

# NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE

DECEMBER 2012

## From the Desk of NCSAM President, Paul Martin, MD FSAM

### *Alea iacta est* (The die has been cast)

It's my pleasure to take hold of the reins of the NC Society of Addiction Medicine and I aspire to the same dedicated leadership shown by Jim Finch, MD over the past two years. However, as your new President I will depend on the talents and energy of all our members to help guide the specialty of Addiction Medicine in North Carolina through the rapidly changing medical landscape.

It seems that everyone was looking to the elections this past November as the pivot point in health care planning. What most folks forget is that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 is a horse that is long out of the barn. Health care reform (or perhaps more accurately health insurance reform) is in the midst of rapid evolution. By way of reminder, here are but a few of the mandates of the PPACA:

- 2010 – health premium tax credits for small businesses with 10 or fewer employees earning less than \$25,000/ yr.
- 2011 – Lifetime limits on health insurance policies eliminated
- 2011 – Health insurance coverage for young adults up to age 26 (under their parents' policy)
- 2012 – Value-based purchasing (pay based on outcome) for acute care hospitals
- 2012 – Funding for integrated health systems i.e. Accountable Care Organizations
- 2013 – Funding for Provider Collaboration: establishes a national pilot program on payment bundling to encourage hospitals, doctors, and post-acute care providers to work together
- 2014 – Insurance companies may no longer deny coverage based on pre-existing illness

Whether or not State managed Health Insurance Exchanges are launched in 2014 or if Medicaid coverage is expanded to the working poor, the die has been cast. **It will be up to our members to determine what role Addiction Medicine will play in the Organized Systems of Care (OSCs) that are our future.**

We will be increasingly be held to evidence-based practices and outcome-based treatment. We have before us a golden opportunity to sit at the table in deciding how health care dollars can be spent and can be saved. Now is our time. The NC Society of Addiction Medicine can provide structure and opportunities for influencing the course before us. However, it will be contingent upon the membership to make it happen. I need everyone's participation to make this work.



## Want to get involved?

We intend to establish small working committees: Governmental Policies Committee, Best Practice Committee/ Education Committee, and Membership Committee. Time involvement will be limited and the idea is to collaborate with other societies and organizations to minimize duplication. Most of our members are involved with other Specialty Organizations (e.g. NCAFP, NCPA, NCMS) and can serve as links between NCSAM and those. We do need representation at the other organizations to help guide policy development that is meaningful and efficient. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions to improve the mission of the NCSAM.

Contact Tyler Van Steinburgh at [tyler.vansteinburgh@governorsinstitute.org](mailto:tyler.vansteinburgh@governorsinstitute.org) to let us know if you can serve on a committee or are willing to be our representative in a specialty society, or can otherwise contribute your time or talents.

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## A Note from the NCSAM Treasurer

I want to thank the NCSAM Membership for supporting my election to the position of Treasurer. NCSAM is a very important organization in a time when addiction is for the first time being recognized as a major issue for many NC citizens by state and national politicians, public health officials, medical providers, educators, law enforcement agents and others. We are in a unique position to assist in advocating for treatment resources for our patients and education of our medical and dental colleagues about Addiction Diagnosis and Treatment. This will be particularly exciting and challenging as we continue to implement the Affordable Care Act for our citizens.

I am Duke University trained General Psychiatrist and Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. (I realize this can be a polarizing statement as we start basketball season). I have lived and worked in NC in Asheville, and Hendersonville since 2003, but also lived in Durham and worked in Durham and Burlington from 1998-2006. I am a relative newcomer to Addiction Medicine as I realized well into my career that I needed expertise and training in Addictions to provide more complete care to my Psychiatric patients. This is a position that is not unlike the one many of our medical and dental colleagues currently find themselves.

I am currently Medical Director of Parkway Behavioral Health, a CAHBA providing MH and CD services to Adults in Buncombe, Rutherford, and Henderson Counties. I also work for WNC Ray of Hope, providing ACTT services to Adults in Buncombe, and Henderson Counties, and Blue Ridge Community Health Services, a FQHC providing Psychiatric and Addiction treatment to Children, Adolescents, and Adults in Henderson and Transylvania Counties. From 2008- mid- 2012 I was Medical Director/Owner of two Opioid Treatment Centers in Asheville and North Wilkesboro NC working with the very challenging but very deserving opiate dependent population.

These are important times for NCSAM. My hope is to work to reach as many of our medical colleagues as possible through our educational efforts and to increase NCSAM membership in the process. I am looking forward to working with as many of you as possible in the process.

I can be reached at 828-545-4750 or at [bst302678@aol.com](mailto:bst302678@aol.com) for comments, questions, ideas, or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Bess Stanton MD, MBA, FAPA  
NCSAM Treasurer

## Upcoming Events

April 12 & 13, 2013 Addiction Medicine 2013  
Conference Asheville, NC

This year's conference will be even bigger than last year's and will take place at the Asheville Renaissance Hotel in the center of beautiful downtown Asheville.

[Click here](#) for more information.

**Registration will open at the beginning of 2013!**

