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for the Treatment of Opioid
Dependence

Positive Legislative Development in the State of Georgia

Written by Stacey Pearce - GA AATOD Board Delegate

There is so much going on in our field throughout the country, and Georgia is no exception. As many know, the Georgia State Legislature passed a law that created a moratorium on Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP is the terminology used by the Georgia Department of Community Health to refer to opioid treatment programs). This moratorium is for a period of one year and began July 1, 2016 and will end June 30, 2017. The law also created the Narcotic Study Commission to research and determine if there are specific problems within Georgia that have allowed what some see as a large number of clinics to open

within our state in a short period of time. The Northwest corner of Georgia has seen significant growth in the number and size of the facilities located within the area. This prompted an outcry from some community members, which reached the ears of local lawmakers. The result of which is the current legislation involving the moratorium and study commission. The Opioid Treatment Providers of Georgia have been fortunate enough to be involved in the process from the beginning with hopes to minimize the impact of the moratorium on medication assisted treatment patients within our State. *See Georgia page 2*

A Warm Welcome from Booth # 209

Written by Angelina Budija - AATOD Staff

We welcome you to AATOD's newly designed and highly innovative pop-up booth. We wanted to ensure that AATOD's longstanding mission statement, **Expanding Access to Quality Opioid Addiction Treatment Services**, was front and center when mapping out our exhibition booth plan. We hope the numerous educational resources, which are readily available to you at this booth and through our website, echoes our ambitious mission and further piques your interest.

Let's first begin with the handouts.

Proposal to Increase Medicaid Utilization for OTPs

*Are you aware that sixteen states do not provide Medicaid reimbursement for the treatment of opioid addicted patients through OTPs? Well, AATOD has battled this obstacle hands-on during this calendar year which has made possible through grant support from Mallinckrodt. The specifics of our Medicaid work can be found in the proposal handout. Researchers at Johns Hopkins recently published a report indicating that there is a 25% increase in service utilization when Medicaid reimbursement is provided to OTP's. This report underscores the importance of such reimbursement policy and is in direct line with *See Exhibition page 5**

Georgia from page 1

OTPG is also working to ensure that safe and effective treatment is provided throughout all Georgia's NTPs.

The Narcotic Study Commission met for the first time on October 11, 2016 in Ringgold, Georgia. Presenters at the meeting included: Melanie Simon with Healthcare Facility Regulation in the Georgia Department of Community Health, Cassandra Price in Department of Behavioral health and Developmental Disabilities, Jonathon Connell and Brook Etherington with Opioid Treatment Providers of Georgia, Mark Peterson, MD and Jean Bonhomme, MD both Medical Directors at NTPs within Georgia, and Kristi Coroi, a patient advocate. The information provided by

the presenters included opening and regulating NTPs in Georgia, history of MAT and the components of MAT in the clinic setting, review of all regulatory entities at state and federal level, the current opioid use epidemic, basic information about the disease of opioid use disorder, and how the medications used in MAT work in the brain to address the disease. The Study Commission members were also taken on a tour of a local NTP. From the comments and feedback during and after the clinic tour, which was the final agenda item, I believe the members found all the information to be useful and added to their understanding of MAT and what is going on in Georgia.

There is a second meeting of the Narcotic Study Commission sched-

uled for November 17. The Commission has invited Mark Parrino of AATOD to present information on MAT from a national perspective. This may include information concerning how moratoriums have impacted treatment in other states, different types of certificate of need or geographic-locating of facilities utilized by other states, and potential other topics. Other presenters may include a patient advocate and a representative from a surrounding state to discuss how that state sites and opens NTPs. The agenda has not yet been set, aside from Mark's presentation, so this could change. Upon the completion of the second meeting, the Committee should determine recommendations for the industry and provide them to the governor by the end of the year.

Continued Challenges to OTPs in Maine

Written by Jennifer Minthorn, Maine AATOD Board Delegate

As the opioid epidemic reaches its pinnacle here in the State of Maine with fatal overdoses reaching a record number so far this year, efforts continue at the administration level to criminalize the problem. There has been a real focus on the enforcement side which we know from history that this "War on Drugs" approach has been a public policy failure. The Maine legislature approved monies last session to hire thirteen additional DEA agents and a small share of funds for prevention and abstinence-based treatment while the funding for the one treatment we know to be effective for opioid dependence, methadone maintenance, was left out of their equation to address the opioid crisis. The Governor of Maine has publicly come out to the media to say that

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he has been trying to close methadone clinics since he got into office. This has been evident given all of the legislation that has been brought forward over the last four years:

- Several bills were passed to reduce the State's Medicaid reimbursement rate to OTPs which resulted in a 25% reduction in total.
- The Legislature passed a two-year lifetime limit on medication assisted treatment that requires a Prior Authorization (PA) approval process for patients to remain in treatment.

- Last year the State's administration pushed to eliminate methadone maintenance treatment and attempted to get legislation passed that would force patients in a methadone clinic to detox from methadone and transfer to buprenorphine treatment at a physician's office. Due to push-back from the medical providers and other advocacy efforts, this legislation did not pass.
- More recently, the administration is attempting to change the State's Medicaid regulations to add additional requirements for OTPs that would put an undue burden on the methadone clinics as these regulations are not required under federal law nor are they required under the national accreditation standards OTPs must adhere to in order to keep their CSAT/SAMHA Certification as an OTP. The changes are currently being reviewed by the Attorney General's Office. *See Maine page 3*



Navigating the Challenging Waters of Medication Addiction Treatment

Written by Ann Jamieson, Oklahoma AATOD Board Delegate

The Oklahoma Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (OKATOD) presents its Third Annual Conference: Navigating the Challenging Waters of Medication Assisted Treatment on April 21, 2017. Keynote speaker is Mark Parrino, President of American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence. Additional plenary session by Ray Caesar, Director of Addiction Specialty Programs/ Oklahoma State Opioid Treatment Authority and a 2016 recipient of the Nyswander/ Dole

award. Educational workshops provided in comprehensive treatment for the unique needs of patient with Opioid Use Disorder including Treatment of Pregnancy and Other Medical Complications, Providing Culturally Competent Services, Effective Treatment for Co-occurring Disorders, and more. Visit us at okatod.org for more information about this upcoming conference.

treatment and coordinating services with the criminal justice system, medical community, and the behavioral health system. OKATOD's main function is to create unique and groundbreaking educational experiences for its annual conferences. The upcoming conference will be held at the 21 C Museum Hotel in Oklahoma City, a boutique hotel, contemporary art museum, and cultural civic center. With dynamic speakers, a wide range of exhibitors, delicious food, and a beautiful venue, OKATOD's Third Annual Conference promises to provide a unique and amazing learning and networking experience for all! NAADAC accreditation is being obtained for the conference, along with credits for LPCs and LMFTs.

Upcoming Event
April 21, 2017

OKATOD was created in 2010 for the purpose of educating the community regarding medication assisted

Celebrating Effective Treatment

Written by Ed Ohlinger, Virginia AATOD Board Delegate

In 2016, the Virginia Association of Medication Assisted Recovery Programs, VAMARP celebrated its 10th anniversary.

insight and education about the individuals we serve, effective and efficient facility operations and compliance.

Upcoming Event
March 27-29, 2017

We will be hosting a 2-day conference in the spring of 2017, "Celebrating Effective Treatment". The spirit of this event will focus on networking, professional support, training, and reflection on the many changes in the field of opioid treatment. We are building tracks that will provide

The conference will be held in Richmond, Virginia, on March 27-28. Our opening speaker is William Gaertner, M.D. and Board Certified Addictionologist. We are also very excited to have Mark Parrino, President of AATOD, as our keynote speaker.

topics. Some of those are pregnancy and MAT, group facilitation, relapse prevention, fighting stigma. We will also offer techniques for OTP Directors, producing quality documentation, crisis management and effective communication. Other areas of focus will be women's health, family engagement and the roles of nurses in substance abuse treatment facilities.

VAMARP takes great pride in promoting effective treatment and advocating for individuals that have been affected by opioid use disorder. If you would like to learn more or to become a member please contact Judy Schmidt at JSchmidt@fcr-va.com.

We are putting together a diverse menu of educational sessions focusing on multi-disciplinary



New Policy Initiatives in Ohio

Written by Keith Hochadel, OH AATOD Board Delegate

Greeting from Ohio! Ohio, as are many states, is in the midst of an opiate epidemic. Overdose deaths are on the rise and strategies are coming from many partners.

Ohio's legislature has been working on increasing capacity to Medication Assisted Recovery. Currently, to create an OTP in Ohio, an agency must have operated as an Ohio Mental Health and Addiction services provider for a minimum of two years and be considered a not for profit. Legislation creating waivers for both of qualifications has been introduced. It appears that this will be addressed either in the last session before newly elected members take their seats or in the first quarter of 2017. This will enhance capacity for those suffering from opiate use disorder considerably. While Ohio has seen an increase in OTPs under the current system from 9 to over 20, there are still access issues.

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Ohio will also be undergoing a change in reimbursement for Buprenorphine products. Similar to the daily reimbursement for Methadone currently received, Buprenorphine dispensing will carry a similar daily model. Details are being worked out but this is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2017. This shift will enhance access to additional Medication Assisted Recovery products while also bringing patients to the facility for appropriate counseling, and minimizing diversion opportunities.

Certainly there are many other strategies in the works including having each Mental Health and Addiction Services Board area having, or at least having access to, a more robust continuum of care. We are appreciative to all who have provided input of these strategies to provide education, prevention and treatment services for opiate addiction.



AATOD gratefully accepts contributions. We are a non-profit 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Please visit the AATOD website for more details

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2018 AATOD National Conference: NEW YORK, NEW YORK !!

Written by Allegra Schorr - NY AATOD Board Delegate

The next national conference will be convening on March 10 to March 14, 2018 in New York City. AATOD produces conferences on an 18-month cycle. On behalf of AATOD, the 2018 National Conference will be hosted by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the Coalition of Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates (COMPA). Preparations for the 2018 AATOD Conference have already started in order to provide the latest information, evidence, and strategies to improve program development, patient care, and respond to the transformation of the healthcare systems in which we operate. The 2018 AATOD Conference will be held at the New York Marriott Marquis located in the heart of Times Square, with the best of Broadway and New York's restaurants at your door, including a Broadway theatre located right inside the hotel.

Haynes, Associate Director of NYC Health and Hospitals Medical and Professional Affairs Office of Behavioral Health, has offered to reprise his role as Chair of the Hospitality Committee. Those of you who attended the 2009 AATOD Conference in New York City will recall that Haynes was truly remarkable in this performance. The talented Ms. Teri Friedman, Director of the Opioid Treatment

tors,” and there will be many parts for many great actors as we produce the upcoming conference in New York City.

The 2009 AATOD Conference in New York City chaired by the late Ira Marion, had the theme Treatment & Recovery: People and Outcomes. It is a testament to Ira Marion's vision to think how frequently our conversations touch on this very theme. I look forward to seeing you all in New York City in March 2018.

Upcoming Event
March 10-14, 2018

Programs at Mount Sinai Beth Israel and Board Member of the Coalition of Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates (COMPA) has been signed to Chair the Volunteer Committee for the 2018 AATOD Conference. In the words of the great theatre director Constantin Stanislavski, “there are no small parts, only small ac

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