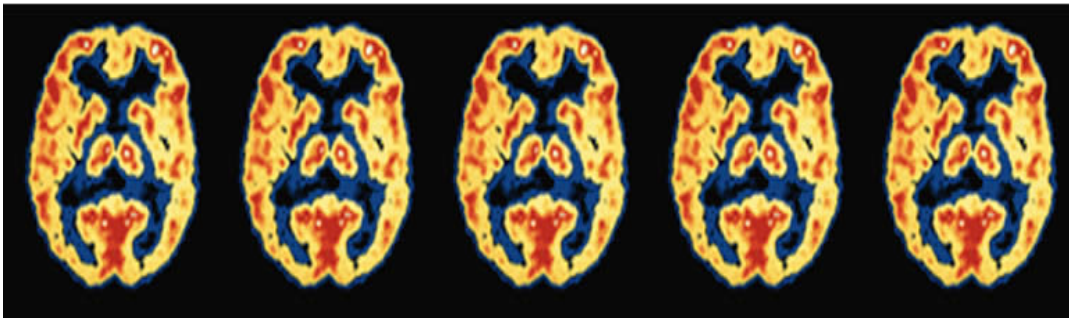


Substance Abuse Funding Policy Issues Reception

WHAT ADDICTION COSTS



Beating a Brain Disease

Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club
Durham, North Carolina
July 18, 2007

North Carolina Substance Abuse Provider Association

North Carolina Substance Abuse Federation

Mid-Atlantic Addiction Technology Center
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Governor's Institute on Alcohol and Substance Abuse
Behavioral Health Resource Ctr. of the UNC School of Social Work
NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance
Abuse Services

IT COSTS PEOPLE THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS

“No one expect to become an alcoholic the day they take their first drink anymore than a person expects to have heart disease the day they eat their first steak!”

- David Smith, MD Founder Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic

Addiction is a brain disease that costs people their lives. It can strike both men and women, children and adults from all races and all walks of life. Substance abuse – alcoholism, prescription drug abuse, cocaine and other illegal drug addiction - is a chronic disease that has a behavioral component.

IT COSTS OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

“The cost of treating a substance abusing pregnant women is about \$616 per day. The cost of her baby being born sick and placed in neonatal intensive care is \$1,250 day.”

- NC Substance Abuse Federation, 2007

Untreated drug abuse increased health care costs 2.9 % per year in a 2001 study published by the Office of Drug Control Policy. Where? In the emergency room, in the neonatal intensive care unit and in the surgical intensive care and the list goes on - 32% of people have health conditions caused by alcohol and drug abuse.

“66% people become involved in the criminal justice system. America spends \$39 billion incarcerating about 1.4 million people as a result of alcohol or drug abuse and addition problems.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

“Accepting addiction as a brain disorder should have a profound effect on how society deals with addicts. For example, if addiction is a brain disorder (like depression or epilepsy), it makes little sense to imprison drug users. Treatment is not only a much more effective alternative, it is the only moral course of behavior.

- David Friedman, Ph.D., Wake Forest University, A Biologist's Perspective on the Use and Abuse of Drugs and Drug Addiction”

Communities need the funds to plan and undertake a comprehensive approach and to be able to purchase a complete array of services. We must promote and fund prevention and treatment services.

HOW CAN I HELP?

We need to join together to support a solid investment strategy to help our communities provide prevention and treatment services.

We are seeing a disturbing trend in North Carolina. Federal data show that admissions to our community programs have been decreasing statewide for six years. Our service delivery system is very small and provider growth and development is difficult. At present we do not have enough agencies and professionals to provide all the services that are needed within all 100 counties.

Seeking to advocate for these needs, the North Carolina Substance Abuse Federation initiated PROJECT START in the spring of 2007. To date over 200 people statewide have pledged to support these policy points.

- S**upport insurance parity for addiction and mental health
- T**rain more people to provide quality services
- A**dvocate for funding to create local coalitions and TASC services
- R**quest funds for expansion of services statewide
- T**each everyone the truth about addiction!

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

You can contact the Federation Secretary at mepowell@mindspring.com or visit some of these informational websites.

WWW.PREVENTIONISTHEANSWER.ORG

WWW.GOVERNORSINSTITUTE.ORG

WWW.DHHS.STATE.NC.US

WWW.NCPIC.NET

WWW.NIDA.NIH.GOV

WWW.NIAAA.NIH.GOV

WWW.SAMHSA.GOV