer that the three issues you'd like to discuss are: 1) fiscal year 2011 appropriations for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, 2) support for the "HITECH Extension for Behavioral Health Services Act of 2010" and 3) the Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus and the Youth Drug Prevention Caucus. (Use the talking points above.)
4. Thank the staff member for taking the time to meet with you. If you have agreed to call staff members back with additional information, or just to keep in touch, make those calls at the agreed-upon times.
5. Lastly, be sure to follow up with the staffers to make sure they followed through on the requests you made.

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