

DC Update

November 10, 2008

Activity has picked up in Washington, D.C. as a new Administration prepares to step into the White House in January and the 110th Congress prepares for a likely lame duck session next week. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) indicated that an economic stimulus package would be considered during this time. NACBHDD and others have supported this effort that would include a temporary increase for the Federal Medicaid match. Other entities have weighed in on this issue including the National Governors Association (NGA). NGA sent Congressional leaders a letter urging them to pass an economic recovery package with a Medicaid match increase. Look for future **DC Updates** and email alerts for more information.

After last Tuesday's elections we await the makeup of the U.S. Senate. At this time, three Senate races remain undecided in Alaska, Georgia and Minnesota. Regardless, it is clear that the Democrats will maintain a majority in the Senate (currently at 57 seats including two Independents) and the U.S. House of Representatives with 254 seats. In the coming months, a Senate seat in Illinois and one in Delaware will be filled due to President-elect Barack Obama (D-IL) and Vice President-elect Joe Biden (D-DE) vacancies. One U.S. House seat will also need to be filled by Rahm Emanuel's (D-IL) vacancy to serve as the White House Chief of Staff. It may be necessary to fill other House and Senate seats depending on final decisions regarding Cabinet positions.

While we don't know the 111th Congress' agenda or the makeup of the Administration at this time, NACBHDD is preparing to educate new Congressional members and the Administration regarding developmental disabilities, mental health and substance use disorders issues. We do expect a few items to receive immediate attention, including economic issues, Medicaid and SCHIP. We encourage you to introduce your organizations and issues to your members of Congress. NACBHDD will keep members updated as the new Administration is rolled out and agendas begin to take shape.

NGA Economic Newsletter

The National Governors Association (NGA) in collaboration with the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO) has released its first newsletter addressing state economic issues. The following link will take you to the document. Look for future editions to address state budget issues.
<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/NGAECONREVIEW.PDF>

SAMHSA Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Treatment Spending Trends

Recently, SAMHSA released a document projecting spending of national expenditures for mental health and substance abuse services through 2014. Spending on MH and SA will continue to increase, however it is expected to be at a slower rate than all-health care spending. Prescription drugs are expected to make up 30% of all MH spending. Of note, it is projected that public payers will make up most of the SA spending by 2014. The study did not take into consideration the recently passed parity legislation or possible Medicaid changes as well as other unforeseen circumstances.

You can access a *Health Affairs* article that provides an overview of the study on NACBHDD's Publications and Resource Materials page at www.nacbhdd.org. To view the entire document on the SAMHSA website, please click the link below:

http://www.csat.samhsa.gov/IDBSE/spendEst/reports/MHSA_Est_Spending2003_2014.pdf