

NOVA Notes

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Satellite Office Opens in Branchburg!

Our Newest Office Opens

After a long and involved search for space, and several properties “falling through,” we opened our Offices.

We wanted to serve our clients, who were coming to Princeton from Northern Somerset County, better. This was the initial drive to seek the satellite offices. We realized however that it may also be a new opportunity for us to bring quality private treatment services to this area.

The Branchburg Commons, Executive Suites are centrally located on Route 22 West, which allows easy access to Northern Somerset County, Eastern Hunterdon County, and Southern Morris County. Anyone having access to Routes 22, 202, and 206 would likely be in reach of this location, even those in parts of Middlesex and Union Counties could “theoretically” come there. As well we are close to I-287 where it intersects with

these other roadways so this makes access rather easy. Of course many of our clients from Middlesex and Somerset Counties still enjoy coming to the Princeton location. If you have access to Routes 1, 130, 206, and County 571 you’re in close reach. Even the use of I-95/I-295 would get you to the Princeton location without much difficulty. So now if you live in Central NJ you will be able to reach one of our offices fairly quickly.

The Branchburg office will be a full service location. We have met with physicians from the area who will be able to provide detoxification services to those of our clients that may require these services. In addition we already know a number of psychiatrists practicing near the new office who are also here in Princeton and work with us currently. See the back page for our newest address.

Herbal Substitutes for Illicit Substances of Abuse

For many years now, blends of various “legal” herbs have been available as a substitute for some of the illicit drugs commonly abused. These herbals often contain the same or similar psychoactive ingredients, but the plant of origin for the substance has not yet been made illegal by the DEA or FDA.

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S/A & M/H Treatment Parity Petition

For more than the past 10 years the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been under strong pressure not to regulate the herbal and vitamin supplement markets. Thus much of the research in this area has not had to conform to the FDA testing standards. In addition the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has been overwhelmed by the task of tracking and policing the illicit drug markets and are unable to keep up with the ever growing botanicals that are able to produce the substitute “herbal” blends.

Now teens, young adults, and even some adults are finding a growing industry of Internet sites supplying information and products to an ever increasing demand for “legal” intoxicants.

NOVA Has Initiated an Online Petition Calling for Parity in Substance Abuse & Mental Health Treatment

We are currently and have been for sometime involved in the movement to pass legislation on the Federal and State levels for parity in treatment coverage. Health insurers have typically separated this benefit from their other medical coverages (called a “carve-out” of service benefits).

Most health insurance sold to businesses and individuals has a benefit for substance abuse and mental health (S/A & M/H) treatment. What many people don’t realize until they go to use these benefits is that they have been separated from other policy benefits. This allows

the insurers to manage these benefits differently than the other medical coverages in the policy. In the last 15 years many would say that the insurers have made it very difficult for these benefits to be accessed. S/A & M/H benefits often have requirements for use, and much more limited coverages. Often lifetime limits or yearly limits are applied to the amount paid out or the number of visits available. Frequently health insurers have contracted management of these benefits to another company with vastly differing criteria for benefits to be used, including limitations on practitioners.

A growing number of advocates, families, and consumers are speaking out about this disparity and pushing for corrective legislation. Please help us by signing the petition at:

www.thepetitionsite.com/1/addiction-mental-health-parity Thanks.

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