

Wisconsin Legislative Day

Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation
Headline News - May 2011

Karin Daniels, Program Services Coordinator



On Wednesday, April 20th the bleeding disorders community gathered in Madison, Wisconsin for the Wisconsin Legislative Day at the Capitol. Clients met with their State Representatives after a morning training focusing on the key issues we are facing in the state and the importance of advocacy. Kevin Moore, Executive Assistant for the Department of Health Services, spoke to the group and outlined issues current affecting the state.

Clients spoke on behalf of the Wisconsin bleeding disorders community on two specific issues. The first request was to maintain adequate **funding for the Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program (WCDP)**. The WCDP helps to pay for the uncovered costs of clotting factor concentrates, based on need as a "last resort", after all other payers have paid. WCDP is a proven long standing program (over 25 years) that has enhanced the health care for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

The second request was pertaining to **Medicaid** and addressed concerns about Medicaid changes (co-pays, access, coverage of all clotting factor concentrates and access to high quality pharmacy care). The current budget requires a \$494 million dollar cut that needs to be found by the state. We have concerns that this will negatively impact the bleeding community. Because treatment is so expensive, increased premiums, co-pays, percentages or ceilings can be devastating. It's important that the different clotting factor concentrates continue to be covered by Medicaid. There are many "unknowns" right now, and we suggested that any short-term savings would not make sense for the bleeding disorders community. With adequate funding the long term savings far outweigh the short term because with improved outcomes individuals have a decrease in emergency room visits and costly hospitalizations, along with an increase in employment capabilities that allow for private employer insurance options.



What's Next?

join in

Become a member of the GLHF Advocacy Committee by contacting Karin Daniels at 414-937-6782 or kdaniels@glhf.org.

stay tuned

Watch for Action Alerts on legislative happenings affecting the bleeding disorders community.

stay in touch

Stay in touch with your representatives by calling, writing, or scheduling an informal meeting in your area -- a face attached to an issue is crucial when decisions have to be made.

remember

Advocacy is needed not only today, but every day in this changing political landscape.

View the latest GLHF podcast on Advocacy at:

<http://www.glhf.org/podcasts/PODCASTS.htm>