

Enter the 3rd Annual Mental Health Reporting Contest

The Washington State Coalition to Improve Mental Health Reporting is now accepting submissions for its 2011-2012 competition to honor outstanding media coverage of mental health issues. The statewide award acknowledges even-handed, accurate journalism that improves the public's understanding of mental illnesses, treatment, prevention, criminal justice, suicide or a related issue. The final submission deadline is May 7, 2012.



All Washington state journalists are eligible for the third annual Mental Health Reporting Award. A \$500 first place award will be presented during the 23rd annual Washington Behavioral Healthcare Conference, "Making a Difference in Difficult Times," June 20-22 in Yakima. In addition to the cash award, all expenses will be paid for the winner to attend the awards ceremony.

Entries may include columns, investigative articles, editorials, broadcast segments, straight news, features and series. Journalists can submit their own work or be nominated by a colleague or member of the community. The submission must have been published (online or in print) or broadcast between May 1, 2011, and April 30, 2012, and will be judged according to how well it:

- Clarifies public understanding of issues experienced by people living with mental health challenges;
- Conveys hope, recovery, and resiliency in the lives of people with mental illnesses;
- Sheds light on the importance of mental health/illness and its treatment in the community;
- Uses language and descriptions that accurately reflect mental health/illness, including in the headline and other graphic elements.

Entries should be submitted by email to mhreport@u.washington.edu no later than 5 p.m. Monday, May 7. Please include a link to the entry, the headline, name, address and contact information for the journalist(s) involved, the name of the news organization and the date the piece first appeared. If a publicly accessible link is not available, send the entry via e-mail attachment (ideally, showing original presentation). The finalists will be judged by a statewide online vote by coalition members.

There is no entry fee.

For more information, contact Sue Lockett John, at suej@uw.edu or visit the mentalhealthreporting.org website.