

Tennessee Addiction



Society of Medicine

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Newsletter- Winter 2009

Apologies- we slipped thru the holidays and did not hold our annual meeting. Would appreciate input from all members regarding a much needed meeting.

Currently as your interim secretary, I am serving as the ASAM Chapters Council Chair and on the ASAM Board of Directors. Thus, I do not plan to fade away but stay involved with our state chapter and our national organization. We still have much to do at the state level. I would hope we can have a meeting this month. Your input is vital.

Physicians asked to help with Rx abuse- prevention programs

The number of states with prescription monitoring programs doubled in six years.
AMNews staff. Posted Jan. 28.

As prescription drug abuse becomes a greater concern among governors and legislators, several states are turning to physicians to help curb the problem through prescription drug monitoring programs. Iowa is the latest state to adopt such efforts.

While the programs have the potential to place physicians in the unwitting position of law enforcement officials, several physician organizations, including the American Medical Association, have expressed support for them. They feel the programs could be a tool for physicians to identify patients in need of help.

According to Sherry Green, executive director of the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws, there are 38 states with laws authorizing monitoring programs and 32 that have a program up and running. The number of states with monitoring programs has more than doubled since 2002 when the U.S. Dept. of Justice made grants available to create programs.

Under the programs, states create Web sites on which pharmacists report controlled substance prescriptions that are filled. Physicians can gain access to the site to identify possible doctor shoppers or addicts, or even those who might be involved in illegal drug diversion.

Jeanine Freeman, senior vice president of legal affairs for the Iowa Medical Society, said when Iowa received a grant to create a drug monitoring program two years ago the medical society's initial concern was that the program would be established under grant only with no statutory requirement.

Addiction Medicine Conference Chattanooga, TN Feb 19 & 20, 2009
Registration: Adam Webster, M.S. Prevention Services Director/CADAS
207 Spears Avenue Chattanooga, TN 37405 (423) 756-7644, ext.166

Pain management and related issues:

Good websites for resourcing:

PainEDU website, go to: <http://www.painedu.org>

Pain links can also be found at: <http://www.painedu.org/resources.asp>

Stimulus Package Has No Funds for Addiction Block Grant

The \$819-billion economic stimulus plan recently approved by the House of Representatives included tax cuts, aid to states and a myriad of other spending from infrastructure improvement to job programs -- but not the direct funding for alcohol and other drug treatment or prevention that advocates had hoped for.

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) and 150 other groups had [written to the House and Senate budget committees](#) asking for \$100 million for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT) be included in the stimulus package. Citing the impact that block grant funds have on drug use, employment, crime, and housing, NASADAD argued that including the funding would be "a valuable way to foster economic growth and help those most in need of services."

However, that plea apparently fell on deaf ears in Congress. Neither the bill passed on a 244-188 vote in the House on Jan. 22, or the measure being considered in the Senate, included SAPT block-grant funding. In fact, according to NASADAD, neither bill even mentions substance abuse or the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The Senate bill does include \$75 million for smoking-cessation programs, however -- money that sponsor Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) said would help the economy by cutting smoking-related healthcare costs. And both bills include increases for the Department of Justice's Byrne Justice Assistance program -- \$3 billion on the House measure and \$1.5 billion for the Senate bill.

"Byrne grants help state and local governments to fund a broad range of law enforcement-related activities; among the allowable uses for Byrne funds are education, prevention and treatment services for drug addiction," noted Gabrielle de la Gueronniere, deputy director for national policy at the Legal Action Center. "A number of states use some of their Byrne grant funds for drug treatment and alternative-to-incarceration programming."

Also included was an increase in federal assistance for state Medicaid programs, and the Senate bill calls for an additional \$400 million for the Social Services Block Grant "for States and local non-profits to deliver critical services to unemployed and low-income individuals struggling with the effects of the recession." No such provision was included in the House bill, however, according to a NASADAD analysis of the stimulus plans.

Both plans featured significant funding for general prevention and wellness programs -- \$5.8 billion in the Senate bill and \$3 billion in the House plan. The House measure, for example, said the goal is to prevent chronic diseases and thus lower healthcare costs. Health research and even health-related information technology funding is also part of the stimulus plan.

ASAM home page: www.asam.org Get the latest news on American Board of Addiction Medicine, how to grandfather...

2009 ASAM Medical Scientific Conference 4/30/2009 to 5/3/2009- New Orleans- plan to attend.