

**Legislative Briefing: The Decarceration of Transition Age Youth
with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and Mental Disorders:
Responding to an Emerging Problem
Wednesday, May 15th
Lunch Briefing: 12:00 to 1:30 pm
Location: 2043 RHOB**

Dear Colleague:

We wanted to alert you and your staff about a May Mental Health Awareness Month luncheon briefing **on Wednesday, May 15th at 12:00 pm in 2043 RHOB** on The Decarceration of Transition Age Youth with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and Mental Disorders: Responding to an Emerging Problem.

This Briefing will be part of our annual May Mental Health Awareness Month schedule of events. In recent years, increasing numbers of transition age youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and mental illness have become incarcerated in our county and city jails. Although no federal data are available on this issue, the best field estimates are that these youth now represent between 5-10 percent of the jail population. Some of these youth have complex health problems, including mental illness. Most have fallen off the radar of local health and human services programs. Almost all have failed to make the transition from youth to adult services.

This session will outline the issue and its impact, including from a family point of view. Potential solutions will be discussed: Decarceration and diversion of these youth into community services; prevention of incarceration through better outreach and care coordination; and better use of home and community based services.

Sponsors of this briefing include the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD), the National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Sheriffs Association (NSA), the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Benchmark Human Services, and Optum.

To RSVP, please email Neche Nelson at: nnelson@nacbhd.org.

Warm regards,

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Mental Health Caucus

John Katko
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Mental Health Caucus