

Dear BHACA Community,

Wishing you an observant [National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month](#) this July!

BHACA Blast #15 Headlines:

- We are very pleased to introduce a **new BHACA team member, Jessica Cohen**, who joins our team as an **Evaluation Specialist** with her background as a Master of Science in Applied Sociology. Jessica will help us to evaluate the outcomes of the BHACA Initiative as well as support our programming. We are very happy to have Jessica join us! Jessica can be reached by email at nbhp.jessica@gmail.com.
- **This week's featured outcome measure is the BERS-2.** Read below to find a quote from Dr. Toni Watt describing in which circumstances she might recommend the BERS-2!
- **How has the [National Quality Strategy \(NQS\)](#) under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act evolved since the ACA was passed in 2010?** To read more about how the NQS is increasingly defining standards for healthcare, please read below in our outcome-based evaluation section.
- Please note Elizabeth's primary email address has been changed to nbhp.elizabeth@gmail.com (all mail sent to Elizabeth's former account, nbhp.bhaca@gmail.com, will forward to this new email address).

All best,
The BHACA Team

Marion Coleman, NBHP Executive Director (nbhp.marion@gmail.com)
Alejandra Posada, MHA IHC Project Director (aposada@mhahouston.org)
Elizabeth Reed, Assistant Project Manager (nbhp.elizabeth@gmail.com)
Jessica Cohen, Evaluation Specialist (nbhp.jessica@gmail.com)
Yvonne Mendoza, Project Assistant (ymendoza@mhahouston.org)

BHACA: Integrated Health Care (IHC)

- **IHC courses are being rapidly deployed across [28 schools of social work](#) through The Social Work and Integrated Care Project**, a partnership initiative to infuse integrated behavioral health and primary care in master's level social work education. The initiative began as a collaborative project between the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work and has continued with leadership from the National Council for Behavioral Health. Many helpful resources can be found through their [website](#), including **master's level clinical social work syllabus for IHC**, and **master's level policy social work syllabus for IHC**. This [website](#) offers

refreshers on everything from models of IHC, to funding for IHC, to recommendations for clinical screening and assessment within integrated health care settings.

- **Center for Health Care Services Webinar – Behavioral Health Super-Utilizers**
Date & Time: Wednesday, August 6, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Central time
To Register: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/971470618>
Description: The Center for Health Care Services (CHCS), the Community Mental Health Authority/Center for Bexar County, has developed an integrated team model to identify and serve "super-utilizers" with behavioral health conditions that lead to frequent unnecessary emergency department (ED) visits and inpatient hospitalizations. Since the inception of the program 18 months ago the CHCS team's work is resulting in significant reductions in ED and inpatient utilization. Preliminary data and lessons learned to date will be shared in this informative presentation.
- **SBIRT in Action Webinars** – The Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA) is offering a series of "SBIRT in Action" webinars during 2014. SBIRT, which stands for Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment, can be a great way to begin to integrate substance use services in a variety of settings. The "SBIRT in Action" webinars are "an implementation series that examines the use of SBIRT in a variety of settings, describes various ways the SBIRT process can be designed, shares lessons learned, and reviews obstacles and opportunities for SBIRT." For information on upcoming webinars in the series, please see <http://ireta.org/webinars>.

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

- **Looking Ahead: Preparing for ICD-10 and DSM V transitions:** "Finding ways of integrating the least possible disruption into their workflows, whether or not you have an EHR, will require a collaborative approach by everyone. As some of my organizational clients know, I put the psychiatrists and the coders in the same training class. Why? Everyone needs to learn the new way of the ICD-10 and the new coding/documentation rules...The point? It's better to learn ICD-10, truly understand the impact and what it means, and get used to it rather than trying to change an entire organizational culture at the last minute," – *Behavioral Healthcare* magazine

BHACA: Outcome-Based Evaluation

- **"4 Tips for Measuring Outcomes Instead of Activities"** by Jason Saul in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*
- **Remind me, what is the National Quality Strategy, and more importantly how has it developed since it was first introduced?**

- **The Players: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) called for a National Quality Strategy, and tasked the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to:**
 - **Identify critical areas for quality improvement**
 - **Set goals**
 - **Select measures (for use in federal programs)**
- **Three Aims: You'll notice (or remember) that the National Quality Strategy's 3 goals overlap with the IHI Triple Aim that we hear so much about:**
 - **Better Care:** Improve the overall quality, by making health care more patient-centered, reliable, accessible, and safe.
 - **Healthy People/Healthy Communities:** Improve the health of the U.S. population by supporting proven interventions to address behavioral, social, and environmental determinants of health in addition to delivering higher-quality care.
 - **Affordable Care:** Reduce the cost of quality health care for individuals, families, employers, and government.
- **Quiz yourself:** what is the one "disease" currently named explicitly in the **six priorities** of the National Quality Strategy? (Answer: cardiovascular disease.)
- **What nine health conditions has the National Quality Strategy's HHS Measurement Quality Strategy reviewed to date?**
 - **Answer:** "hypertension control, hospital-acquired conditions/patient safety, HCAHPs, smoking cessation, depression screening and care coordination, HIV/AIDS, perinatal, and obesity/BMI" (Link to [source](#).)
- **BHACA Blast #15: Featured Outcome Measure – BERS-2** (Behavioral and Emotional Rating Scale)
 - **Interviews with Community Members re. the BERS-2:** Dr. Toni Watt, Professor of Sociology at Texas State University, details why she would recommend the BERS-2 for outcome-based evaluation in certain clinical settings, "After a review of the literature, I felt that this would be an excellent tool for assessing and tracking child/adolescent well-being. The rationale was that the BERS-2 is a strengths based instrument. Most instruments that measure child/adolescent outcomes focus on identifying deficits and pathologies. However, calls have been made to switch to instruments which capture strengths and areas of need. The BERS-2 is one of the few instruments that does that, is brief (10 minutes), and has demonstrated reliability and validity. The instrument is suitable for children age 5-18. It is also an efficient way to track progress over time or the effect of interventions on overall well-being rather than using multiple instruments for different disorders (e.g. ADHD, depression, anxiety, PTSD)."
 - **What is the BERS-2?** The BERS-2 (Behavioral and Emotional Rating Scale, second edition) is a strengths-focused outcome measure for designed for children (from 0 to 5 up to 11 to 18).

- **What does it measure?** “The BERS-2 is a measure of strengths and competencies for children covering the domains of Interpersonal Strength, Family Involvement, Intrapersonal Strength, School Functioning and Affective Strength.”
- **For which populations/age(s) is the BERS-2 appropriate?** The BERS-2 is appropriate for clients in the age range from 0 to 5 years to 11 to 18 years. This measure is designed for use in schools, mental health clinics, juvenile justice settings, and child welfare agencies.
- **How is it administered?** The BERS-2 is a multi-modal assessment system that measures the child's behavior from three perspectives: the child (Youth Rating Scale), parent (Parent Rating Scale), and teacher or other professional (Teacher Rating Scale).
- **How long does it take to complete the measure?** “The scale can be completed in approximately 10 minutes.”
- **Can I get the BERS-2 in other languages?** The BERS-2 is currently available in English and Spanish, but the rating for the measure is based solely on the English version of the measure.
- **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!