



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
Public Policy Institute

MAKING PARITY REAL

A symposium in Racine with state policymakers and stakeholders to help shape the future of addiction and mental health treatment in Wisconsin.

**Tuesday, June 29
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

**Gateway Technical
College, Racine
(1001 S. Main St.,
Racine, WI 53403)**

What State Policy Changes Will Improve Our Addiction and Mental Health System?

On April 29, 2010, Governor Jim Doyle signed the *Wisconsin Parity Act* into law. This landmark legislation requires commercial group health plans in Wisconsin to provide mental health and substance use disorder insurance benefit coverage at parity levels—equal to those provided for physical medical care. But insurance “parity” doesn’t mean that people with a substance use disorder or mental illness will actually get the treatment they need.

Join a moderated dialogue with audience participation among western Wisconsin stakeholders—providers, advocates, the recovery community, consumers and law enforcement officials—and hear updates on parity legislation and regulations, including the *Wisconsin Parity Act*. This symposium is the sixth in a statewide series.

Discussion will explore the changes that can be made to state laws, budgets, rules and regulations, and standards to increase access to mental health/substance use disorder treatment, including:

- The quantity, cultural competency and location of providers
- The adequacy of public and private funding sources
- The ability of non-medical providers to administer treatment
- Strategies to reduce stigma
- Other non-financial barriers to receiving treatment services

Based on information learned during Making Parity Real symposia, the Community Advocates Public Policy Institute plans to present state lawmakers and policymakers with recommendations about how to provide improved coverage, access and outcomes for Wisconsinites seeking mental health and substance use disorder care.

www.MakingParityReal.org

Making Parity Real is Presented By:



Participants Include:



Sen. Robert Wirch



Rep. Cory Mason



Rep. Sandy Pasch

- Patrick Bohon, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Racine
- Carmen Bonanno, Bridges Community Center
- Julie Hueller, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare
- Attorney Margaret Johnson, State Public Defender’s Office
- David R. Riemer, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
- Pamela Smith, Moore and Associates Outpatient Clinic



Tony Moore,
Moore and Assoc.
Outpatient Clinic



Sue Panger,
Panger & Assoc.



Hon. Gerald Ptacek

Making Parity Real Schedule

9:15	Registration Begins
10:00	Welcome (5 minutes) Representative Cory Mason (D-Racine) Senator Robert Wirch (D-Pleasant Prairie)
10:05	Introduction / Federal Health Insurance and Parity Update (15 minutes) David R. Riemer , Director, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, will quickly summarize the new national health insurance legislation, and discuss the federal <i>Wellstone-Domenici Act</i> as well as implementing regulations on substance use disorder and mental health treatment.
10:20	Wisconsin Parity Update (15 minutes) Representative Sandy Pasch (D-Whitefish Bay) will discuss the recently enacted state legislation, the <i>Wisconsin Parity Act</i> (2009 Wisconsin Act 218), signed by Governor Jim Doyle on April 29.
10:35	Local Expert Panel (55 minutes) Panelists will discuss from their expert perspective the major state policy changes needed to greatly improve substance use disorder and mental health treatment in Wisconsin. Moderator: David R. Riemer, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrick Bohon, Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair, NAMI-Racine• Julie Hueller, RN,C, MS, Southeastern Wisconsin Administrative Director for Mental Health and Addiction Care, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare• Tony Moore, MS, CSAC, ICS, Executive Director, Moore and Associates Outpatient Clinic• Sue Panger, MA, LMFT, LCSW, Owner and Operator, Sue Panger & Associates, SC• The Honorable Gerald P. Ptacek, Racine County Circuit Court Judge• Senator Robert Wirch (D-Pleasant Prairie)• Representative Cory Mason (D-Racine)• Representative Sandy Pasch (D-Whitefish Bay)
11:30	Moderated Audience Q&A (30 minutes)
12:00	Break / Pick Up Lunch (10 minutes)
12:10	Small Group Discussion (50 minutes) Attendees will have the opportunity to join in the discussion of how to improve mental health and substance use disorder treatment in Wisconsin. Discussion Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth and Families (Superior Room, #102)—Pamela Smith, MS, SAC-IT, Substance Abuse Counselor, Moore and Associates Outpatient Clinic• Providers (Huron Room, #104)—To Be Announced• Systems (Erie Room, #108)—Attorney Margaret Johnson, State Public Defender's Office• Consumers (Ontario Room, #110)—Carmen Bonanno, Executive Director, Bridges Community Center
1:00	Break (10 minutes)
1:10	Re-convene and Report Out (60 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Leaders
2:10	Closing Remarks (15 minutes) Representative Sandy Pasch (D-Whitefish Bay)
2:25	Adjourn