



March 15, 2002

PCPA PUTS OUT THE CALL: *JOIN THE MH/MR COALITION'S PRESS CONFERENCE/RALLY AND VISIT YOUR LEGISLATOR!*

PCPA has informed its membership of the MH/MR Coalition's press conference/rally scheduled for Monday, March 25 at 9:30AM in the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg. This is also a wonderful opportunity to visit your legislator! *However, please note that it is not mandatory that you visit your legislator.*

Nothing is more important in securing a legislator's support than RELATING YOUR CAUSE TO HIM OR HER PERSONALLY. PCPA's member agencies serve over 1 million Pennsylvanians annually, and our members touch lives IN EVERY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT.

Tell your legislator that it is VITAL TO HIS OR HER CONSTITUENTS that our members be able to recruit and retain adequate numbers of staff. Tell your legislator that community providers are APPRECIATIVE OF THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION FUNDING in the current fiscal budget, as well as the fact that it has been annualized into the 2002-03 budget. Tell your legislator that THE LACK OF ADEQUATE AND ONGOING COLAS has contributed to the recruitment and retention crisis we face today. Tell your legislator that THE 2% COLA MUST BE RESTORED in the 2002-03 budget so that we can continue to provide quality services to the over 1 million Pennsylvanians that access our services.

If you plan to visit your legislator, call his or her office IMMEDIATELY to schedule your appointment. Contact PCPA and we can assist you in arranging an appointment with your legislator. Please take a moment to send an e-mail to PCPA to let us know if you plan to attend the rally and if you have a legislative appointment. Send an e-mail to Melissa DiSanto Simmons, Director of Legislative Affairs at melissa@paproviders.org or Lynn Keltz, Policy Specialist at lynnk@paproviders.org - please put "MH/MR Rally" in the subject line.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION ON MARCH 25!

For more information contact Pennsylvania Community Providers Association
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