

# Newsletter

March, 2006



## NAMI Grades the States

The National Alliance on Mental Illness has just released "Grading the States: A Report on America's Health Care System for Serious Mental Illness". Every U.S. state has been scored on 39 specific criteria resulting in an overall grade and four sub-category grades for each state. The national average grade is D. Five states receive grades in the B range. Eight receive Fs. None received As. The 232 page report may be downloaded at NAMI's web site ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)).

## Out-And-About

Paul M. Lefkovitz, Ph.D., BPS President, provided a half-day pre-conference institute on benchmarking and performance management at the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards conference held on February 27 in Lansing. BPS also was an exhibitor at their two day conference. The institute was very well received.

BPS will be an exhibitor at the annual conference of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare to be held in Orlando, Florida from April 8-10. Gordon Gibson, Ph.D., BPS consultant, will represent BPS at the booth. Stop by to say hello.

## JCAHO Core Measures for Hospital-Based Psychiatric Providers

It is looking like core ORYX measures for hospital-based psychiatric providers are not too far down the pike for organizations surveyed under the Hospital standards by JCAHO. At an upcoming briefing meeting for ORYX vendors that will take place April 6-7, the agenda includes a review of the measures and selection procedures by health care organizations and vendors. Information about time frames for implementation should be available after that briefing.

## Quote of the Day

In a recent process benchmarking exercise, a very insightful participant commented that "benchmarking should be pursued for ideas...not for answers". We couldn't have said it any better! His comment vividly captures the essence of our belief that the "numbers" in benchmarking serve as a means to an end, not as an end in itself. Providing a catalyst for the systematic sharing of knowledge and best practices is the objective of benchmarking, with the ultimate goal being improved organizational performance. If you are involved in benchmarking, are you satisfied with the generation of a report or are you taking full advantage of the opportunity to learn new ideas from others?

## Contact Us!

We want to create an active and vibrant community of individuals and organizations interested in performance management, outcomes, and benchmarking. 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).

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