

Dear BHACA Community,

BHACA Blast #18 Headlines:

- **Upcoming BHACA Event: “Behavioral Health Screening in Primary Care Settings”**
Date & Time: Friday, September 19, 2014, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Presented by: Stacy Ogbeide, PsyD, a Behavioral Health Consultant with Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston.
Registration: by Wednesday, September 17th (or until event is full).
- **This week’s featured outcome measure is the ANSA, The Adults Needs and Strengths Assessment.** Find more information below in the Outcome-Based Evaluation section.

All best,
The BHACA Team

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NBHP website – www.nbhp.org
MHA website – www.mhahouston.org

BHACA: Integrated Health Care (IHC)

- **Archived Webinar from Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) – Making Apps and Web-based Tools Part of Your Integrated Behavioral Health Team** - To access the archived recording and slides, please go to <http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/> and scroll down to “Webinars.”
- **August Edition of the AIMS Center “Collaborations” Newsletter – highlighting the role of consulting psychiatrists** – The August edition of the AIM Center’s e-newsletter is now available: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=572a0dfcaff6e8a35be0ffb5c&id=34196a4ad3&e=a99c70362e>.
Note – We will also be discussing the consulting psychiatry model at the September 19 event, and, if the interest is there, we will explore how we might implement this model in our community. [Click here](#) for September 19 event info.
- **New Online Course – Introduction to SBIRT for Adolescents** – The Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA) has recently released this free course (including CEUs!) available at http://ireta.org/adolescentsbirtcourse?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=em

[ail&utm_campaign=IRETA&utm_content=](#). (As well: A blog entry by SAMHSA reinforcing the value of SBIRT can be found [here](#).)

BHACA: Choosing a Certified Electronic Health Record System

- **White Paper – The Current State of Sharing Behavioral Health Information in Health Information Exchanges** – Of note, CMBHS is profiled as a case study on page 21. To access, please go to http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/operations-administration/HIE_paper_FINAL.pdf/.
- **Webinar – Assessing the Impact of Health Information Technology Initiatives in Health Care (by the HPOE – Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence)**
Date & Time: Wednesday, September 10, 10:00 to 11:00 AM Central time (9:00 to 10:00 AM Mountain time)
To register [click here](#).
- **Webinar: Health IT Safety: Progress Made and Challenges Ahead**
Date & Time: Friday, September 19 at 12:00 p.m. CST
To register:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3493278544409102593>
Description: It has been one year since the *ONC Health IT Safety Action and Surveillance Plan* was published. The plan promotes using health IT to improve the safety of healthcare and the safe use of health IT. Please join us for a webinar to review significant work in health IT safety this past year. Attendees of this webinar will learn how EHRs are making a positive impact on the quality and safety of patient care and understand the type of health IT related safety events and available interventions to prevent their occurrence

BHACA: Maximizing Third Party Funding Streams – Insurance Credentialing and Billing & Coding Resources

- **A great report that shows a model of payment reform post ACA, as it applies here to patient-centered medical homes (PCMHs), but potentially as it could be replicated for other payment reform agendas: Aligning Payers and Practices to Transform Primary Care: A Report from the Multi-State Collaborative** – The Milbank Memorial Fund recently released this report which describes the work of 17 states over the last 5 years in using payment reform to help move primary care towards the patient-centered medical home model. You may access PDFs of the Executive Summary as well as of the full report at <http://www.milbank.org/publications/milbank-reports>.

BHACA: Outcome-Based Evaluation

- **BHACA Blast #18: Featured Outcome Measure – ANSA - The Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment**

- **What is the ANSA?**

The Adults Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) is a multi-purpose tool developed to support care planning and level of care decision-making, to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services. The ANSA assessment tool is designed to provide a profile of the needs and strengths of the individual and family. It was developed from a communication perspective so as to facilitate the linkage between the assessment process and the design of individualized service plans including the application of evidence-based practices.

- **What does it measure?**

The ANSA works in a way that each item suggests different pathways for service planning. There are eight dimensions of needs and strengths that are measured, and they include:

1. Risk Behaviors
2. Behavioral Health Needs
3. Life Domain Functioning
4. Family/Caregiver Strengths and Needs
5. Strengths
6. Culture
7. Psychiatric Hospitalization
8. Crisis History

- When the ANSA is administered, each of the dimensions is rated on its own 4-point scale after the initial intake interview.
- Particular questions that receive a high rating within the Risk Behaviors, Behavioral Health Needs and Life Domain Functioning categories will lead to an extension module that will further evaluate the individual and their needs.

- **For which populations/age(s) is the ANSA appropriate?**

The ANSA is for adults 18 years of age and older.

- **How is it administered?**

The care coordinator or other service provider should read the anchor descriptions for each dimension then record the appropriate rating on the ANSA assessment form. (Note: If you are using the ANSA as part of a mandate from a Texas state agency, certification is required to perform the ANSA. See training and certification dates on the Texas Centralized Training website. <http://patriot.uthscsa.edu/cttesting/>)

- **Tell me more about the ANSA in Texas?**

The ANSA replaced the TRAG for assessing **needs, strengths, and level of care** beginning September 1, 2013, as part of the [Texas Resilience and Recovery \(TRR\)](#) division of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division (MHSA) of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

- **A note about BHACA's Featured Outcome Measures**
Our intention is to expand awareness of and knowledge about existing outcome measures within the BHACA community. In featuring a measure, we do not mean to endorse it as the right fit for your practice, because the appropriateness of a measure for any one behavioral health practice must be evaluated with that specific practice in mind. We hope you enjoy our featured outcome measures section!
- **To access a growing list of measures we are compiling, along with brief summaries,** visit [BHACA's outcomes page](#) on the NBHP website.

- **Create a "Culture of Evaluation":** An approach that gets all staff enthused about collecting good information and making data-based improvements. Here are some ways to go about that:
 - Involve all appropriate staff in the development of evaluation
 - Have staff regularly review, discuss, and act on evaluation findings
 - Board members and top leadership must own and act on the evaluation findings
 - Click here for more information
http://www.fieldstonealliance.org/client/tools_you_can_use/06-20-07_evaluation_culture.cfm

BHACA: Additional Items of General Interest

- **From the Texas Behavioral Health Institute Conference in mid-July,** many handouts and PowerPoints have been uploaded, which can be accessed [here](#).

About BHACA: The Behavioral Health Affordable Care Act (BHACA) Initiative is a major collaborative endeavor of the Network of Behavioral Health Providers (NBHP) and Mental Health America of Greater Houston (MHA) designed to support Greater Houston area mental health and substance use providers in responding to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and other recent healthcare reforms across four domains: (1) enhancing and increasing the delivery of integrated health care (IHC), (2) maximizing third party funding streams revenue, (3) adopting certified electronic health

record (EHR) systems, and (4) developing outcome-based evaluations. The BHACA Initiative is generously funded by Houston Endowment Inc., The Meadows Foundation and United Way of Greater Houston Community Response Fund.