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adapadvocacy.org

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ADAP Advocacy Association Launches Mental Health Project

Understanding the Implications of Co-Occurring Diagnosis of a Mental Condition and HIV/AIDS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The ADAP Advocacy Association today announced that it has launched a new project to improve access to care and treatment for people who are living with a mental health diagnosis, as well as living with HIV/AIDS. The project – “**Understanding the Implications of Co-Occurring Diagnosis of a Mental Condition and HIV/AIDS**” – aims to raise awareness and understanding of the issues faced by people living with mental health conditions and HIV/AIDS, who also access care and treatment (or whom would benefit from such care and treatment) under the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), as well as provide useful resources and tools to the communities that serve them.

People who are living with a mental health diagnosis have many challenges including symptom management, negotiating the disclosure of their diagnosis due to stigma, access to quality care, training, and education. For individuals who live with mental health conditions, these challenges are significant; yet, for those who have a co-occurring mental health condition and are HIV positive, these challenges can become more difficult to manage. The co-occurrence of a mental health condition and HIV is a public health issue that is important to discuss as it poses challenges for both those who have the diagnosis as well as the persons who are caring for and/or treating them.

“It is important for both providers who are treating patients with HIV and those treating patients with mental conditions to be aware of the potential co-morbidity amongst the populations,” said **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “Through understanding the likelihood of a co-occurring disorder, a provider can be more prepared to partner with their patients and other providers in addressing both conditions and improving their potential for healthy outcomes.”

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association or its Mental Health Project, please email info@adapadvocacy.org.

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About the ADAP Advocacy Association: The ADAP Advocacy Association mission is to promote and enhance the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. **aaa+**[®] works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to raise awareness, offer patient educational programs, and foster greater community collaboration.