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CONNECTION COALITION'S MISSION

The mission of the Connection Coalition is to reach and engage behavioral health community stakeholders in issues related to access to behavioral health services and supports.

CONNECTION COALITION'S 2019 GOALS AND PRIORITIES

1. Work with stakeholders to advocate for policies and legislation that is supportive of the Connection Coalition's mission. (Ongoing)
2. Advocate for timely access to, and safe use of, medication; and parity in the delivery of behavioral health care services. (Ongoing)
3. Create opportunities and provide technical assistance for Connection Coalition members and community stakeholders to engage with state and local behavioral health care agencies. (Ongoing)
4. Build a relationship with Governor Gavin Newsom's Administration:
 - a. Support whole person care/health home initiatives and activities.
5. Develop a plan to better support those impacted by school shootings.
6. Awareness and education campaign presenting the science behind family separation.
7. Increase outreach and education to those impacted by natural disasters.
8. Increase outreach and education to lawyers, public defenders, public guardians/conservators, etc. so that they can better support clients struggling with behavioral health challenges.
9. Stay informed of federal activities including, but not limited to:
 - a. Medicaid waivers
 - b. Parity
 - c. Take action to protect Medicare Part D if it should be threatened
 - d. Advocate for policies that positively impact diversity in the workforce
 - e. Behavioral health career pathways and promotion beginning in K-12
 - f. Improve access to care by supporting CMS and Congress to eliminate the IMD exclusion and 190 day lifetime cap on Medicare for inpatient services

10. Participate in the implementation of new legislation focused on medication price transparency and oversight of Pharmacy Benefit Managers
11. Advocate for workforce issues:
 - a. Enhance the delivery of telemedicine
 - b. Peer certification
 - c. Training programs
 - d. Loan repayment
12. Outreach to sororities, fraternities, and community colleges to provide information and education related to behavioral health.
13. Support expansion of county prevention and early intervention/innovations programs.
14. Proactively assess barriers to care.

COALITION 17/18 SUCCESSES

1. Support Price transparency and oversight of Pharmacy Benefit Managers.
2. Hold a “Day at the Capitol” event with awareness activities and leg briefings.
3. Connect with national organizations such as the Kennedy Forum and the Coalition for Whole Health to share resources and collaborate.
4. The Connection Coalition will examine the structure and operating style of the National Coalition for Whole Health for adapting to its advocacy.
5. Create opportunities for members to learn more about cutting edge research.
6. Create and maintain a welcoming environment with high levels of participation that is inclusive of manufactures, medical, and advocacy stakeholders to work together on shared goals.

The Connection Coalition is a program of MHAC