

American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
CHADD - Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (FFCMH)
Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHD)
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH)
National Empowerment Center (NEC)
National Mental Health Association (NMHA)
National Mental Health Consumer's Self-Help Clearinghouse
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPANUSA)
United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA)

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Mental Health: A Public Health Crisis ***Senate Caucus on Mental Health Reform Hosts Educational Forum***

WHEN: Wednesday, September 20, 2006, 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Russell Senate Office Building - Room 385, Washington, D.C.

WHAT: Media Briefing. *Lunch will be served.*

WHO: Dr. **David Satcher**, Former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. **Howard Goldman**, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and **Senate staff members**

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The recently organized Senate Caucus on Mental Health Reform – led by Senators Pete Domenici, Edward Kennedy, Tom Harkin and Gordon Smith – is hosting its inaugural educational forum to highlight mental health as a public health crisis.

Mental health is essential to overall health. Mental illnesses are common health conditions that can affect people of any age, race or background. In fact, mental illness is a leading cause of disability in the United States. These illnesses affect work, relationships and quality of life, and present extreme challenges – not only for individuals and families, but also for entire communities.

As with other health conditions, a deep research base has led to the development of effective tools to detect, diagnose and treat a wide range of mental disorders. At the same time, without treatment and supports, the consequences of mental illness for the individual and society are staggering: unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration and suicide are just some of the devastating effects.

Please join the Senate Caucus on Mental Health Reform for a very important overview of the status of mental health in the United States, including a discussion of improving mental illness diagnosis, treatment and mental health services. Dr. David Satcher, the 16th Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Howard Goldman, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Senate staff members will speak on these important issues.

The Campaign for Mental Health Reform has been organized as the mental health community's united voice on federal policy. Its goal is to make access, recovery, and quality in mental health services the hallmarks of our nation's mental health system. For more information, see www.mhreform.org.

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The Campaign for Mental Health Reform
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