



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES  
Public Policy Institute

# MAKING PARITY REAL

You're invited to a symposium in Janesville with state policymakers and stakeholders to help shape the future of addiction and mental health treatment in Wisconsin.

**Monday, March 29**  
**9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**UAW Local 95**  
**Union Hall**  
**(1795 Lafayette St.,**  
**Janesville)**

## Participants include:



Speaker Mike Sheridan  
(D-Janesville)



Rep. Kim Hixson  
(D-Whitewater)



Rep. Sandy Pasch  
(D-Whitefish Bay)

The room is wheelchair accessible. To request disability-related accommodations such as an interpreter, large-print materials or language translation, contact Rob Cherry by March 22 at (414) 270-2953 or email [robcc@communityadvocates.net](mailto:robcc@communityadvocates.net).

# What State Policy Changes Will Improve Our Addiction and Mental Health System?

In the U.S. and Wisconsin, we're moving rapidly toward "parity"—health insurance benefits for addiction and mental health treatment that equal those for physical medical care. But insurance "parity" doesn't mean that people with an addiction or mental illness will actually get the treatment they need.

Join a moderated dialogue with audience participation among southcentral Wisconsin stakeholders—providers, advocates, the recovery community, consumers and law enforcement officials—and hear updates on parity legislation and regulations. Speaker Mike Sheridan (D-Janesville), Rep. Kim Hixson (D-Whitewater) and Rep. Sandy Pasch (D-Whitefish Bay), co-sponsor of the *Wisconsin Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity Act (SB-362/AB-512)*, will participate in the discussion.



**Discussion will explore the changes that can be made to state laws, budgets, rules and regulations, and standards to increase access to mental health/substance use disorder treatment, including:**

- The quantity, cultural competency and location of providers.
- The adequacy of public and private funding sources.
- The ability of non-medical providers to administer treatment.
- Strategies to reduce stigma.
- Other non-financial barriers to receiving treatment services.

Based on information learned during Making Parity Real symposia, the Community Advocates Public Policy Institute plans to present state lawmakers and policymakers with recommendations about how to provide improved coverage, access and outcomes for Wisconsinites seeking mental health and addiction care.

**Attendance is free, but registration is required by March 26.** We look forward to hearing your ideas. This Making Parity Real symposium is the fourth in a statewide series.

For more information and to register, visit [www.MakingParityReal.org](http://www.MakingParityReal.org)

Making Parity Real is presented by:



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