NAADAC 2020 Virtual Hill Day
October 6 – 7 | A Virtual Experience
WELCOME!

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President Trump signed an Executive Order on October 5th: **Saving Lives Through Increased Support For Mental-and Behavioral-Health Needs**

- National Call to Action to prevent suicides, drug related deaths, and poor behavioral health outcomes especially related to COVID-19 shut down orders.
- Increase crisis intervention services, telehealth and on-line mental health and substance use tools.
Update from the Hill

• Full Senate slated to be out until October 19.
• House not scheduled to be in session until after the November election.
• Congress extended government funding through December 11. Larger spending package for fiscal 2021 to be considered during post-election lame duck session.
• The President has signed four COVID-19 stimulus bills into law totaling roughly $3 trillion.
  • In March, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address the impact of COVID-19. The $2 trillion package provided emergency funding to federal agencies including $425 million for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
• The House passed an updated COVID-19 relief package last week (HEROES 2.0).
• House Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Mnuchin continue to negotiate on a bipartisan package.
• Lawmakers could be called back to Washington to vote if a bipartisan agreement is reached on a relief package before the election.
### COVID-19 Relief Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEROES Act 2.0 (House)</th>
<th>HEALS Act (Senate)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$8.5 billion for SAMSHA</td>
<td>$4.5 billion for SAMSHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>• $3.5 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant</td>
<td>• $1.5 billion for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant</td>
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<td>• Establishes emergency mental health and substance use training and technical assistance center</td>
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Elements of a Hill Meeting

1. Virtual Advocacy Expectations
2. Pre-Meeting
3. Introductions
4. Addiction Professionals Background and Stories
5. Digital Advocacy Folder Materials
6. Conclusion
7. Follow Up & Debrief
Virtual Advocacy Expectations

• COVID-19 is limiting travel to Washington and virtual meetings are recommended.
• Congressional offices are meeting with constituents virtually via phone and video conference.
• Expect meetings to last between 20-30 minutes.
Pre-Meeting

1. **Review the digital materials and ask questions!** Read the one pagers and the other materials you are being provided.

2. **Research your Members of Congress.** Find out if your Members of Congress are in an addiction-related caucus and/or group or in a committee with health care jurisdiction, and visit their websites.
3. Make sure you are familiar with your digital platform’s technology features. We recommend testing and signing into meetings several minutes before in case there are tech issues.

4. Coordinate with your group!
   - If there are multiple participants in your meeting, coordinate with your group to select a group leader to handle introductions to avoid having all attendees talk over one another.
   - NAADAC advocacy staff can also join meetings as needed. If you are new to advocacy and want to ensure NAADAC staff joins a particular meeting, just let us know!
NAADAC’S FREE 2020 ADVOCACY WEBINAR SERIES!

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Shaping Policy and Practice Through Advocacy
Updates on Federal SUD Funding
Bolstering the Addiction Workforce – A Call to Action
Confidentiality Rule Changes and 42 CFR

COMING UP NEXT:
Bringing it Home – Grassroots Advocacy
Friday, October 30, 2020 @ 12:00-1:30pm ET (11 CT/10 MT/9 PT)

EARN 7.5 CES BY WATCHING THE FULL SERIES!*

Go to www.naadic.org/advocacy-webinars to watch Sessions I-IV on demand now!
*NAADAC members receive CEs for free; Non-members pay $20 for 1.5 CEs per webinar.
Meeting Introduction

1. Introduce yourself and colleagues.

2. Provide brief background on NAADAC and explain your connection to the state or district.
   
   • Don’t jump right into the legislation, finesse your way to the key talking points.
   
   • Keep it short and sweet - your introduction is meant to lead into the issues.
Addiction Professionals Background and Stories

• **ASK** the Member of Congress or staffer how familiar they are with the addiction issues.

• **EDUCATE** by providing a general overview, if requested by the office and/or if appropriate.

• **TELL** your story using statistics and personalized stories, especially those applicable to the lawmaker’s district or state.

• **DESCRIBE** how COVID-19 has impacted your practice and clients, the lawmaker’s constituents. Lawmakers have been laser focused on the impacts of the pandemic, so use this opportunity to share stories and lead into a discussion of NAADAC’s advocacy priorities.
Digital Advocacy Folder

1. One pagers
   - Addressing the Addiction Crisis: NAADAC 2020 Legislative Requests
   - Investing in the Addiction Workforce and Infrastructure
   - Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Parity
   - Addiction Professional Credentialing: The Need for National Standards

2. Talking points
NAADAC’s “Asks” - Addressing the Addiction Crisis: NAADAC 2020 Legislative Requests

- Support Robust Funding for Substance Use Disorder Programs.
  - $8.5 billion in emergency COVID-19 funding for addiction and mental health treatment and recovery programs
  - The Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Act (H.R. 6999/S. 3825)
  - The Tele-Mental Health Improvement Act (H.R. 8060/S. 3792)
  - $500 million increase for the SAMSHA Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant
  - $25 million for HRSA’s Loan Repayment Program for SUD Treatment Workforce; and
  - $15.7 million for SAMHSA’s Minority Fellowship Program

- Strengthen Behavioral Health Parity Laws.
  - Strengthening Behavioral Health Parity Act (H.R. 7539)

- Address Addiction Professional Credentialing.
  - Support national credentials to ensure standardized training and education requirements are utilized to educate, train, and credential addiction professionals.
Policy Paper: *Addiction Workforce and Treatment Infrastructure*

- In 2019, **one in 10 of the 20.4 million Americans with SUD** received any form of treatment. (SAMHSA)
- COVID-19 pandemic has also expanded this treatment gap.
- NAADAC is advocating for:
  - Pandemic Relief:
    - $8.5 billion in emergency COVID-19 funding for SAMSHA treatment and recovery programs
    - *The Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Act* (H.R. 6999/S. 3825)
    - *The Tele-Mental Health Improvement Act* (S. 3792)
  - $500 million increase for the SAMHSA Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant
  - $25 million for HRSA’s Loan Repayment Program for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Workforce
  - $15.7 million for SAMHSA’s Minority Fellowship Program
Policy Paper: Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Parity

**Parity:** If a health plan offers a mental health (MH) or substance use disorder (SUD) coverage benefit, it must be no more restrictive than the medical benefit the beneficiary is entitled to. Parity does not mandate a plan to offer MH and/or SUD treatment benefit, only to make it no less than what is offered regarding the medical benefit.

The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 mandates parity, but it has not been adequately enforced or regulated.

**Strengthening Behavioral Health Parity Act (H.R. 7539)**
- Prohibits health insurance plans from imposing less favorable benefit limitations;
- Increases transparency with respect to how health insurance plans are applying parity laws; and
- Requires federal regulators to request comparative analyses for plans that involve potential violations or complaints regarding noncompliance.

The Strengthening Behavioral Health Parity Act was approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee in July 2020.
A standard, recognizable set of addiction professional credentials would provide clarity for providers and payers, as well as assurance to individuals seeking quality, effective treatment and recovery services for themselves or their loved ones.

- National credentials would set uniform standards for education, experience, and competency, and could be portable at both state and national levels.
- These standards of knowledge and competency for treating SUDs was supported by the work of SAMHSA and other key stakeholders and published by SAMHSA in the TAP 21 and 21A.

NAADAC is advocating for Congress to support national credentials to ensure standardized training and education requirements are utilized to educate, train, and credential addiction professionals.
Talking Points

COVID-19
Pass a package that includes $8.5 billion in funding for addiction and recovery programs, along with supporting legislation to improved access to expand treatment and recovery services by increasing telehealth and establishing a Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network to help individuals manage SUD during the pandemic.

Health Parity
Pass the *Strengthening Behavioral Health Parity Act* (H.R. 7539) to strengthen existing SUD and mental health parity laws.

2021 Appropriations
Support robust funding for addiction workforce and infrastructure programs, including a **$500 million increase** for the SAMHSA Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, **$25 million** for HRSA’s Loan Repayment Program for SUD Treatment Workforce, and **$15.7 million** for SAMHSA’s Minority Fellowship Program.

Addiction Professional Credentials
Work with stakeholders in the addiction workforce to support national credentials that have been developed to ensure standardized training and education requirements are utilized to educate, train, and credential the next generation of addiction professionals.
Conclusion of the Meeting

- Groups should have a designated “closer” for the presentation to wrap up and make closing statements.
- It’s recommended that this be the group leader who also handled introductions/scheduling.
- **Remember meetings typically last 20-30 minutes!**
  - Thank the lawmaker or staff for their time.
  - Restate the “asks” and request their support.
  - Convey interest in serving as their addiction professional resource.
  - Invite them to visit your facility in the future.
After Your Meeting

Complete the NAADAC 2020 Hill Visit Report. This will help NAADAC’s advocacy team with follow up and future advocacy!

• Submit one Visit Report for each meeting!

Debrief with us on October 8, 2020 at 1:00pm – 2:30pm ET and share your experiences.

Link will be sent by email.
Continuing the Relationship
Back Home

• Make use of your elected officials’ presence in your district
  • Sign up for your elected officials’ email lists; know what’s important to them
  • Know their calendars; attend their events
  • Invite them to your organization’s events/visit your facility
• District Staff are key!
  • Legislators’ key information sources
  • Right people to establish relationships with
• Virtual Ways to Connect With Lawmakers
  • Engage Lawmakers on Social Media and via Email
  • Attend Mobile Office Hours or Virtual Town Halls
• Send a Thank You
• Build the Relationship
  • Provide any information you promised
  • What interest areas do they have
  • Keep them posted on bill developments
  • Send the Virtual Hill Day Legislative Onepagers
• BE THEIR EXPERT!
  • Make yourself a resource
  • Provide state & local specific data
As addiction professionals, it is in our best interest to influence emerging policy, both in Washington, DC, and in our states. While much attention is being paid to the national conversation, most of what influences our day to day operation occurs at the state level. Sam Rayburn, a former U.S. Representative, once said, “All politics are local.” In this presentation, we will discuss building relationships with state officials, discuss how to have your voice heard, and share ideas on connecting locally with your elected federal officials to influence current legislation and bring the local picture into focus.

Learning Objectives

• Discuss resources available for current and relevant data, emphasizing the provider’s district/service area.

• Understand the importance of engaging in the policy conversation as a constituent – in the role of service provider, employer and voter.

• Identify 3 bills currently being considered nationally that are relevant to your organization and/or treatment industry.
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Q & A

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