BEDA CONFERENCE 2012: What an amazing conference!

I am on my way home from the BEDA Conference in Philadelphia. What an amazing conference! I was blessed to be able to take my mom with me. Together we learned so much we have not stopped talking and sharing with family and friends! We learned about the latest research on size stigma in the media and the bullying of large children in schools; how proper therapy can retrain the brain to make better distinctions between hunger and appetite; and how important it is for our medical professionals to learn and understand the concept of Health at Every Size. We even got to hoola hoop with Deb Burgard - and we got Chase Banister and Ralph Carson in on the fun! I met some new amazing people and connected with some old friends. And don’t worry Stacey and Tyler - what happens in Philadelphia, stays in Philadelphia.

Chevese - as always, you are amazing! Thank you for all you do. I am already signing up for next year in Bethesda!

- Lisa

EDC National Lobby Day 2012: Lisa Kantor will join the Eating Disorders Coalition in the trenches

Please join Lisa, and other board members of the Eating Disorder Coalition, as they convene in Washington D.C. April 24, 2012. Here, they will lobby Congress to recognize the public health priority of providing unfettered access to treatment for eating disorders by passing the F.R.E.E.D. Act (the Federal Response to Eliminate Eating Disorders), which will provide funds for prevention programs, research, and
advances in treatment and education. In particular, Congress needs to understand the importance of mandating that health plans pay benefits for treatment, rather than denying coverage and passing the cost to the families of patients.

About 12 million Americans, of all ages and genders, struggle with a life and death battle against an eating disorder, yet they cannot get proper treatment. Many insurance companies deny coverage for treatment of eating disorders, leaving individuals without access to treatment that is essential to their recovery. Individuals with eating disorders fight twice the battle: recovering from their illness, and fighting with their insurance company for access to treatment.

The EDC Needs Your Support

On Lobby Day, individuals are assigned to groups with knowledgeable leaders who help the team members prepare for the day. Each team then meets with selected members of Congress to explain what they can do to help pass the F.R.E.E.D. Act. This advocacy could be a once in a lifetime experience that could change the law and help the millions of Americans struggling with an eating disorder. For more information about how to join a team, log on to http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org/index.htm

About Lisa Kantor

Dealing with, and seeking treatment for eating disorders can be emotionally and financially devastating. When your health insurance company gives you a hard time, or when it denies payment for benefits, matters only go from bad to worse. We can help.

Lisa Kantor represents an increasing number of young women and men suffering from life-threatening eating disorders and dual diagnosis conditions, whose health plans refuse to pay for required treatment on the grounds that such life-saving treatment is "not medically necessary," only necessary at a lower level of care, or is limited by plan terms.

For more information on eating disorders legal assistance, call (800) 446-7529 or click here:

http://www.kantorlaw.net/Areas_of_Practice/Eating_Disorders.aspx


NEDA’s Parent, Family & Friends Webinar Series: March 30th 11:00-1:00 PST

Lisa Kantor, along with Stacey Brown and David Christian, will be presenting for NEDA's Parent, Family & Friends Webinar Series. This presentation will provide valuable information for facility providers/staff, eating disorder professionals, parents, families, and friends.

Log on here to learn:
1. What your insurance company does not what you to know
2. The insurance authorization sequence
3. Common reasons for denial
4. Insurance tricks to watch for
5. When to challenge denials
6. Tips for writing appeals

These guidelines for provides and families will be given with the combined knowledge and perspectives from three different professionals:

Stacey Brown
* Director of Nursing and Utilization Review at Avalon Hills Eating Disorder Treatment Program in Logan, Utah
* Oversees all aspects of insurance pre-certifications, concurrent authorizations, appeals, external reviews, and clinical collaboration with legal counsel when insurance litigation becomes necessary

David Christian
* Clinical Psychologist, Consultant, Avalon Hills Eating Disorders Treatment Program.
* Trains therapists to document patient care in ways that maximize insurance authorization.

Lisa Kantor
* Partner and Founder, Kantor & Kantor LLP
* Litigates insurance coverage issues for eating disorders across the country, addressing issues such as medical necessity and mental health parity.

Lisa Kantor is designated an expert on insurance issues and eating disorders for NEDA’s website

NEDA (National Eating Disorder Association) has invited Lisa Kantor to become part of the organization’s “Ask an Expert” web resource. Ms. Kantor will answer questions about insurance issues and eating disorder treatment and will post her advice about typical insurance situations. She joins a team of experts from the Clinical and Advisory Council who will help people seeking more in-depth information than they currently can find on the website.

The council is comprised of highly respected nationally recognized experts, among whom Ms. Kantor stands out as the nation’s foremost authority on eating disorders and insurance coverage. Ms. Kantor will serve as a resource to NEDA members by providing counsel, guidance, advice and offering support to those who are battling insurance companies.

For more information on “Ask an Expert”, click here.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Where’s Lisa?


Mental Health Parity: What does it Really Mean?

Wednesday, March 21, 2012: 1:00 PM-4:00 PM
Yellow Topaz (The Charleston Marriott)

This presentation will address the impact of the Harlick v. Blue Shield decision on the availability of insurance coverage for those seeking treatment for eating disorders, both in California and across the country. The presentation will also address the role of the federal Mental Health Parity Act.

- Harlick v. Blue Shield: What does it really mean?
- How this decision will help eating disorder patients get insurance coverage for treatment.
- How providers should be using this decision to advocate for coverage for treatment.
- How the decision can be used outside California.

For more information on “Ask an Expert”, click here.
The role of the Mental Health Parity Act: Benefits and Drawbacks.

The possibility for using the Harlick decision in litigation across the country.

On August 26, 2011, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal issued the landmark decision in Harlick v. Blue Shield, holding that the California Mental Health Parity statute requires insurance plans to cover all medically necessary treatment for eating disorders. This presentation will address the impact of this decision on the availability of insurance coverage for those seeking treatment for eating disorders, both in California and across the country. The presentation will also address the role of the Federal Mental Health Parity Act.

Many who suffer from eating disorders need to access their health insurance in order to get treatment. The process of getting an insurance company to cover treatment can be extremely frustrating, as policies have traditionally discriminated against mental health in the breadth and scope of coverage. In response to this discrimination, many states have passed mental health parity statutes. The California statute became effective in 2001 and requires coverage of all medically necessary treatment for certain types of severe mental illnesses, including bulimia and anorexia. This summer, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, in the landmark decision entitled Harlick v. Blue Shield, held that the Blue Shield exclusion of residential treatment violated this statute. This presentation will address how the Harlick decision will help eating disorder patients get insurance coverage for treatment, how providers should be using the decision to advocate for coverage, how the decision can be used outside of California, and how the Federal Mental Health Parity Act impacts the coverage issue.

Established in 1985, the International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals (iaedp) is today well recognized for its excellence in providing first-quality education and high-level training standards to an international multidisciplinary group of various healthcare treatment providers and helping professions, who treat the full spectrum of eating disorder problems.

Register here

4/24/12: Lisa will join the EDC, and other board members, at National Lobby Day in Washington D.C. This event is open to the public. You don't need to have experience with eating disorders or lobbying to be an advocate.

There is power in numbers, and the EDC needs your support.

Watch this inspirational video to learn what Lobby day is all about:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Srrfb8FQ6feature-player_embedded

For more information on how to join a team, click here:
http://www.eatingdisorderscoalition.org/index.htm

5/3-5/5/2012: Presentation for ICED 2012 International Conference on Eating Disorders. The ICED is the primary gathering place for professionals and advocates engaged in research, treatment and prevention of eating disorders. Each year, ICED attendees, faculty, supporters and exhibitors create a unique, inspiring and intensive environment for education, training, collaboration and dialogue.

Register here
May 2012: Lisa joins Avalon Hills for Family Week

Avalon Hills hosts a family retreat at different times during the year that includes nearly all the families of their current patients.

5/21/2012: Presentation and visit with Oliver-Pyatt

Oliver-Pyatt is a comprehensive treatment center located in South Miami for women with anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorders, and exercise addiction.

Their facility offers a gorgeous home-like environment with:
- 24 hour residential & 12 hour PHP
- Transitional living
- Intensive outpatient
- Food and exercise programs

Click here for more information on the facility.

SUPPORT, INSPIRATION, INFORMATION

Andrea’s Voice

Eating Disorder Information
Eating Disorders Blog: Advice for Parents

Someday Melissa

Someday Melissa is a story of an eating disorder, loss, and hope. Melissa’s mother, Judy Avrin, has become a crusader in raising awareness and connecting with others in a very personal way. A daughter’s voice is expressed through her mother, with the intent of helping others who struggle with the illness and exposing the truth about eating disorders.

This film has been accepted into the 2012 California Independent Film Festival, and is being recognized for its unusual, powerful, and extraordinary expression of love.
WHAT WE DO

Dealing with, and seeking treatment for eating disorders can be emotionally and financially devastating. When your health insurance company gives you a hard time, or when it denies payment for treatment, you may not know where to turn.

WE CAN HELP.

Kantor & Kantor represents young women and men suffering from life-threatening eating disorders and dual diagnosis conditions, whose health plans refuse to pay for required treatment on the grounds that such life-saving treatment is “not medically necessary,” only necessary at a lower level of care, or is limited by plan terms.

Kantor & Kantor is one of the most experienced and highly respected law firms dealing with the prosecution of claims against insurance companies. We represent clients whose insurance companies have failed or refused to pay claims arising out of Disability, Health, Life, Long Term Care and other liability insurance claims.

“Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.”
- Harriet Beecher Stowe

From the trenches,

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