State legislators attending the fourth annual CSG Medicaid Policy Academy June 17-19, in Washington, D.C., learned how critical Medicaid funding can be to services for vulnerable persons. Dr. Jeffery Brenner, a 2013 winner of a MacArthur Foundation genius award, challenged the group to rationalize the health care system. He described how his project in Camden, N.J. has reduced costs and improved care for patients suffering from a complex set of chronic diseases. Health care workers visit patients in their residences and seek to evaluate not just medical needs but social and emotional needs as well.

Paul Gionfriddo, executive director of Mental Health America, explained how Medicaid funding can be used to build a more effective and humane system of mental health services. Interwoven in his presentation was the story of Gionfriddo's son, Tim, who has had serious mental illness since childhood and is often homeless on the streets of San Francisco.

Legislators from six states joined Elaine Ryan, AARP Vice President for Government Affairs State Advocacy and Strategy Integration, to discuss how states are adopting Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Acts to help family caregivers as their loved ones go into the hospital and at they transition home.

Full proceedings of the three-day Medicaid Policy Academy and other resources are posted here in the CSG Knowledge Center.
Source URL: http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/medicaid-funding-critical-services-vulnerable-populations

Links