

## April 2009 Congressional Recess

### MEETING TALKING POINTS

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#### INTRODUCTIONS

- Thank you for meeting with us.
- We are here today on behalf of (each person briefly introduce themselves and their organization)
- We are here to invite you to attend an upcoming event
  - Rally for Recovery, town hall meeting, etc.
- Thank you for your membership in the Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus
  - (Check to see if they belong by going to [http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/about/campaigns/caucus\\_reps.php](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/about/campaigns/caucus_reps.php)) If they don't belong, ask them to join.

And we'd like to ask your help with a couple of issues:

- 1). A local issue of concern
- 2). Improve opportunities for people to recover from addiction in health care reform.

As Congress considers health care reform, please make sure that opportunities for people to recover from addiction are included.

A comprehensive, community-based approach that supports individuals and families will reduce other health care costs, rates of incarceration and recidivism and promote wellness.

Addiction is a chronic disease of epidemic proportions with physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual elements that require continuing and holistic care.

Addiction costs our society over \$400 billion each year, yet over 22 million Americans and their families have yet to receive the help that they need to recover and become productive members of society.

For those who do receive help, often care comes in acute treatment interventions rather than a chronic disease management approach that has been shown to be more effective in treating chronic illnesses like addiction.

Public policy barriers including restrictions to housing, employment and civic participation are also keeping people from sustaining their recovery from addiction and managing their chronic illness.

3). Provide funding for critical services for people who need help to recover. The attached chart was developed by national addiction prevention, treatment and recovery organizations. Please support \$8 million in funding for the Recovery Community Services Program at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

#### CLOSING

- Can we count on you to make sure that addiction recovery is included in health care reform?
- Can we count on you to support funding for critical services for people who need help to recover?
- Thank you. We look forward to working with you.
  - Send a thank you and follow-up letter to the people that you met with, offering to be a resource for them in the future.