

“Education and awareness about mental illnesses to reduce stigma and promote recovery.”



WUMH News and Information for August 2008

Federal Mental Health Parity Legislation Update from Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton

“Nearly a year has passed since the U.S. Senate passed its mental health parity bill, which was followed by the House passing theirs in January. In July, reports surfaced that a compromise bill was close to completion. At month's end, compromise parity legislation language was written into a much larger package of so-called tax extenders, which are various tax provisions due to expire that must be extended in law. Unfortunately, the tax-extender bill did not come to a vote last week and is on hold until Congress reconvenes in September.

And attached you will find a press release just out from Representative Sheryl Albers's office. I am so grateful for her tenacious, bold, smart leadership on parity and hope you will join me in supporting her in this. Hope you are all finding time to enjoy these glorious Wisconsin summer days. My warmest regards, Barbara Lawton, Lieutenant Governor.”

Spotlight on Mental Health Reform at National Conventions

The **Campaign for Mental Health Reform** will be honored at the upcoming Democratic (Aug 25-28 in Denver) and Republican (September 1-4 in Minneapolis) National Conventions. The events, sponsored by AstraZeneca, will be attended by The **Creative Coalition's** delegation of observers to the Convention. The Campaign for Mental Health Reform is a collaboration of 17 national organizations aligned to provide a united voice on federal mental health policy. By monitoring federal legislation, administration activity, and public education initiatives, the Campaign for Mental Health Reform works toward its **goal of making mental health a national priority** and establishing early access, recovery, and quality in mental health services as hallmarks of our nation's healthcare delivery system.

For more information, please visit The **Creative Coalition's** web site or call (212) 512-5876. The Creative Coalition does not endorse or raise funds for political parties or candidates. About **The Creative Coalition** (www.thecreativecoalition.org): The Creative Coalition is the premiere 501c(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan social and public advocacy organization of the arts and entertainment community. Founded in 1989, the Coalition is dedicated to educating its members on issues of public importance. About AstraZeneca (www.astrazeneca-us.com): AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in the research, development, manufacturing and marketing of meaningful prescription medicines and supplier for healthcare services.

Suicide Prevention Summit II—How to Save a Life

Safe Communities/HOPES Suicide Prevention Summit will be held **Monday, September 8**, at American Family Training Center in Madison. Thanks to our partners and the Suicide Prevention Task Force members, we think you'll find great resources and learning opportunities at this event. Visit the website for registration information.

Cheryl Wittke, Executive Director, Safe Communities, www.safercommunity.net.

To read about **farm-related suicides** follow this link for the July 2008 issue of AgriWellness Partners. <http://www.agriwellness.org/Newsletters/AWPartners/AWJuly08.pdf>

NAMI-Greater Milwaukee Gets New Director

NAMI Greater Milwaukee is very pleased to announce that **Peter Hoeffel** has accepted the position of Executive Director and is planning on starting on 9/1/2008. Peter has been working as an advocate involved with issues regarding disabilities for more than a decade and is currently employed at Disability Rights Wisconsin as an Advocacy Specialist and as the chair for the Mental Health Task Force.

The affiliate chapter of NAMI Greater Milwaukee (nearing its 30th anniversary!!) has been at least partially responsible for the formation of a national affiliate that now has more than 1100 affiliates, the creation of places like WARMLINE, Our Space, the Grand Avenue Club, the CRC and several initiatives (public and private) that enrich our community. Thanks, Brad Montgomery, (soon to be former) Executive Director, NAMI Greater Milwaukee.

Opportunity Available: serve as WUMH Co-Chair

We are looking for someone who is interested in taking an active role in WUMH as a **new Co-Chair** alongside Rebecca Cohen. If you are interested in furthering the mission of WUMH--to eliminate the stigma of mental illnesses through education, outreach, and promoting recovery--then please let us know. Current WUMH projects include Workplace Trainings, Media Outreach, grant seeking, and web development. Time commitment: quarterly 2-hour meetings, team meetings, various networking and project assignments. *Travel reimbursement is available. Telephone conferencing is an option.* **Please send your name and contact info** (to Marilyn Duguid, Coordinator: mduguid@wwhf.org) with a brief explanation of what motivates you to be involved with this work. The Executive Team of WUMH will reply to you.

Thank you!

Mood, Depression and Menopause

A free lecture for the public featuring David Rubinow, MD will be held on **Thursday, September 25, 2008** at the Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison. The event runs from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. For more information visit www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation

Campaign for Mental Health Recovery

There are other CMHR and mental health materials currently available that may be useful to you in your back to school activities, fall walks, conferences, health fairs, and other fall community events. Access a list of available materials from the [CMHR](#) and [SAMHSA's National Mental Information Center \(NMHIC\)](#) by clicking [here \(http://nmhicstore.samhsa.gov/publications/ordering.aspx\)](http://nmhicstore.samhsa.gov/publications/ordering.aspx).

October 5th NAMI Walk in Madison

Please join us for our 3rd **NAMIWalk**. Each year we get bigger and better....thanks to you! We are pleased to have Susan Dreyfus as our honorary chair. Susan is committed to eliminate the fear and stigma that has categorized mental illness for too long and has been an advocate to see that people with mental illness are honored, and are able to receive the treatment they deserve. You can find details at www.namidancounty.org

Web Sites You Should Visit:

<http://impact-uw.org/> and <http://www.nkm2.org/>

Professional Development and Continuing Education

Many interesting classes are coming up: **Non-Medication Alternatives** for Psychological Issues; **Suicide: Assessment, Intervention and Prevention**; **Psychotherapy** from a Psychopharmacologist's Perspective; When Emotions Run High—**Communication Skills** for Challenging Conversations; No Simple Answers—**Advanced Ethics** and Boundaries. All are offered through the UW-Madison, For info, visit the web site: www.dcs.wisc.edu/pda

Save the Date: WUMH Joint Advisory Board and Steering Committee meeting:
Friday, September 12, 9:00-11:00am in Madison.

Save the Date: From Darkness to Light: Crisis to Recovery

Crisis Intervention Conference
September 25-26 in Wisconsin Dells

Save the Date: Recovery: Promoting Dreams Through Evidence-Based Practice

Fourth Annual Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Training Conference
October 22-23 in Wisconsin Dells.

Past issues of this Monthly Update are stored on our web site www.wimentalhealth.org. Please send event information to the webmaster. Thank you!

Marilyn Duguid, RN

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WUMH Purpose: A coalition to implement the Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 objective to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illnesses. Mental illnesses are real, common and treatable.

***DISCLAIMER:** The WUMH Listserv is intended to share information about mental health, stigma, and recovery. This information does not necessarily express the views of WUMH or the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation. If you wish to be deleted from this list, please reply with "Unsubscribe" in the subject or text. Thank You.*