

Recovery Iowa News

September 2008

Recovery Month 2008

Recovery Month is over for this year. It's not too early to think about sponsoring an event for Recovery Month 2009. As a matter of fact, with Recovery Month events fresh in our memories, it's a good time to think about what you want to do next year to observe the month. You can read about this year's events at the Recovery Iowa Blog, <http://blog.recoveryiowa.org/categories/Recovery%20Month.aspx>, to get some good ideas.

Good News

Addiction and Mental Health Parity Legislation Signed into Law

President Bush signed into law the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, which will improve access to lifesaving addiction and mental health treatment by eliminating the discriminatory barriers that have kept thousands of Americans with substance use and mental health disorders from receiving the care they need. The measure was included in the economic recovery bill, which was approved yesterday by the U.S. House of Representatives. The same package was approved by the U.S. Senate on October 1.

Under the bill, health insurance plans sponsored by businesses with more than 50 employees will be prohibited from imposing day and visit limits or applying different deductibles, co-pays, and out-of-network charges. The legislation would protect state laws that provide greater protection than the federal law, extend out-of-network coverage for substance use disorders and mental illness where there is out-of-network coverage for medical and surgical conditions, and require that medical necessity criteria and reasons for any denials of reimbursement be available to participants and beneficiaries upon request. The lead sponsors of the bill in the House were Representatives Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Jim Ramstad (R-MN). In the Senate, the bill was championed by Senators Domenici (R-NM) and Senator Kennedy (D-MA).

Election News

If you haven't registered to vote, be sure and do so by Friday October 24th. You may download a registration form online, http://www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/voterreg/reg_to_vote.html, fill it out and mail it to your county auditor.

Prevention Education Report

We ask schools to do a lot of things in addition to preparing our kids to compete in the global economy. Schools have traditionally been thought of as the primary providers of comprehensive drug and alcohol prevention education. For example, teaching about the dangers of drugs and alcohol is included in the state education requirements of 37 states.

In April 2006, Join Together conducted a survey of 3,500 kindergarten through twelfth-grade educators in the U.S. Based on the findings of the survey and other research, the report concludes that schools should not be relied on as the primary element in the country's prevention efforts. A comprehensive approach that includes families, schools, and the community as a whole is recommended.

Read more at <http://www.jointogether.org/keyissues/education/education-read-more.html>.