 Advocacy Goals 2020

Over the last several years, TAADAS has made a concerted effort to increase our advocacy work. As our membership continues to grow, so too do the issues that we are confronted with. After assessing the Tennessee and national political landscape and reviewing results from our membership survey, TAADAS has chosen to focus on these top five public policy issues for 2020. At the same time, TAADAS will continue to monitor trends and news on all aspects of addiction education, treatment and recovery services so we are prepared to weigh in on new developments in the field.

TAADAS is currently pursuing five legislative and regulatory priorities:

* Fund adult residential treatment – Even with combined state and federal funding for services for the uninsured, there continues to be a gap of 17,000 uninsured people who need access to treatment in TN each year.
* Enforce Parity – Parity laws ensure that insurance companies offer behavioral health benefits with the same scope as they have for physical health. These new laws in Tennessee require a report to the legislature in January 2020. TAADAS will monitor the outcome of these reports and advocate for enforcement to close gaps in coverage as well as promoting access to information and training on filing parity complaints.
* Support prescription privileges for nurse practitioners and physician’s assistants – Prescription privileges are key to enable the expansion of life saving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) throughout the state.
* Expand access to quality recovery housing – Addiction is a chronic relapsing disease that requires a lifelong commitment to disease management and requires access to various kinds of supports during the recovery process. Recovery housing initiatives are expanding in TN and TAADAS will participate and monitor recovery housing development.
* Expand services for pregnant and post-partum women – Women’s treatment capacity is far less than that for men. Women cannot access treatment as readily due to family responsibilities, lack of child care and work responsibilities that allow them to support a family. Access to treatment needs to be responsive to these issues. Additional treatment providers that allow for women/families to remain intact while members are in treatment are needed. These types of services will help ensure that women have healthy pregnancies and adverse childhood experiences are mitigated.

TAADAS will continue to cultivate our alliances with policy makers and stakeholders that include government agencies, non-profits and other entities in our advocacy efforts. Please visit www//TAADAS.org for more information, including letters to policy makers and related community events, as well as to receive policy updates.