

To: MH/MR Administrators
From: Michael D. Chambers
Date: January 2, 2008
Subject: Bullets

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."- Albert Einstein

Welcome back from the holiday festivities. I hope you had a great celebration or two. Now, get back on the diet, quit smoking those things and live a pure life.

Shuffling the Deck?: On December 28, CMS announced that it will abolish its 10 regional offices and that it will replace them with four "consortia." They are:

1. Consortium for Medicare Health Plans Operations;
2. Consortium for Financial Management and Fee for Service Operations;
3. Consortium for Medicaid and Children's Health Operations; and
4. Consortium for Quality Improvement and Survey and Certification Operations.

I'm not too sure what this means, or what it is supposed to accomplish. It could be that they want to make questionable decisions on a uniform basis across the country rather than regionally.

You can read about it at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-25305.pdf>.

A new Bureau?: The Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania, Inc. tells us that Secretary Estelle Richman is interested developing a Bureau of Brain Injury. It should cost \$500,000 or less if money is available in next year's budget. the network is asking that supporters of such a plan write letters or emails to the Secretary as soon as possible because the proposed budget is in final stages. Advocates have wanted such a bureau for years.

MENTAL HEALTH REINVESTMENT: The Senate Judiciary Committee has reported out [S.B. 1128](#). this bill would create the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Reinvestment Act establishing a grant program designed to utilize funds saved through the diversion of people with mental illness away from county jails and into community settings. Counties would be eligible to apply for a one-year planning grant, a two-year implementation grant, or a two-year expansion grant from the program to demonstrate that investment in treatment efforts related to mental illness, substance abuse disorders, or co-occurring disorders.

Job Opp: Government Relations Specialist -- Full time entry-level lobbyist position with statewide non-profit Harrisburg- based Association. See www.pacounties.org. Bachelors degree, oral and written advocacy skills required. Knowledge of local government issues and/or legislative experience a plus. \$32 K + DOQ. EOE. Send cover letter, resume, and writing sample to CCAP, 17 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101 attn: Government Relations Specialist, or via e-mail to Ldabbon@pacounties.org with "GR Specialist" in the subject line.

It's a great place to work.

Mayview info: Mayview State Hospital Closure Updates are now being posted at: <http://www.mayview-sap/org/>

Waivering across the USA: The Kaiser Family Foundation has released data from 2004 on states' Medicaid home and community-based waiver services. The information includes the numbers of waivers by state, the number of participants, expenditures, and waiting lists. You can sort the data by target population as well as by expenditures in table, bar graph, and map formats. Okay, the data is three years old but still useful and it's the latest available.

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparemaptable.jsp?ind=240&cat=4>