

Dear BHACA Community,

We hope that you, and the clients you serve, are managing to stay dry, safe, and well in spite of all the flooding and rain! If you are not busy draining your boat, we would like to invite you to several upcoming BHACA events! We also want to share with you our usual every-other-week resources on health reform (further below).

BHACA Blast #37 Headlines:

Thursday, June 11: EHR and Health IT Security Training

Title: Safe Electronic Data: Managing Behavioral Health Client Confidentiality in the Age of Electronic Health Record Systems (EHRs), Health Information Exchanges (HIEs), and Coordinated Care

Presenters: Phil Beckett, PhD, CTO, Greater Houston Healthconnect, healthcare technologist; Mike Eber, JD, MPH, Principal of The Eber Law Firm, PLLC, healthcare attorney.

Location: Jewish Family Service (4131 South Braeswood Boulevard).

Date & Time: Thursday, June 11, 2015, 9:00am to 11:00am (registration opens at 8:30am).

Registration Link: www.nbhp.org/safe-electronic-data.html

CEUs: 2 hours of CEUs will be available for licensed social workers, LPCs, LMFTs, and LCDCs.

Registration Limits: As space is limited, registration will be accommodated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please plan on arriving no later than 8:20 as parking will be limited. Street parking available along Linkwood Drive if lot is full.

Friday, June 19: Primary Care/Behavioral Health Integration Peer Networking Group

Title: Primary Care/Behavioral Health Integration Peer Networking Group

Location: Mental Health America of Greater Houston (2211 Norfolk, Suite 810)

Date & Time: Friday, June 19, 2015, 2:30pm to 4:00pm

Honoring Our Collaborators: Thanks to collaboration from Harris County Healthcare Alliance and Stacy Ogbeide, PsyD, Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston.

Registration: www.mhahouston.org/events/426/

Registration Limits: As space is limited, registration will be accommodated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Wednesday, June 24: Austin or Bust!—Billing, Collecting and Credentialing Classes

Title: Billing, Collecting, and Credentialing for Behavioral Health—in Austin!

Location: LifeWorks, Inc. (East Austin Resource Center, 835 N Pleasant Valley Rd, Austin, TX 78702)

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 24, 2015, full day of training (8:30am to 4:45pm).

Honoring Our Collaborators: Thanks to MHMRA of Harris County, LifeWorks, Inc., St. David's Foundation, and Beacon Health Options, for working with the BHACA team (Network of Behavioral Health Providers and Mental Health America of Greater Houston) to make this day of training possible!

Additional Information: <http://www.nbhp.org/behavioral-health-billing--in-austin.html>

Thank you for reading our BHACA email blast.

All best,

The BHACA Team

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NBHP website – www.nbhp.org

MHA website – www.mhahouston.org

BHACA: Integrated Health Care (IHC)

- ***Integrated Care Sessions at the Texas Primary Care and Health Home Summit*** – The concept of a “health home” implies meeting a patient’s whole health needs, including his/her behavioral health needs. Therefore, although the Texas Primary Care and Health Home Summit is focused on primary care, some sessions will address integrated health care topics, including the following:
 - **“Integrating Behavioral Health into Primary Care,”** presented by Ken Minkoff, MD (*Note: BHACA staff have had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Minkoff several times and believe that this will be a very valuable session!*)
 - **“Update on the 1115 Texas Healthcare Transformation Waiver: Integrating Behavioral Health Services into Primary Care Settings,”** presented by Madhukar Trivedi, MD, Craig Kovacevich, and Katherine Sanchez, LMSW, PhD (moderator)

The conference will take place in **San Antonio** on **June 18 and 19**. For more information, please [click here](#).

- ***New Edition of Collaborations*** – The latest edition of the AIMS Center’s online newsletter, *Collaborations*, focuses on the role of the primary care provider in collaborative care. To read the newsletter, please [click here](#).

BHACA: Choosing a Certified Electronic Health Record System

- **Comments due May 29th re. Stage 3 of Meaningful Use.** Review the proposed rulemaking on **Stage 3**. Submit public comments electronically at regulations.gov. Learn more about this proposed rule through a CMS webinar: Subject matter experts from CMS and ONC provided an overview of the CMS **Stage 3** and ONC **2015 Certification Criteria** proposed rules.
 - **PDF Presentation**
 - **Webinar Recording** (Recording ID: 8BRPG4; Key: eHealth)

- **Comments due May 29th re. the standards for EHR certification for 2015.** Review the proposed rule here: **Review the 2015 Edition Proposed Rule [PDF – 2.4 MB]**. Submit comments via regulations.gov. Learn more about this proposed rule in through a CMS webinar on both the **Stage 3** and **Modifications to Meaningful Use in 2015 through 2017** proposed rules.
 - **PDF Presentation**
 - **Webinar Recording** (Recording ID: 39WPCQ; Key: eHealth)

- **Comments due June 15th regarding modifications to Meaningful Use. Modification to Meaningful Use in 2015-2017 NPRM** – Proposes revised requirements for eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals participating in the EHR Incentive Programs in years 2015 through 2017. Submit comments via regulations.gov. Learn more about this proposed rule in through a CMS webinar, **Modifications to Meaningful Use in 2015 through 2017** proposed rule.
 - **PDF Presentation**
 - **Webinar Recording** (Recording ID: 8K2F25; Key: eHealth)

- **Access all CMS program sessions from this year's HIMSS (Health Information and Management Systems Society) Conference in Chicago in April via the CMS eHealth Events website.** Visit the CMS eHealth Events page to access all of CMS' HIMSS15 program sessions. An list of the sessions can be found below.
 - Opening Keynote: CMS on Federal Quality Reporting (Session QU1)
 - CMS EHR Incentive Programs Overview (Session 10)
 - CMS Meaningful Use Stage 3 Requirements (Session 40)
 - Keynote: The Intersection of Quality and Innovation at CMS (Session 67)
 - CMS Quality Strategy (Session 86)
 - CMS Quality Reporting Update (Session 116)
 - CMS Future Directions in Quality Measurement (Session 131)
 - CMS Meaningful Use Stage 3 and ONC 2015 Edition Certification Criteria Changes (Session 160)
 - Improving Health Care Delivery through Collaboration with Lean Tools (Session 176)

- ***Particularly regarding EHRs, a recent article from Medscape, “Addiction Programs Need Help to Maximize ACA Benefits” and a study published on Health Affairs, “Despite Resources from the ACA, Most States Do Little To Help Addiction Treatment Programs Implement Health Care Reform” emphasize the importance of technical assistance for substance use provider agencies to take maximal advantage of opportunities to expand services under the ACA:*** “Only three states are offering support to addiction treatment programs to transition to a healthcare environment with millions more eligible patients and new payer sources, according to a new study. ‘We have about 30 million people that have new access to insurance coverage for addiction treatment, but we have a lot of addiction treatment programs that don't have the capability to serve those clients,’ said study author Christina Andrews. These programs have, according to Andrews, ‘a real need for technical assistance around information technology as well as staff training.’” [More... \(you'll need to establish a free account on Medscape to review the article in full\).](#)

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

- ***Still flummoxed by the physician quality reporting system (PQRS) coming out of CMS re. Medicare Part B?*** We hear you're not alone! Below are some nice resources from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) that help providers, particularly social workers and the agencies that employ them, continue to acclimatize to new value-based reimbursement models that tie the successful reporting of positive outcomes to full reimbursement for Medicare Part B.
 - **FAQs on PQRS from clinical social workers:**
<http://www.socialworkers.org/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-14015.PQRS-FAQs-PP.pdf>
 - **Reporting requirements for 2015:**
<http://www.socialworkers.org/assets/secured/documents/practice/clinical/PRA-NL-12915.PQRS-PP.pdf>
 - **We think the two above resources from NASW contribute to making PQRS easier to understand, but of course your best source will always have to be CMS:** <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/>
 - **CMS also provided a webinar specifically on PQRS for BHACA, which is archived online here:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlewHzoAYxo>

- ***The federal government has crafted the first regulatory change to Medicaid managed care in a decade:*** Major proposed changes for Medicaid plans are “new provider adequacy standards, new mandates for capitated rate setting, beneficiary protections in long-term care, forthcoming quality ratings, and an 85 percent medical cost administrative ratio...” Read more: [click here](#). This is a nice supplementary article concerning the administrative costs (medical cost administrative ratio) of healthcare (including staff time in billing and collecting): <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK53942/>.

BHACA: Outcome-Based Evaluation

- ***Thanks to the National Quality Forum (NQF) for sharing their behavioral health measures reports with us directly this past week:***
Behavioral Health Specific Publications:
 - (1) http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2014/05/Behavioral_Health_Endorsement_Maintenance_2014_-_Phase_II.aspx
 - (2) http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2012/12/Behavioral_Health_Phase_1,_2012.aspx
 All NQF publications can be found here:
<http://www.qualityforum.org/Publications.aspx>
 You can search NQF’s portfolio of endorsed measures using the QPS search tool:
<http://www.qualityforum.org/QPS/>

BHACA: Additional Items of General Interest

- ***Reason for Optimism: Can healthcare become more productive?*** Many tenets of the Affordable Care Act are premised on the hypothesis that, yes, hospitals and other healthcare providers *can* create efficiencies, providing better care for less money—which is consistent with the **Triple Aim**. While more studies are needed, a recent study published in *Health Affairs* by [John Romley, Dana Goldman and Neeraj Sood](#) suggests a good forecast on the feasibility of creating efficiencies in healthcare. The *New York Times* covers the study and contextualizes the discussion in economic theories and productivity trends in other sectors:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/26/upshot/obamacares-big-gamble-on-hospital-productivity.html?ref=topics&abt=0002&abg=0>. The original study can be found here: <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/34/3/511.abstract>.

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.