



A statewide coalition of consumers, providers, educators, and advocates
representing the voice for alcohol and drug abuse services

Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations (CADA) Position and Principles for Substance Abuse Treatment Services in Health Care Reform

Adopted September 19, 2007

1. AOD addiction is a treatable chronic disease
 - It has both a genetic and environmental basis influencing its development and manifestation and treatment
 - Recovery from it is often a long-term process requiring repeated treatments
 - Relapses can occur during or after successful treatment episodes
 - Participation in self-help support programs during and following treatment can be helpful in sustaining long-term recovery.
 - Continuum of care for all individuals.
2. CADA supports the need for comprehensive health care reform.
3. Any health care reform must include provisions for parity for substance abuse services. Health care service plans should be required to provide coverage for the screening, diagnosis and necessary treatment of substance abuse under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. Health care service plans must also assure that treatment services provided include the highest level of professionalism, competency and consumer protection.
4. CADA supports the Governor's Healthy Action Program, under which individuals who complete a Health Risk Appraisal (HRA) used to identify risky behaviors like smoking, alcohol abuse, drug use, etc., and who follow up with a health care professional every two years will be offered incentives and rewards.
5. However, all Californians who suffer from substance abuse must have access to treatment services, and the treatment services provided must correspond to the individual's assessed need. California has the largest treatment system in the world and need to support a workforce that can deliver the high quality care that is demanded by the public and required by the state. In order to meet these goals, it is imperative that the state create and adopt a full workforce development plan and resources to recruit, train and retain qualified personnel.

CADA

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6. The Governor's proposed Prevention, Wellness and Personal Responsibility Health Care Reforms should include addiction on the same terms and conditions applied to other chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.
(<http://www.stayhealthycalifornia.com>)
7. As stated in the Institute of Medicine, 1998. Bridging the Gap Between Practice and Research. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, "There are effective and cost-efficient treatments and continuing care approaches for alcohol and drug dependence that embrace more of the chronic care disease management principles." Under this approach, patients would
 - o Be retained at an appropriate level of care
 - o Prepared to do well in the next level of care and with skills to self-manage their condition
 - o Be offered continuous recovery monitoring after the primary treatment episode.
8. California should also summarize and make available to the public, information and data on the benefits of AOD abuse and mental health treatment as it does with cigarette smoking.

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