

## **Proposed Resolution on Treatment of Substance Use Conditions**

**Issue:** Together, the advent of health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act for substance use conditions, other recent legislation on parity of substance use insurance benefits, and recent developments in treatment of these conditions increase the necessity for counties to develop a clear policy on substance use care.

**Proposed Policy:** Treatment for substance use conditions should be based upon proven evidence based practices, including, when appropriate and necessary, medication assisted treatment. Such care always should be accompanied by assessment of improvement and outcome to assure that the care provided actually is working.

**Background:** The Essential Health Benefit, which defines mandatory insurance coverage for the state Health Insurance Marketplace and the state Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act, includes a parity substance use care benefit and a medication benefit. This represents the first time that most private and public clients with substance use conditions will have access to covered substance use services. At the same time, evidence-based treatment practices have evolved to include new medication assisted treatments with good effectiveness This Proposed Resolution is an effort to address to improve substance use care directly, both for the currently insured and the new populations to be insured through the ACA.

**Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** These policies will not require additional resources, rather just maintenance of current effort because of how Affordable Care Act health insurance is funded. However, over the longer run, this investment will pay off in a greater contribution of persons with disabilities to the economic recovery and productivity of the United States. The impact of these policies will be substantial not only in urban areas, but will also greatly affect rural areas, where such services are currently very sparse.

**Proposed by:** National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD).

Draft 1-14-15