



California Consortium of  
Addiction Programs and  
Professionals

# PROGRAM INSIDER

Providing a Voice for Addiction Treatment in California Since 1979

Welcome to this week's *Program Insider*!

## President's Commission on Drugs, Opioids Makes Recommendations

The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Opioid Crisis held its fifth and final public meeting.

The Nov. 1 meeting included input from federal officials including the secretaries from agencies including the U.S. departments of Labor, Veterans' Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development. Other speakers included addicts and parents of addicts.

"Addiction is not only a brain disease. It's a family disease," Commissioner Bertha Madras, a professor of psychobiology at Harvard Medical School, said after all speakers provided their testimony.

Commissioners, including three state governors and a former member of Congress, backed a slate of recommendations in its [final report](#) to President Donald Trump.

"Each one of those recommendations is being put forward thoughtfully and carefully, and based upon real evidence that we believe that either this is a problem that needs to be addressed, or it's an opportunity that we haven't taken advantage of," said Commission Chair and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Those recommendations include:

- \* Urging Congress and the Trump Administration to support block grant federal funding for opioid-related and substance use disorder (SUD)-related activities to the states.
- \* Calling for the Office of National Drug Control Policy to establish a coordinated system for tracking federally-funded initiatives.
- \* That the U.S. Department of Education collaborate with states on student assessment programs such as

### Federal Legislation Introduced

#### Federal Opioid Response Fairness Act of 2017

The Federal Opioid Response Fairness Act of 2017 was introduced on Oct. 31 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Language in [H.R. 4190](#) says the bill would amend the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act to "ensure the equitable distribution of resources to address the opioid epidemic."

The legislation sponsored by U.S. Rep. Ann Kuster (D-New Hampshire) was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### Combating the Opioid Epidemic Act

The Combating the Opioid Epidemic Act was introduced on Oct. 25 in the U.S. Senate.

Language in [S. 2004](#) indicates the legislation would "increase funding for the State response to the opioid misuse crisis and to provide funding for research on addiction and pain related to the substance misuse crisis."

The legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D-Pennsylvania) and cosponsors including California's Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment, a program that trained staff rely on to identify at-risk youth who might need treatment.

\* Suggesting that the Trump Administration fund and collaborate with private sector and nonprofit partners to create and implement a national campaign to address the danger and stigma of opioids.

Another of the 56 recommendations is establishing a drug court in all 93 federal district courts.

“There is evidence that a large majority of individuals who have an SUD do not receive treatment,” commissioners wrote in the final report. “Drug courts are a proven avenue to treatment for individuals who commit non-violent crimes because of their SUD.”

The report added, “Drug courts have traditionally been a more effective response for non-violent, low-level offenders with SUDs, rather than lengthy prison sentences.”

The timing of this recommendation is interesting given that California Gov. Jerry Brown late September vetoed legislation supported by CCAPP and called for giving superior court judges the latitude to provide specified individuals that enter a pre-guilty plea with drug court programs.

Brown vetoed [AB 532](#) authored by Assembly Member Marie Waldron (R-Escondido) despite the legislation being approved by every state legislator that voted on the bill.

Waldron’s bill stated that a court could collaborate with outside organizations that offer mental health and drug and alcohol addiction treatment services to women charged with misdemeanors or women on probation for one or more misdemeanors.

“The programs to assist women in jail contemplated by this bill are laudatory,” Brown wrote in his veto letter, “but the judicial branch already has full authority to develop collaborative courts which address these kinds of treatment services.”

The commission meeting came less than a week after Trump officially declared the opioid epidemic a “national public health emergency” in an [announcement](#) at the White House.

View the video of the commission meeting [here](#).

## Federal Legislation Introduced

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### Combating the Opioid Epidemic Through Forensic Drug Testing Act of 2017

The Combating the Opioid Epidemic Through Forensic Drug Testing Act of 2017 was introduced on Oct. 25 in the U.S. Senate.

Language in [S. 2008](#) indicates the legislation would “combat the opioid epidemic and drug sample backlogs.”

The legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire) was referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

*Program Insider will track these bills and provides updates.*

The *Program Insider* wants to know how you are active in your community. [Email](#) us!

## CCAPP: Contact Electeds Regarding SB 636

CCAPP members are encouraged to contact their elected state representatives and voice their opinions about [SB 636](#), which is scheduled to be revisited by the Legislature in January.

The bill authored by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) would prohibit certain people or programs, including alcoholism or drug abuse recovery and treatment programs and people that work for those programs, from giving or receiving money to refer someone seeking alcoholism or drug abuse recovery and treatment services.

Bradford's legislation specifically names "a person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation, or an agent or employee thereof, from using runners, cappers, steerers, or other persons" as those who would be prohibited from using financial incentives to procure clients, patients, or customers.

A list of Assembly members is [here](#) and a list of senators including Bradford is [here](#).

## Sign Up for CCAPP Academy Classes

CCAPP members may register for classes offered by the recently renamed CCAPP Academy.

The Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education approved the name change from the CAARR Institute to the CCAPP Academy on Aug. 25.

The new name comes with the same great quality, and that is important for CCAPP members who are looking to enhance their careers and for employers who want to ensure they have a qualified person in each job. If two people are vying for the same promotion or vying for a new job, an employer will look favorably on the person with a CCAPP Academy education.

It's one thing for you to know how to do your job. It's another thing for the people you serve to know that you are qualified to do your job. Employers appreciate knowing that they are recruiting and retaining educated personnel.

There are other benefits of attending the CCAPP Academy:

- The format covers 336 hours in 56 weeks, and many classes are offered on Saturdays or occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so the weekly commitment isn't overwhelming. Find a class list [here](#).
- Classes are designed to be interactive.
- Students will receive mentoring and career assistance.
- The education will count toward certification, which is also a factor employers consider when they are trying to fill and solve staffing needs.
- The 336-hour course is only \$1,500. Staff and volunteers of CCAPP Program Members receive a \$300 discount for the Alcohol and Drug Studies classes, and that discount increases to \$500 when the program pays for staff and volunteers of CCAPP Program Members.

Saturday classes begin Dec. 2 and Tuesday/Thursday classes begin Dec. 7, and classes are scheduled according to enrollment. Students are strongly encouraged to register early to ensure that your preferred location will be staffed.

Additional information on the CCAPP Academy and its offerings is available [here](#).

## Political Action Committee

CCAPP earlier this year voted to establish a Political Action Committee (PAC) for the addiction treatment field.

Allied mental health professional organizations in California currently maintain PACs with balances of more than \$50,000. PACs are common to most legislative programs, and the time has come for the substance use disorder field to unite and move to the next level of development.

CCAPP is soliciting contributions from \$500 to the legal maximum of \$7,300, with funding going toward supporting candidates whose policy goals are important to you.

All PAC contributions will be deposited into the committee's bank account, so no funds will be used by CCAPP to support the organization's operations or business activities. PAC contributions are separate from annual membership dues.

For more information or to make a contribution, contact CCAPP Governmental Affairs Director Sherry Daley at [sherry.ccapp@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.ccapp@gmail.com) or (209) 200-0757.

## Changes to Registrant Requirements Beginning in January

All registrant renewals for all certifying organizations will require proof of progress toward certification beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

The Department of Health Care Services has a five-year time limit, but a growing number of registrants had their certification denied for failing to complete education requirements within that timeframe. So all registration renewal applicants must complete at least 45 hours of core education toward certification. This is in addition to continuing education requirements.

The effort is worth it as a certification from CCAPP improves competency and build the workforce.

Everyone has a place on CCAPP's career path. Let CCAPP help your employees on their way.

CCAPP also offers extensive opportunities to get the required continuing education units to maintain certification.

Visit [here](#) to see CCAPP's career ladder and opportunities to grow your staff's capabilities.

The weekly Program Insider is for you – OUR MEMBERS! – and we welcome your feedback. Please feel free to also submit story ideas. [Email](#) us!



For more information about CCAPP program news and benefits, visit our program [portal](#).