

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACTS:**  
**Carol McDaid – 202.737.8168**  
**William Emmet – 410.578.1529**

## **PARITY IMPLEMENTATION COALITION & THE KENNEDY FORUM RELEASE PARITY RESOURCE GUIDE**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.—June 8, 2015** —Members of the Parity Implementation Coalition join with the Kennedy Forum in releasing the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Parity Resource Guide, entitled “Simplifying the Appeals Process: Strategies for Winning Disputes with Your Health Plan.”

This new free resource targeted towards consumers, providers and advocates can be downloaded at [www.parityispersonal.org](http://www.parityispersonal.org) and [www.thekennedyforum.org](http://www.thekennedyforum.org).

“Today, too many Americans are still being denied the care they need and the care they are guaranteed under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act,” notes Patrick J. Kennedy, founder of the Kennedy Forum. “As a result, these individuals and families often need help filing appeals when their access to behavioral health services is denied, or when their health plans refuse to pay after they have received treatment. The Parity Resource Guide is an essential tool to keep by your side as you navigate the insurance and regulatory systems.”

“The Parity Implementation Coalition is pleased to make the second edition of our parity resource guide available as a free resource to those consumers and providers who must appeal denied claims” said Irvin “Sam” Muszynski, Co-Chair of the Parity Implementation Coalition.

Beth Ann Middlebrook, Of Counsel with the Watershed Addiction Treatment Programs added, “We at the Watershed Addiction Treatment Programs have included some helpful information in this guide based on our experience in appealing denied claims, so that individuals seeking recovery from substance use disorders can avail themselves of the appeal processes, in an effort to obtain access to behavioral health treatment services on par with other medical treatment services.”

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The Parity Implementation Coalition includes the American Psychiatric Association, American Society of Addiction Medicine, Cumberland Heights, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, MedPro Billing, Mental Health America, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems, National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers, The Watershed Addiction Treatment Programs and Young People in Recovery. The organizations advanced parity legislation and implementing regulations for over fourteen years in an effort to end discrimination against individuals and families who seek services for mental health and substance use disorders and remain committed to its effective implementation. More information about the Coalition is available at [www.parityispersonal.org](http://www.parityispersonal.org).