

# Newsletter



April, 2007

## **2007 AABH Ambulatory Continuum Survey Rolls Out: Please Participate!**

The 2007 AABH Ambulatory Survey was rolled out across the nation this week in fulfillment of some lofty goals. In addition to the traditional aims of gathering data for planning purposes and to establish a foundation for Benchmarking in concert with BPS, this particular year, AABH has higher purposes in mind. AABH has been working with the office of an influential US Congressman in support of legislation that could have a very positive impact on Medicare and other coverage of partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient services. This year's survey includes items specifically requested by the congressional office to support the legislation. AABH was informed that there is a good chance this data, along with other materials being collected by AAABH, "should make it to the House floor".

If you have a partial hospitalization or intensive outpatient program within your organization, please complete the survey! The deadline is May 15. You do not need to be a member of AABH. To access the on-line survey, click on this link (it may be necessary to copy it and paste it into your browser): <http://www.bpssurvey.org/aabhsurvey>. Simply print out the survey to use as a worksheet and then return to the survey when you are ready to submit your data. It is a very user-friendly process and is entirely confidential. BPS is collecting and warehousing the data and will not release the responses of any individual organization to any third party, including AABH.

In addition to possibly influencing national policy, you will receive a very helpful, free executive summary of the findings if you complete the survey. Contact us if you have any questions about the AABH Ambulatory Continuum Survey.

## **Upcoming Conferences**

On May 2-3, BPS will be an exhibitor at the New Jersey Association of Mental Health Agencies annual conference. Paul Lefkovitz, BPS President, will also conduct a process benchmarking workshop at the conference.

Paul Lefkovitz will also present a workshop at the Eighth Annual Axelson Center Symposium For Nonprofit Professionals, North Park University in Chicago on May 16. His presentation is entitled "Beyond Outcomes: Benchmarking as a Nonprofit Management Tool".

## **Taking it Easy**

One of the barriers to benchmarking is the notion that, once you start measuring something, you need to measure it continuously. In a number of circumstances, it may be preferable to collect a time-limited sample. A time-limited sample is likely to be much more manageable than implementing a permanent, ongoing process. Once the sample is collected, the value of the data generated can be evaluated as well as the methods used to gather the data. A time-limited sample can vary in duration from a couple of weeks to a few months. The duration will depend upon the sample size that can be generated in the particular time frame. Frequent events such as medication passes require a short duration while less frequent events such as admissions to a very small program will require more time. If it is decided to repeat the process due to the value of the data or a desire to modify the method, it can be scheduled as desired. If the benefit of the data shows sufficient promise, it can be converted to a continuous metric. The advantage of this approach is that a "commitment" to a metric does not need to be established until the measure proves its worth. Does your organization have any time-limited measures in place? If not, give this approach a try.

## **Contact Us!**

We want to create an active and vibrant community of individuals and organizations interested in benchmarking, performance management, and outcomes. If you have thoughts, ideas, suggestions, tips, or questions, we'd like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at [info@bpsys.org](mailto:info@bpsys.org).