

Making Parity Real Conference, August 10, 2010: Sponsor Information

The **UW School of Medicine and Public Health** acts as the University's steward of the use of the **Health Sciences Learning Center** by outside parties. The School hosts forums on health related topics to encourage the free flow of information and multiple viewpoints on important issues. This goal is aided by full disclosure of information about program sponsors, including the following:

- organizational mission, location and principal activities
- role in public policy making
- sources of funding

Below is a summary of information about each of the sponsors of the *Making Parity Real* conference. More detailed information about each organization can be found at their websites (website links included below).

Community Advocates is a non-profit organization, founded in 1976, with offices located in Milwaukee. Its mission is to provide individuals and families with advocacy and services to meet their basic needs so they may live in dignity. In order to maintain and strengthen its mission, Community Advocates services include: health care advocacy; case management and protective payee services; homelessness prevention; energy assistance; disability advocacy services; and housing case management services for homeless individuals who have chronic mental illness. The programs and services of Community Advocates reach over 50,000 individuals each year, most of whom are residents of Milwaukee County. Community Advocates is registered with the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board as a lobbying organization. Sources of funding include: federal, state, county and local grants; contracts; foundations/corporations; and donations. <http://communityadvocates.net/>

A key goal of Community Advocates **Public Policy Institute** is to develop and implement practical strategies to reduce poverty throughout Wisconsin. Current projects and policy initiatives include: creation of transitional jobs to help unemployed Wisconsin residents return to the workforce; improvement of state and local policies for individuals suffering from mental illness; work to strengthen the quality and efficiency of the criminal justice system; helping to implement the *Wisconsin Smoke Free Act* in Milwaukee; and development of policies to lower Wisconsin's poverty rate.

Another project of Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, the **Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative (MATI)** works to increase funding for addiction treatment and improve the delivery of addiction treatment services.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a private non-profit organization, founded in 1977, with offices in Madison, Milwaukee and Rice Lake. The organization's mission is to challenge systems and society to achieve positive changes in the lives of people with disabilities and their families, by ensuring the rights of all state citizens with disability, through individual advocacy and system change. Disability Rights Wisconsin is part of a national system of federally mandated disability agencies which operate independently of government and the disability service system, in order to avoid any potential conflicts of interest which would undermine its capacity to advocate on behalf of the human and legal rights of people with disabilities. Disability Rights Wisconsin

attorneys and advocates work at the state and county levels to promote positive legislative policy and program initiatives. Disability Rights Wisconsin is registered with the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board as a lobbying organization. Sources of funding include: federal and state grants; foundations and corporations; legal fees; consulting fees and contracts. <http://www.disabilityrightswi.org/about>

National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) – Wisconsin, an affiliate of NAMI National, is a non-profit, membership organization. It was incorporated in 1981 and has 34 local affiliates representing the majority of the counties across the state. Its central office is in Madison. The mission of NAMI Wisconsin is to improve the quality of life of people affected by mental illnesses and to promote recovery. NAMI Wisconsin works to accomplish its mission through supporting local affiliates by providing: advice and counsel; education and training; access to financial resources; and conferences, seminars and presentations. The organization also works to accomplish its mission via advocating at all levels of government and throughout the public sector, and in promoting public education and understanding of mental illnesses. NAMI Wisconsin is supported by individual, household and professional memberships. <http://www.namiwisconsin.org/mission.cfm>

Grassroots Empowerment Project is a state-wide non-profit organization, with offices in Madison, which is run by mental health consumers. Its mission is to create opportunities for people with mental illness to exercise power in their lives. 100% of the Board of Directors and 100% of the staff are persons labeled as having mental illness. The organization sponsors United We Stand Wisconsin – the statewide mental health consumer/survivor network – which shares information on important recovery issues, and works together with policy makers to improve mental health services. Grassroots Empowerment is funded by: the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services; the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA); contracts; and donations. <http://www.grassrootspower.org/>

NOTE: All listed sponsors of the *Making Parity Real* Conference are organized and operated according to the purposes set forth in 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. An organization granted 501(c)(3) status may not operate for the benefit of private interests; none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individuals; it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities; and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.