

Dear BHACA Community,

BHACA Blast #52 Headlines:

BHACA Event: please join us for a peer networking group for clinicians, students, and administrators to support each other toward Primary Care and Behavioral Health Integration:

Event Title: Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health Networking Group of Greater Houston

Date: Friday, February 5, 2016

Time: 2:30pm to 4:00pm

To Learn More and to RSVP: [Click here](#)

We are very pleased to introduce a new member to the BHACA team. Tracey Greenup is our new BHACA Program Manager, coming to us with a Master's of Science in Clinical Practice Management from Texas Tech. Most recently she has been at UTMB Galveston where she served as business coordinator for one of the medical departments. That work provided her with hands on experience in credentialing MDs, managing the department financials, working with the hospital's EHR, and coordinating major events. Needless to say, Tracey's background will serve her and us well as she joins us on the BHACA journey.

Happy New Year!

The BHACA Team

Marion Coleman, NBHP Executive Director (nbhp.marion@gmail.com)

Alejandra Posada, MHA IHC Program Director (aposada@mhahouston.org)

Tracey Greenup, Program Manager (nbhp.tracey@gmail.com)

Lauren Pursley, Program Coordinator (lpursley@mhahouston.org)

NBHP website – www.nbhp.org

MHA website – www.mhahouston.org

BHACA: Integrated Health Care (IHC)

- ***HRSA Webinar – Integrating Behavioral Health Training into Primary Care – Clinical Tools for Behavioral Health Integration***

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 1:00 – 2:30 PM Central time (12:00 – 1:30 PM Mountain time)

To Register: [Click here](#)

Presenters: Alexander F. Ross, Sc.D., Office of Planning, Evaluation and Analysis;
Febe Wallace, MD, Director, Primary Care Services, Cherokee Health Systems;
Parinda Khatri, PhD, Chief Clinical Officer, Cherokee Health Systems

Description:

This webinar will give an overview of clinical tools for behavioral health integration.

- ***Article – “Connecting Behavioral Health Data and Primary Care”*** – This article from *Behavioral Healthcare* magazine discusses the current state of and challenges in sharing behavioral health data via a Health Information Exchange (HIE).

The experiences of two Colorado HIEs are highlighted. To view the article, please [click here](#).

- ***Two Articles on the Future of Integrated Care*** – The following two articles from *Behavioral Healthcare* magazine both address the question of where integrated care is headed and what challenges and opportunities lie ahead.
 - ***“Your iPhone is obsolete and so is integration as we know it”*** – This brief piece by Linda Rosenberg of the National Council for Behavioral Health addresses changes in the financial landscape; the primacy of customer convenience; the importance of data collection and analysis; and the power of technology. To read, [click here](#).
 - ***“Behavioral health’s future includes integration challenges”*** – This article discusses the future of behavioral health in terms of integrated care as well as operationalization and new technology application. To read, [click here](#).

BHACA: Choosing a Certified Electronic Health Record System

- ***ONC publishes interoperability specs for 2016***
The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has recently published an 80 page Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA) meant to catalog existing and emerging standards and specifications for specific interoperability needs – from lab tests to medications to imaging and beyond. As the new year dawns, stakeholders should expect more and more-detailed interoperability guidance from ONC.
For more information: [Click here](#)
- ***The 2015 Information Technology Vendor Survey***
Behavioral Healthcare has published their annual Information Technology Vendor Survey. Newly included in the survey is information regarding which products now offer the new ASAM Criteria Tool interface.
For more information (and free download): [Click here](#)
- ***Bill expanding meaningful use hardship exemptions passes in Congress***
A blanket hardship exception from 2015's meaningful use reimbursement penalties passed both the House and Senate last month as part of the Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act, offering providers wider latitude for securing exemptions from possible fines. To protect themselves from penalties that would be assessed in 2017, eligible professionals must apply for exemptions by March 15, 2016, hospitals by April 1.
For more information: [Click here](#)

BHACA: Maximizing Third Party Funding Streams Revenue—Resources Related to Insurance Billing and Credentialing

- ***Webinar - Outcomes will Determine Income: The Impact of Shifting Reimbursement on Behavioral Health***
Date & Time: Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 12:00 PM Central time
Presented by: Dr. Bill Bithoney

Description:

Dr. Bill Bithoney will review the tectonic shifts in reimbursement for Behavioral Healthcare under the Affordable Care Act. He will also discuss the clinical requirements which insurers and CMS are putting in place in order for BH organizations to receive reimbursement for the care they provide. In the future, insurers will only pay for care which is “evidence based.” Of interest and import is that there is a strong movement afoot to pay for proven telemedicine-based care as well as computerized interventions based in cognitive behavioral therapy. Dr. Bithoney will also discuss the movement to so-called “Value Based Care” wherein patient outcomes and measured quality metrics will have a major impact on provider payment and overall income. In this webinar, Dr. Bithoney will also review the recent increase in merger and acquisition activity in the field.

To Register: [Click here](#)

- ***Webinar –Alternative Payment Models (APMs) Framework White Paper***

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Central time

Presenters: Anne Gauthier, LAN Project Leader, CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare; Sam Nussbaum, MD, Executive Vice President, Clinical Health Policy and Chief Medical Officer at Anthem, Inc. & Chair, APM FPT Work Group

Description:

The Health Care Payment Learning & Action Network (LAN) is a large, national collaborative of public and private stakeholders working to move health care payments towards alternative payment models (APMs). The LAN’s APM Framework and Tracking Progress (APM FPT) Work Group recently released and requested comments on a draft white paper. During this webinar, Sam Nussbaum, APM FPT Work Group chair, will summarize the comments received and provide an overview of how they were incorporated into the final paper. The webinar will also feature case studies that exemplify categories in the APM Framework.

To Register: [Click here](#)

- ***Open enrollment for Jan. 1 coverage ends; More than 1 million sign up during last week***

During the 2015 Open Enrollment period for Healthcare.gov over 4 million people signed up for health insurance. Of the 1.5 million registrants during the final week of Open Enrollment 500,000 were new consumers.

For more information: [Click here](#)

- ***More and younger consumers sign up through HealthCare.gov***

By December 17, about 2.1 million Healthcare.gov consumers under the age of 35 had enrolled, compared to 1.1 million the year before. Those under 35 compose 35 percent of consumers this year, compared to 33 percent last year. More young consumers under the age of 35 are also signing up for the first time: 980,000 this year compared to about 670,000 last year.

For more information: [Click here](#)

- ***Payers must change dynamic with providers to survive in the post-Affordable Care Act world***

Finding the path to success in the post-Affordable Care Act world of healthcare represents a great opportunity and challenge for payer organizations. Part of that journey is changing the relationship dynamic between payers and providers. In the era of guaranteed issue and value-based reimbursement, payers and providers are increasingly aligned around the same goal: getting patients/members just the right amount of care at just the right time to get the best outcome for the best cost.

For more information: [Click here](#)

- ***CMS' 90/10 ruling: increasing funds for Medicaid IT***

CMS recently passed the 90/10 final rule, extending the 2011 regulation on federal funding for Medicaid Eligibility systems. The ruling is just one of the latest efforts by CMS to support states attempting to modernize and develop more effective Medicaid IT systems. Specifically, federal funding is increased from 50 to 90 percent for new eligibility and enrollment systems and Medicaid Management Information Systems.

For more information: [Click here](#)

BHACA: Additional Items of General Interest

- ***Call for Presentations – Texas Behavioral Health Institute 2016***

Deadline to Submit: Friday, January 8, 2016

Theme: Transforming Texas: Connecting the Dots of Behavioral Health

For More Information: [Click here](#)

Description:

As part of their effort to communicate and educate on ways to partner with people in recovery from mental health and substance abuse disorders, DSHS encourages presentations that promote the integration of the behavioral health system both in terms of mental health/substance abuse and behavioral health/primary care. Sessions should help promote individual, program, and system-level approaches that foster health, resilience and recovery; increase permanent housing, employment, education, and other necessary supports; and reduce barriers to social inclusion. DSHS is especially interested in offering sessions across these domains that focus on cultural competency. Prospective session topics should highlight the overarching continuum of care and will ideally coordinate with one of the tracks listed below. Topics should address prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery solutions. *Tracks:*

- Innovative Behavioral Health Practices
- Recovery & Recovery Supports
- Prevention & Promotion
- Special Populations
- Workforce Development/Workforce Competency
- Integrated Approaches to Healthy Living
- Co-Occurring Challenges
- Trauma-Informed Care

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 the United Way of Greater Houston Community Response Fund and the Rockwell Fund.