

VISIONS

NAATP Visions is the official newsletter of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP),

POLL FINDS ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION HAS IMPACTED THE LIVES OF 63 PERCENT OF AMERICANS

JUNE, 2004

STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ACTION TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE IN RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION

People in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs face widespread stigma and discrimination, according to a groundbreaking, national survey released today. Overwhelming majorities say that discrimination against people in recovery is a problem in the United States today and that policy and attitudes need to be changed.

A majority of those surveyed (63 percent) said there had been a great deal or some impact on their own lives as a result of grappling with addiction, and for most of them (72 percent of those who have been impacted) the addiction was among a family member. "Breaking the cycle of addiction is critical to a healthy society," said Patricia Taylor, campaign coordinator for Faces & Voices of Recovery.

Peter D. Hart Research Associates and Robert M. Teeter's Coldwater Corporation conducted the poll from April 19-22, 2004. The poll surveyed a nationally representative sample of 801 American adults. This is a first-ever comprehensive survey of the general public on stigma, discrimination and other barriers to recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. Faces & Voices of Recovery, a Washington, DC-based national recovery advocacy campaign, commissioned the poll.

Two thirds of the public believes that a stigma exists toward people in recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs after stigma is defined as "something that detracts from the character or reputation of a person, a mark of disgrace." A significant minority (27 percent) admits they would be less likely to hire someone who was in long-term recovery from addiction, and strong majorities say that discrimination in the workplace (80 percent) and the availability of health insurance for people seeking recovery (75 percent) is a problem in the United States today.

"This poll strongly illustrates the barriers and roadblocks that people face as they strive to improve their lives and participate in community life," said Taylor. "Discrimination is very much a factor in the lives of millions of Americans who are in recovery—

those who have been addicted to alcohol or other drugs but are now free of their addiction."

Public Calls for Changes in Policies and Attitudes

The public shows a strong preference for policies that treat addiction as a health rather than a law enforcement issue. For example, more than eight out of ten people (81 percent—including 85 percent of Democrats and 80 percent of Republicans) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for Congress who favored reallocating what the government spends on the war on drugs to place more emphasis on drug prevention, education, treatment and recovery programs. The same proportion would be more likely to vote for a candidate who expanded programs to get treatment for drug users rather than locking them up.

"This poll signals a sea change in the way America believes policymakers should be addressing addiction issues," said lead researcher, Allan Rivlin, a senior vice president with Peter D. Hart Research Associates. "The survey reveals a public that is willing to look at recovery from addiction in new ways. Much like the change in attitudes in the 1980s towards people living with AIDS, the public is ready to stop blaming the victim and start treating the disease of addiction."

Specifically, findings include:

- A 76 percent majority are more likely to vote for a candidate who proposed a law that required health insurance companies to cover recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs the same as other medical conditions. Support is bi-partisan including 66 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of Democrats.
- A 75 percent majority are more likely to vote for a candidate who called for an increase in federal government funding for programs to prevent and treat addiction and support recovery, as well as fund scientific research on the causes of addiction.
- By 63 percent to 28 percent, the public supports changing the law that bans students who have been arrested for drug possession from receiving student loans and other forms of financial aid in the Higher Education Act.

Education Act.

IN THIS ISSUE...

• Names in the News	P3
• Recovery Month	P5
• Spring Awards Luncheon	P5
• Washington Update	P6

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



ISSUE



national association of addiction treatment providers

C

onfluence - con·flu·ence - Function: *noun* **1 :**

a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point <a happy *confluence* of weather and scenery>

2 a : the flowing together of two or more streams **b :** the place of meeting of two streams **c :** the combined stream formed by conjunction

Some persons speak of the stars aligning or some other cosmic reality in reference to events coming together in the right order and shape. I happen to like the word **confluence** so for this article, the word will be confluence. Over the last six months several events and or gatherings have led me to believe that there is at least the potential of a confluence in the addiction treatment world. Known for our separate streams and our flowing in our own directions, I am beginning to see signs that several streams may be flowing together and a confluence may be happening much like the Allegheny River, the Ohio River and the Monongahela River which form that fabulous view in Pittsburgh.

It is not all magic and just because the streams are beginning to bend together does not mean that everything will stay in the banks and that the view will be fabulous. But it is better than so many individual streams all doing their own thing. Some of the streams I see that have the potential to create a confluence are:

1. Earlier this spring, the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers met with representatives of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors to explore common interests and initiatives. We quickly learned that we all were involved in similar areas of involvements. As a result of this meeting, we make an informal commitment to seek out ways in which we can learn from each other. I have just issued an invitation to ASAM and to NAADAC to send a representative from their board to join us at our October Board meeting. NAATP has also made a commitment to hold its 2006 annual conference at the same time and the same place (Toronto, Ontario) as ASAM's annual meeting. Slowly, the confluence is happening.

2. In late May, Providence, RI was the location for a gathering of over 40 different organizations, all of which have some stake in addiction treatment. After two days of listening and speaking/ speaking and listening, the participants left committed to working toward a public education campaign around the issues so very important to NAATP members. Those issues are stigma, discrimination and the value and worth of addiction treatment. This yet to be developed campaign will more than likely be a multi year effort that will take considerable resources. As

with any effort, the issue of leadership, exact directions etc are now being worked out through a steering committee. The details are the most difficult part, but the potential of a confluence is in place. Slowly, the confluence is happening.

3. The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers is part of an effort known as the Partnership for Recovery. You may be familiar with a number of treatment providers (all members of NAATP) who have been and continue to be members of the Partnership. Through the efforts of this partnership a creative mechanism is coming together to mobilize the literally thousands of individuals who have received treatment for their addiction at the Partnership member organizations and hold the potential for speaking out on issues of great importance in the area of public policy. The area of parity for addiction treatment benefits has long been an issue for us and we may now have a way to bring together a much larger group of individuals, all who have stories to tell and all who can make a difference. The confluence is happening.

It is too soon to tell if any or all of this will create what we hope, but the very fact that divergent and in some instances very different streams are trying to flow together is extremely heartening. NAATP has a position of supporting confluence activity and will continue to seek out those opportunities to work together, to share and to build the structure necessary so that the confluence work of 2004 can be enjoyed both this year and by the next generation. I would urge each of you to look around in your local areas and see what sort of confluence work you can undertake so that the streams in your local area can also contribute to some fabulous views.

In case you are counting, I have managed to use the word *confluence* 14 times in this short article. So let's seize the opportunity and be about the business of creating those fabulous views.

THAT'S THE PERSPECTIVE OF RJH

“Rather than seeing a deterrent against drug possession, the vast majority views this policy as a deterrent against people who are now making the decision to try to turn their life around,” said Rivlin.

Changes Proposed to Address Stigma and Discrimination

Faces & Voices of Recovery’s “Right to Addiction Recovery Platform” outlines an agenda to reduce stigma and discrimination against those in recovery. Recommended actions include:

- Repealing the ban on federal financial aid to students with drug convictions under the Higher Education Act;
- Encouraging the Surgeon General to commission a report on addiction recovery;
- Improving Medicare and Medicaid to include addiction and recovery services;
- Honoring claims by insurers for the care of any injury sustained by an insured person while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs; and
- Ensuring that employees who seek treatment not be subject to discriminatory actions or termination and that past alcohol or drug use be considered only when relevant to the job.

“We know that millions of Americans are in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs,” said Taylor. “We know that recovery is an achievable goal; that people in recovery are leading productive lives. It is now time for this to be affirmed in all areas of society—from the job market to our health care system to our legal system. Our nation’s policies and programs should support—not set up roadblocks for—the 23 million Americans who still need help.”

Peter D. Hart Research Associates and Robert M. Teeter Coldwater Corporation is the bi-partisan effort of the polling organizations of veteran pollsters Peter D. Hart (D) and Robert Teeter (R), who have collaborated on numerous other projects, including the respected *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News polls.

Faces & Voices of Recovery is working to mobilize, organize and rally the families, friends and allies of the millions of Americans in recovery from addiction in a campaign to: end discrimination; broaden social understanding; and achieve a just response to addiction as a public health crisis. For more information, please visit: www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org.



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NAMES IN THE NEWS

Judi Kosterman, Ed.D. has joined The Change Companies®, the publishing, training and consulting company specializing in evidence-based treatment tools, as Vice President. Dr. Kosterman has served as the Director of the National Center for the Advancement of Prevention (NCAP), and was the Assistant Director for the Office of National Drug Control Policy’s National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. She held that position during her five-year tenure as Vice President for Training and Technical Assistance for Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA).

Dr. Kosterman also served as Special Assistant on the Issue of Substance Abuse, or “Drug Czar” for Washington State for five years, leading the statewide effort for community mobilization against substance abuse and coordinating the Washington Interagency Network Against Substance Abuse. Prior to joining The Change Companies, Dr. Kosterman was Vice President, Business Relations for eGetgoing, Inc., the nation’s first on-line drug and alcohol treatment program

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RECOVERY MONTH CELEBRATES 15TH YEAR

Individuals, organizations, and communities nationwide are already planning their participation in the 15th annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month this September.

The 2004 theme is "Join the Voices for Recovery . . . NOW!" It underscores the need to educate communities nationwide about the value and significance of alcohol and drug addiction treatment and the kinds of services that are available.

The celebration, coordinated by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), highlights the benefits of substance abuse treatment and promotes the message that recovery from substance abuse in all its forms is possible.

"Today, addiction is the number one health problem in America," said SAMHSA Administrator Charles G. Curie, M.A., A.C.S.W. "Treatment is the best tool we have to address this problem. And, the public awareness generated by Recovery Month is essential to reducing stigma and improving services and supports for people coping with alcohol or drug addiction."

Activities and materials in support of the Recovery Month campaign include a toolkit with comprehensive resource information, the Recovery Month home page on SAMHSA's Web site, TV and radio public service announcements, community forums, and community-sponsored events. All of these materials provide comprehensive options for developing tailored Recovery Month events and activities in every community.

Central to outreach efforts for the month-long celebration is the Recovery Month toolkit, which provides ideas for planning and tools for creating a variety of successful events. The kit features important resources for both treatment providers and consumers, event ideas, and sample materials on how to reach local media. The kit also includes detailed fact sheets for state and local agencies, key constituency groups, and other special audiences.

SAMHSA also hosts an award-winning, interactive Web site for Recovery Month at www.recoverymonth.gov. Additional planning resources, news and updates, articles, and a schedule of events throughout the country are listed in a state-by-state interactive registry. Visitors to the site can also sign up to receive ongoing updates about Recovery Month events.

The Recovery Month Web site also hosts a series of Webcasts that provide information about Recovery Month activities and discuss key issues relevant to individuals in recovery. The first, Road to Recovery 2004, aired in February. Additional Webcasts are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month and will be archived on the Recovery Month Web site for viewing at any time.

As lead coordinator for Recovery Month, CSAT partners each year with other public sector entities and national and local coalitions to develop materials and host events.

Events will include community forums across the country, inviting experts and legislators to come together to discuss local addiction treatment and recovery issues. Other

local events include rallies at state capitals; panel discussions and conferences hosted by local universities, faith groups, and other organizations; proclamations; health and information fairs; run/walk events; and more.

For a Recovery Month toolkit, contact SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at P.O. Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20847-2345. Telephone: 1 (800) 729-6686 (English and Spanish) or 1 (800) 487-4889 (TDD). Also available is Recovery Month's virtual toolkit, online at www.recoverymonth.gov.

2004 SPRING AWARDS LUNCHEON HONORS MUSIC LEGENDS AND PIONEER IN THE ALCOHOLISM FIELD

On Wednesday, April 28, 2004, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence and its New York City Affiliate, the Alcoholism Council of New York, hosted their annual Spring Awards Luncheon at Tavern on the Green in New York City's Central Park. Receiving the R. Brinkley Smithers Award from the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation were legendary musicians Eric Clapton and Judy Collins, along with Dr. Sheila Blume, a pioneer in addiction medicine.

Accepting the award for Eric Clapton was Tim Sinnott, Executive Vice President for the Crossroads Centre Antigua, the international treatment center Clapton founded in 1997. "I am extremely grateful to accept this award on behalf of Mr. Clapton and to be among so many who have helped so much in the field of alcoholism." Speaking about the "darkness" that surrounded her before she was able to get sober, Judy Collins noted that she couldn't have made it alone and encouraged the audience to join her in a verse of "Amazing Grace," her own voice soaring high above the crowd. Dr. Sheila Blume, in accepting her award, put today's progress in the field of alcoholism into context with a chilling story of her early days in the field where many in the medical profession often said "Why bother?" when it came to treating alcoholics.

Closing out the Awards ceremony were the presentation of three new awards from the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation that went to Scott Clark, Sports Director at WABC TV and the Master of Ceremonies, WABC TV, and Rey Negron, special advisor to the Texas Rangers baseball team, for their selfless and caring contributions to the field.

Founded in 1944, NCADD works at the national level on policy issues related to barriers in education, prevention and treatment for alcoholics and other drug dependent persons and their families. With a nationwide network of Affiliates, NCADD provides education, information, help and hope to the public and operates a toll-free Hope Line (800-NCA-CALL) for information and referral and a National Intervention Network (800-654-HOPE) to educate and assist the families and friends of addicted persons. For more information, visit: www.ncadd.org.

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Colorado Expands Access to Effective Programs for DUI Offenders

The Change Companies® announced today the release of a new standardized curriculum for DUI offender education in the State of Colorado. The new Colorado Intoxicated Driver Education Program (IDEP) was developed in consultation with local providers and state leadership. The evidence-based behavioral change program is tailored to serve both Level 1 and Level 2 DUI offenders statewide. The Colorado IDEP program becomes one of 27 different state-level standardized offender education programs collaboratively produced by The Change Companies® in 18 states.

For additional information contact The Change Companies® at 888-889-8866 or by email at bcalhoun@changecompanies.net

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Senate Passes S. 1887, A Bill that Would Lift the Restriction on the Number of Addicted Patients that Doctors in Group Practices Could Treat Using Medication

This week, the Senate passed S. 1887, legislation that would amend language in the Controlled Substances Act (PL 101-647) to end the current restriction on the number of patients with drug addictions that doctors in a group practice can treat with medications. S.1887 is sponsored by Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and co-sponsored by Senators Joseph Biden (D-DE), Carl Levin (D-MI) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA). The legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent (without objection from other Senators.)

Under the current law, a group medical practice is precluded from treating more than 30 patients through the prescription of medication for drug addiction. S. 1887 would remove this provision from the law.

In the House of Representatives, H.R. 3634, the "Drug Addiction Treatment Expansion Act of 2003," was introduced which also includes a provision that would lift the restriction

BOARD ROOM

*The Board of Directors of the
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers*

Cordially invite you to attend their upcoming conferences.

SECAD 2004

*December first through December fourth
two thousand and four
Atlanta, Georgia*

2005 NAATP

*Addiction Leadership Conference
May twentyfirst through May twentyfourth
two thousand and five
Phoenix, Arizona*



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDER

The **New England Institute of Addiction Studies** will hold its Fourth Annual New England School of Prevention Studies **July 25 to 29 in Newport, RI**. For more information, call 207-621-2549; email neias@neias.org; or visit www.neias.org

The **Seventeenth Cape Cod Symposium on Addictive Disorders** will be held **Sept. 9 to 12 in Hyannis, Mass.** For more information call 800-314-1921 or email info@cmehelp.com

Father Martin's Ashley presents their **National Conference on Addiction September 8,9 and 10th at the Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn**. Michael Deaver and Father Martin are two of their sixteen member faculty. For information go to www.fathermartinsashley.com or call 410-273-2248.

The **5th National Conference on Addiction & Criminal Behavior** taking place in St. Louis, MO on **September 26-29, 2004**. We are approved for 24 CEU's. Register at www.gwcinc.com or call 800-851-5406

The **Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse** will hold its 28th Annual AMERSA National Conference, "Scientific Advances in Substance Abuse: Patients, Populations and Policy," **Nov. 11 to 13 in Washington, D.C.** For more information, visit www.amersa.org, call 401-349-0000 or email Isabel@amersa.org

The **National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers** presents the **South East Conference on Addictive Diseases (SECAD) in Atlanta, GA, December 1-4, 2004**. For more information, visit www.naatp.org/secad.

NAATP VISIONS

NAATP VISIONS is published ten times a year by NAATP. Information printed in NAATP Visions does not represent official NAATP policy or positions.

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