



September 15, 2013

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Dear ,

Seeds Conference

Join us **Tuesday, October 22nd**, for a half-day Seeds conference at Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) at 5025 E. Washington Street in Phoenix from **11:30 am to 3:30 pm**. This type of event continues the MHA AZ history of bringing together the community and leaders to discuss the public behavioral health system in Arizona.

Our agenda is full and will cover the significant public policy changes that will occur this coming year.

Launching the day will be Dr. David Shern, President/CEO for Mental Health America. He'll focus on the national scene as well as the challenges from that perspective.

Our presenters will also include:

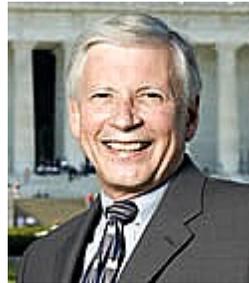
- AHCCCS Director Tom Betlach who'll update us about expansion plans for AHCCCS effective January 1st as well as the Marketplace which will have launched on October 1st.
- Deputy Director for the Division of Behavioral Health Cory Nelson will update us on the imminent changes for Maricopa County as the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) moves toward integration of physical and behavioral health. He'll provide an outline of the Request for Proposal for Greater Arizona (all counties outside Maricopa County) next summer.
-  HA directors, who will conclude the day with discussions about steps to take to integrate public behavioral health and primary care services in the

coming months.

Seating is limited and a box lunch will be provided. To assure space and lunch please RSVP by Friday, **October 18th** to mhaarizona@emsonline.org.

Sunset Meet and Greet

Join us to meet Dr. Shern at a pre-conference reception on Monday, October 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Our friend Joyce Geysler will host this event, also providing us a fantastic view of Phoenix from her house on Camelback Mountain. Joining us to welcome Dr. Shern will be Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton. For details about the evening, please contact Cheryl Collier at colliercl@mac.com or 602-284-0619. A suggested donation for the event is \$50.



Status Report on AHCCCS Restoration & Expansion

Apologies to the Warner Brothers movie "Happy Feet" for enlisting its 'star', but we should do some dancing in the street to celebrate this past week. The United Republican Alliance of Principled Conservatives did not file their referendum petitions seeking to place the restoration and expansion of AHCCCS on the November 2014 ballot. They reported that they had not secured the required 86,405 signatures on September 11th.



But, (dramatic music here), the next day the Goldwater Institute filed a lawsuit challenging the restoration and expansion. The lawsuit asks the court to declare the assessment which funds the Medicaid expansion unconstitutional for two reasons:

1. The state needed a supermajority to approve the Medicaid expansion because it imposes, in the Institute's eyes, a new tax.
2. The expansion violated the separation of powers provision by delegating taxing authority to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.

Stay tuned, we've got a ways to go and your participation is essential.

Upcoming Community Events

Pull out your calendar, there are exciting events coming our way.

- Arizona Public Health Association 85th Annual Meeting is on September 26th, from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Phoenix Zoo in Phoenix. Details at <http://www.azpha.org>.
- Maricopa County NAMI will host its annual walk on October 19th at the Arizona State Capitol. Put together a team and put on those walking shoes. [Walk details](#)
- Join the Arizona Foundation for Behavioral Health on Saturday, October 26th from 11 am to 2 pm at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel for the "Mystery Author's Lunch". For details

www.azfbh.org.

- Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness will host their 20th annual conference on October 29-30 at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix. Details can be found at www.azceh.org/annual-conference.

To promote your event in our list, please send details so we can share. We publish on a monthly basis.

As MHA-AZ continues its revival, we invite your participation and sharing of information. Take a moment to share this newsletter with a friend or colleague. If he or she would like to receive regular updates, please have them e-mail me that request.

Eddie L. Sissons
Consultant

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