

Knowledge Network Policy Workgroup Report

November 9, 2010

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Agenda

- Our Team
- Overview of Workgroup Efforts
- HITECH Work
- Lessons Learned & Next Steps
- Future Policy Workgroup Initiatives



Our Team: The KN Policy Workgroup

- Christina VanRegenmorter* (Coordinator), CRI
- Dennis P. Morrison* (Champion), CRI
- Kevin Scalia*, Netsmart
- Kathleen Varda*, River Edge
- Roy Starks, MHCD
- Mark Peterson*, Genoa
- Joan Sivley, CRI Board
- Debi Taylor-Tate*, CRI Board
- Camis Milam, CHCS
- Chuck Ingoglia*, National Council
- Mohini Venkatesh, National Council
- Rebecca Farley, National Council
- Cheryl Holt, Cobb/Douglas CSB
- Jeff Riding, Centerstone TN



* Visited DC to educate on KN priorities



Overview of Workgroup Efforts March-November 2010

Focus:

1. Full BH inclusion in HITECH Act
 2. Relationship building: SAMHSA, NIMH, Congress, and BH National Advocates & Allies
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1. Rapid response to BH policy issues

What we Did:

- Called & e-mailed Congressional Delegation
- Visited DC to educate & advocate re: HITECH extension act
- Educated & encouraged colleagues internally & externally to advocate for BH policy issues (i.e., FMAP)
- Educated stakeholders on BH reform



HITECH Work

March-November 2010

- 1) KN members meet weekly in informal coalition to strategize around inclusion.
- 2) Met with national policy leaders, members of Congress, & staff to elicit bi-partisan support.
- 3) Provided needed resources (i.e., fact sheets, policy briefs, letters, data & research).
- 4) Educated policymakers re: HITECH Extension Bill (HR 5040, S. 3709).
- 5) National Council made HITECH bill it's #1 focus for Hill day.
- 6) Dr. Morrison testified in a congressional hearing on HITECH Extension Bill on June 30.
- 7) Bipartisan Results: 80 House cosponsors & 10 Senate cosponsors.



Where it Stands Now HITECH Extension Act

- 1) HR 5040, S. 3709
- 2) 80 Cosponsors in house (including Blackburn, Cohen, Davis, Cooper, Hill, & Ellsworth)
- 3) 10 cosponsors in Senate (including Franken & Snowe)
- 4) Proposals for reduction in costs
 - 1) Facilities payment only
 - 2) CMHCs, not SUD providers
 - 3) \$1million starting funding, not \$2million
- 5) Starting Nov 12 – Lame Duck Session
- 6) Emphasis on Senate

Lame Duck HITECH Message

- **Your Senator's support is KEY**
 - In-person visits, phone calls, letters from board members, donors, and consumers are key
- Without the HITECH extension act, most community mental health providers:
 - Cannot prevent **polypharmacy**
 - Cannot track **outcomes**
 - Cannot engage in cost-effective **chronic disease management** with their patients
 - Cannot be held **accountable** for using **best practices**.
- A health IT system including CMHCs saves both lives & money



Lessons Learned & Next Steps

- Create Papers/Materials re: Privacy & BH HIT
- Host Minds on the Edge Events
- Distribute policy information to broader KN members



Future Policy Workgroup Initiatives

- BH Pharmacy Work
 - Genoa is taking lead on this EBP
- Veterans Work
 - MHCD and River Edge are experiencing policy blocks meeting this important need
- Privacy & Security Work
 - Create joint White Paper on Privacy & BH HIT
- Provide Key information on BH impact to support KN organizations in transitioning into Brave New BH World (post PPACA)



Veterans Work “Prisoners of War at Home”

- Coming Home to Communities
- Congressional Leadership Wants Action
- Barriers KN Membership has Faced
 - Difficulty Accessing Military Benefits for Community Based Care
 - Difficulty Resolving Issues with Veterans Affairs
- Opportunities
 - Tri-Care Network
 - Integrated Care and Supported Employment in the Community
- Need to Speak the Language of the Military

Brave New BH World PPACA & Divided Congress

- Decreased Short Term Resources
- Increased Demand in 2014
- Increased Resources
- Increased Contract Requirements
- Requires Mutual Accountability for Providers and Accountability from States

