

June, 2010

Parity Lawsuit Dismissed

A federal court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a coalition of behavioral managed care providers seeking to block implementation of regulations to enforce the provisions of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. While the ruling does not guarantee an end to all further litigation on this matter, it is an important victory and one that signals that the regulations will take effect as scheduled for plan years beginning on or after July 1, 2010. In her decision, the judge stated that the three Departments involved in rulemaking were allowed to issue interim final rules in order to expedite the rulemaking process given the short timeframe allowed by the law. She also stated that it was her expectation that the Departments should move swiftly to finalize the rules by responding to 4,000 plus comments that have been submitted.

Push Continues for Medicaid Expansion

Although the Senate has failed to move legislation including an extension of the federal matching rate for Medicaid (FMAP) through June of next year, we are continuing the push for this critical expansion. We have issued several alerts to our Advocacy Network on the legislation and are working in concert with a number of groups to win passage. We will keep you apprised of the status of the legislation.