

Dear BHACA Community,

**BHACA Blast #63 Headlines:**

We are pleased to announce that we have been accepted to take part in the [National Quality Forum Incubator Workgroups](#). The NQF Incubator is made up of a Data & Testing workgroup and a Partnership & Collaboration workgroup. BHACA staff will be participating in the web conferences for both groups and will report in the Blast any new emerging issues/changes.

All the best,

The BHACA Team

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NBHP website – [www.nbhp.org](http://www.nbhp.org)

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**BHACA: Integrated Health Care (IHC)**

- ***Substance Use Training Opportunities*** – The SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions has recently compiled information on substance use training opportunities on a dedicated page on their website. To view, please [click here](#).
- ***Reminder – Webinar – Creating Greater Family Resilience to Better Support Our Patients***  
**Date & Time:** Tuesday, June 14, 1:00 PM Central time  
**To Register:** [Click here](#)  
**Organizer:** Collaborative Family Healthcare Association  
**Presenters:** Barry J. Jacobs, PsyD, Director of Behavioral Sciences, Crozer-Keystone Family Medicine Residency; Hyun Hong, DO, Family Physician, Leadership Preventive Medicine Resident, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center & Concord Hospital  
**Description:**  
With an aging U.S. population and a rising incidence of chronic illnesses, family caregivers are playing an increasingly essential role as the front-line troops of American healthcare. Yet our patient-centric hospital and outpatient systems and ambivalent provider attitudes often seem to marginalize family members. This webinar will provide a brief history of the family caregiving movement, identify systemic barriers to including family members on the integrated care team, and describe one microsystem's innovative approach to supporting the patient-caregiver dyad as the most effective unit of care.
- ***Webinar – Engage and Activate Your Clients with WHAM and MI!***  
**Date & Time:** Wednesday, June 29, 2:00 PM Central time

**To Register:** [Click here](#)

**Organizer:** National Council for Behavioral Health

**Description:**

We know change is tough. And becoming healthier often involves changing routine behaviors, which can be difficult even for those with incredible willpower. We need the tools and skills to guide clients toward planning for, implementing, and sustaining the types of changes in their everyday lives that help them become healthier. That's why the National Council is combining two proven interventions - Whole Health Action Management (WHAM) and Motivational Interviewing (MI) – to give person-centered planning and activation toward change for our clients a major boost! WHAM - developed by SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions - helps individuals develop person-centered goals based on 10 science-based whole health and resiliency factors, focusing on what's strong rather than what's wrong, and breaking goals into small weekly successes supported by peers. Motivational Interviewing is an evidence-based collaborative, person-centered, guiding method designed to elicit and strengthen motivation for change, and movement toward achieving goals. Whether you are addressing diabetes management, smoking, medication adherence, or other health behaviors and conditions among the clients you serve, the WHAM/MI approach will bring you the very best in skills to engage and activate clients, and help them develop concrete goals toward sustainable change.

**BHACA: Choosing a Certified Electronic Health Record System**

- ***HHS and ONC post transparency data to make buying EHRs easier:*** National Coordinator Karen DeSalvo, MD, announced that the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT would post information for making certified electronic health record software less confusing. "This is to put plain language out there for providers wanting to purchase health IT," DeSalvo said. "This is a way to let folks know what they are purchasing and allow for a more transparent marketplace." DeSalvo added that many EHR vendors agreed to support the initiative and are moving to be more transparent via the site. To read more, please [click here](#). To view the site, please [click here](#).
- ***ONC and CMS: We're at a critical inflection point for EHRs, interoperability:*** With nearly half of hospitals sharing patient data with outside providers, Patrick Conway, MD, chief medical officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said the nation is moving into the next stage: where patients consistently and reliably have access to their own data that drives better outcomes. For ONC's part, Washington explained that ONC and the Department of Health and Human Services are working toward delivery system reform in a three-tiered approach: changing how doctors are paid, improving the way care is delivered to patients and building an infrastructure that enables good data to flow among providers in the healthcare system. To view, please [click here](#).
- ***ONC chief Karen DeSalvo: Time to change the culture of interoperability and health data sharing:*** National Coordinator Karen DeSalvo, MD, said now is the time to build on widespread EHR adoption. The healthcare industry, having reached near universal adoption of electronic health records, is at the beginning of a

journey, she said, speaking at ONC's Annual Meeting on May 31. That adoption rate DeSalvo referred to is nine times more than it was in 2008, before the passage of the HITECH Act that funded the meaningful use program, according to research ONC published. To view, please [click here](#).

- ***MACRA gives healthcare a fresh start for EHR interoperability, AMA President Steven Stack says:*** Organizations are responding to ONC's request for comments on interoperability for MACRA, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. "The lack of interoperability is one of the major reasons why the promise of electronic health records has not been fulfilled," AMA President Steven Stack, MD, wrote in a statement. "Vendors have been incentivized to meet the flawed benchmarks under the Meaningful Use program. We need to replace those benchmarks with ones that focus on better coordinated care. MACRA offers that opportunity and we need to take advantage of it." Instead of using data exchange as the metric for measuring interoperability, Stack urges CMS to focus on usefulness, timeliness, correctness and completeness of data, as well as the ease and cost of information access. Stack explained that approach would benefit patients more than counting how many times voluminous documents are sent back and forth. To view, please [click here](#).

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

- ***Mental healthcare leads sector in spending, tops \$201 billion a year, study says:*** A new study from the Center for Sustainable Health Spending claims that mental healthcare eats up significantly more healthcare spending than any other industry sector, to the tune of \$201 billion annually. When factoring in institutionalized patients, mental health eclipses heart conditions, pulmonary diseases and cancer in terms of costliness, according to the study published in Health Affairs. To view, please [click here](#).

#### **BHACA: Outcome-Based Evaluation**

- ***Return of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA):*** The enhanced Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA) is back online with new features and a new URL. Users are encouraged to explore all of the files available for public use, which include new and updated series data. In late summer 2016, the SAMHDA website will add a user-friendly, online analysis tool. Users will be able to create cross-tabs and perform logistic regression, chi-square tests, and t-tests from their web browsers. They will also be able to download output and underlying data in .csv format. In early winter 2016, approved researchers will be able to access restricted-use data through a secure data portal. To view, please [click here](#).

#### **Additional Items of General Interest**

- ***Webinar – Substance Use and Trauma: Policy Challenges and Solutions***  
**Date & Time:** Friday, June 24, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Central time

**To Register:** [Click here](#)

**Organizer:** The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Learning Center for Child and Adolescent Trauma

**Presenters:** Holly Merbaum Strain, MPH, Capitol Decisions, Inc.; Norma Finkelstein, PhD, Institute for Health and Recovery; Lisa Suarez, PhD, Urban Youth Trauma Center: Treatment Collaborative for Trauma and Violence, University of Illinois at Chicago; Joanne Peterson, Founder, Learn to Cope; moderated by Diane Elmore, PhD, MPH, UCLA-Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress

**Description:**

Trauma exposure is common among youth and families experiencing substance use problems, and having both problems leads to greater need and impairment. Given the strong link between trauma and substance use, national policy efforts to address substance use must be trauma informed. This webinar will provide an overview of several national policy challenges and solutions in the area of trauma and substance use. Experts will highlight recently enacted and pending federal policy proposals to address substance use issues across the lifespan; discuss the substance use policy challenges facing child trauma practitioners assisting children, youth, and families; and discuss the work of the NCTSN and its Trauma and Substance Abuse Collaborative Group to address these important issues. The experiences and policy-relevant recommendations of a family caregiver familiar with substance use issues will also be highlighted.

**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.