



# HEADLINE DC

JULY 1, 2011

## HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **FY 2012 Appropriations:** The House Labor/HHS Appropriations bill is scheduled to be considered by the Subcommittee on July 26 and by the full Committee on August 2 with full House action awaiting the bill after the tradition August recess. *Contact your Representative and Senators to register concern over cuts.*
- **ACA Legal Doings:** The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals (Cincinnati, OH), the latest to hear a case on the ACA individual mandate, is likely to be divided: with one judge appointed by President George H.W. Bush and 2 by President Clinton, one of whom is a Republican. Stay tuned.
- **Painkiller Abuse Legislation:** Three bills in the House and one in the Senate are aimed at reducing painkiller abuse: the National All-Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2011 (HR 866); the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2011 (S. 507; HR 1925); and the Ryan Crendon Act of 2011 (HR 2119).

## AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Comment on SAMHSA Block Grant Changes:** Comment *July 18* on changes to application and reporting sections of MHSBG and SAPTBG block grant regulations reposted in Federal Register. Go to: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-17/pdf/2011-15070.pdf>.
- **SAMHSA: National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care** discusses ways to improve behavioral health care quality through better patient-centered care; interventions addressing behavioral, social and environmental determinants of health; and reduced health care costs. Go to: <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA11-KENOMOTO061511>

## ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA): Adolescent Substance Use: America's #1 Public Health Problem** reports teen smoking, drinking, misusing prescription drugs and using illegal drugs are an epidemic public health problem resulting from the brain disease of addiction. Go to: <http://www.casacolumbia.org/upload/2011/20110629adolescentsubstanceuse.pdf>
- **Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and Uninsured: Explaining Health Reform: The New Rules for Determining Income under Medicaid in 2014** describes ACA-related Medicaid, CHIP and other changes. Go to: <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/8194.pdf>
- **California HealthCare Foundation: Health Care Costs 101: 2011 Edition** examines trends in U.S. health care spending by service, contributor and payment source. Go to: <http://www.chcf.org/~media/Files/PDF/H/PDF HealthCareCosts11.pdf>
- **American Medical Association:** Notwithstanding ongoing lawsuits over the ACA's individual insurance mandate, in a House of Delegates vote of 326-165, the AMA agreed to support the individual mandate on the grounds that such a mandate is needed to achieve universal coverage.
- **Families USA:** Over the next few weeks, state-by-state reports are being released on how federal Medicaid cuts will harm state economies. To access releases on the reports, go to: <http://familiesusa.org/resources/newsroom/>

## ETCETERA

- **NACBHD:** Summer Meeting, July 18-19, Portland, OR. Reception, July 18, 6-7 p.m., Convention Center, Room D133. NACo Behavioral Health Subcommittee meeting, July 15, 12:45 p.m., Convention Center, Room B113-114. Special Session, Addressing Crisis of Suicide in Our Counties, July 18, 10:45 a.m.-noon, Convention Center, Room B115.
- **ACMHA Webinar:** July 13, 2011, *Performance Based Case Rates*, Richard Frank, Harvard University Go to: [http://www.acmha.org/current\\_events\\_critical\\_issues.shtml](http://www.acmha.org/current_events_critical_issues.shtml)