

newsletter

Sent: Monday, October 06, 2008 9:42 PM
Subject: Mental Health Parity Is The Law of the Land!



Fr: Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD, President

To: BCD clinicians, Center members

Re: Mental Health Parity Is The Law of the Land!

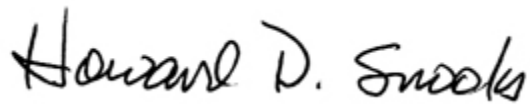
After many years of hard work marked by strong advocacy, setbacks, compromises, and progress, yesterday Congress passed the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, requiring insurers to cover addictions and mental health disorders on the same basis as medical-surgical conditions. It will prevent insurers from requiring larger copayments or imposing lower reimbursement ceilings for mental health and addiction conditions. The bill was included in financial bailout package passed by the Senate on Monday and the House today. The President is expected to sign it promptly.

Congratulations to all clinical social workers who took the time to advise Congress of the importance of this bill, and all who, with their clients, will benefit from it.

The House and Senate each passed its own version of the bill and worked hard to reach a compromise final bill. The bill was championed by chief sponsors in the House, Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN) and Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), and in the Senate by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM). In an election year crowded with issues and politics, these leaders kept the bill at the top of the national agenda and worked with Congressional leaders to get the bill passed before they adjourned for the year.

The parity legislation will benefit more than 113 million people across the United States, including the 82 million individuals enrolled in Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) group health insurance plans who are not protected by state parity laws.

Sincerely,



Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD
 President, Board of Directors
 Center for Clinical Social Work

For unrelated special offer to BCD clinicians and Center members, see below:

This offer is provided to you as a **Board Certified Diplomate** by our Online Continuing Education partner, **Essential Learning**. Click [here to visit ABE's CEQuick site](#) for more discounted continuing education courses you can take in your own home or office, at your own convenience.



Essential Learning Offers a Free Webinar: *Strategies to Help Community Providers Prevent Suicide in Veterans* on Wednesday, October 15 @ 2 pm EDT

Suicide and factors that contribute to suicide, such as depression, PTSD and increased drug and alcohol use, are steadily on the rise among veterans returning home from war. With limited access to veteran's healthcare services in rural areas and the stigma that is associated with veterans seeking help for mental health needs, this has made it increasingly challenging for community providers to serve this population.

Join us for a free webinar, *Strategies to Help Community Providers Prevent Suicide in Veterans* on Wednesday, October 15 at 2pm EDT with Paul Quinnett, PhD and President and CEO of [The QPR Institute](#), to learn about what you can do to prevent suicide among the veterans and military personnel you serve.

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Time: 2-3 PM EDT, 1-2 PM Central, 12-1 PM Mountain, 11 AM- 12 PM

Pacific

[Register Now](#)

Highlights of the presentation include:

- Brief overview of suicide in America and who is most impacted
- Discussion about why veterans are a high risk group for suicide
- Overview of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy and how this impacts practice standards and staff training and competencies for community providers
- Introduction to Reliability Theory and how this model can be applied to enhance consumer safety

Presentation will be followed by a review with **Sue Erskine, Founder and CEO and Chief Development Officer of Essential Learning**, of The QPR Institute and Essential Learning suicide prevention packages and other online courses that prepare clinicians for working with veterans. A demonstration of the [Build Your Own WRAP®](#) web service for veterans will also be provided.

About Essential Learning

Essential Learning is the largest provider of e-learning services serving more than 450 behavioral health and human service organizations in 46 states. Request a demo of our [Organizational Learning Management System](#) and [Community Access Site](#) that is available to organizations on a subscription basis.

Essential Learning offers an extensive [course library](#) – the most comprehensive in the industry – on timely clinical, recovery and compliance topics. Our course library is included with a subscription to our Organizational Learning Management or courses may be purchased individually or in packages.

Visit our website at www.essentiallearning.com for more details.

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About The QPR Institute

The QPR Institute is a suicide prevention training organization committed to reducing suicide attempts and completions. The Institute offers comprehensive suicide prevention training programs, educational and clinical materials for the general public, professionals and institutions.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer -- 3 simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people are trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver to help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to question, persuade, and refer someone for help.

Visit the QPR Institute website at www.qprinstitute.com for more details.



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