

Dear BHACA Community,

BHACA Blast #75 Headlines:

BHACA Blast #75 marks the formal end of the BHACA Initiative. None of us can quite believe that a little over three years have passed since we held our first BHACA educational event. During those three years, almost 2300 people have attended one or more of our 78 seminars, trainings, classes, or networking group meetings. This issue of the Blast is being sent out to approximately 700 individuals.

We hope that we have provided information and assistance that each of you found to be useful to your own vital role in serving individuals with mental health and substance abuse challenges. From our event evaluation forms, we learned that over 80% of attendees found the sessions to be very or extremely worthwhile and around 70% of you said you gained significant new knowledge. We hope your experience echoes these findings.

Being able to provide these learning and support opportunities to you during such difficult times has been an honor and absolute joy for all of us, and we are grateful to each one of you for your investment in this project. Although BHACA is officially over, neither NBHP nor MHA is leaving this important work behind. Rather we are both using this body of work and this strong base of connection with all of you to continue working on the issues tackled in the BHACA arena as well as expanding into new areas. As with the BHACA agenda, we turn to you all to tell us what you need assistance with, what concerns are on your plate. Especially as we transition into a new administration where each day brings more uncertainty about the future of health care, we are grateful that we have this vehicle with which to communicate with all of you.

We are going to take a couple of weeks to regroup and “rebrand” ourselves so if any of you have any ideas or suggestions to share with us (including a new name for the Blast), please do not hesitate to reach out to Marion or Tracey. (If your interest is in IHC, Ale is still your go-to person).

We wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and hope to cross paths (electronic and otherwise) often with you in the future.

All the best,

The BHACA Team

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BHACA: Integrated Health Care (IHC)

- ***Finalization of Payment for Codes that Support Behavioral Health Integration (Medicare)*** – CMS is finalizing payments for codes that describe specific behavioral health services furnished using the psychiatric **Collaborative Care Model**, which has demonstrated benefits in a variety of settings. In this model,

patients are cared for through a team approach, involving a primary care practitioner, behavioral health care manager, and psychiatric consultant. CMS is **also finalizing payment for a new code that broadly describes behavioral health integration services, including payments for other approaches and for practices that are not yet prepared to implement the Collaborative Care Model**. To learn more, please [click here](#).

- ***Webinar – Measuring Physical and Behavioral Health Integration in the Context of Value-Based Purchasing***

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 7, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Central time

To Register: [Click here](#)

Organizer: National Academy for State Health Policy

Presenters: Kitty Purington, JD, National Academy for State Health Policy; Harold Pincus, MD, Columbia University; Greg Allen, MSW, New York State Department of Health

Description:

Research shows that integrating physical and behavioral healthcare can yield better outcomes and reduce costs, and state policymakers across the country are working to incentivize integration as part of larger value-based health reform efforts. With support from The Commonwealth Fund, the National Academy for State Health Policy is excited to host this webinar, which will explore the landscape of quality measurement as it relates to behavioral health integration and examine how states are building quality management strategies to monitor and evaluate these efforts.

- ***Webinar – Pediatricians Explain Why SBIRT is Essential to Adolescent Health***

Date & Time: Thursday, December 8, 12:00 PM Central time

To Register: [Click here](#)

Organizer: IRETA (Institute for Research, Education, & Training in Addictions)

Presenters: Janet Williams, MD, FAAP, Coauthor of the AAP SBIRT statement; Robert Dudley, MD, FAAP, AAP PIAASU Connecticut Physician Lead

Description:

Earlier this year, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued a policy statement that reaffirmed its recommendation to incorporate universal screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) practices for adolescent substance use in pediatric primary care. This webinar will discuss the rationale for the AAP's policy statement and current efforts to advance adolescent SBIRT in primary care settings.

- ***What Do Innovators Do? Lessons from the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions' Innovation Communities*** – Over the past year, the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) hosted a number of Innovation Communities focused on shared learning and advancement around specific integrated care topics. For an overview of some of their key lessons learned, please [click here](#). For more resources from the Innovation Communities, please visit CIHS' webpage [here](#).

BHACA: Choosing a Certified Electronic Health Record System

- **ONC tells Congress: Interoperability must be a priority:** The crucial foundation of the U.S. healthcare system and its patients rests upon interoperability and the ability of providers to make the transition to efficient flow of electronic health information. With nearly all of hospitals (96 percent) and 78 percent of physician offices now using certified electronic health record technology, it's no longer enough to merely adopt these tools, according to ONC. The healthcare industry needs to fully utilize the EHR and other health IT tools to improve patient care and outcomes. To view more, please [click here](#).
- **Why Can't EHRs Be More Like Smartphones?:** Electronic health records (EHRs) were developed to improve coordination of and communication about patient care, and to reduce errors, and they have helped make progress on all three fronts in many respects. Yet, providers and patients alike feel strongly that EHRs could – and should – benefit from major improvements. In a new Modern Healthcare commentary, Drs. Mark Jarrett and Michelle Schreiber propose some [radical redesign principles for the next generation of EHRs](#). Both are members of an [IHI Leadership Alliance](#) workgroup that has been thinking creatively about how providers can work collaboratively with vendors, government, consumers, and other key stakeholders to inspire and usher in much-needed EHR innovations.

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

- **Webinar – Clinician Impact: MACRA and the Quality Payment Program**
Date & Time: Tuesday, December 6, 12:00 PM Central time
To Register: [Click here](#)
Organizer: HIMSS
Presenter: Michael H. Zaroukian, MD, PhD, MACP, FHIMSS, Chief Medical Information Officer Sparrow Health System Chair, HIMSS North America Board of Directors
Description: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released the final rule on the Quality Payment Program as part of the regulatory requirements for the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). Are you aware of all the options available to your practice? This webinar will describe the two tracks for payment, identify the four components of MIPS, discuss the impact to your practice, and discuss the list MIPS exemptions.
- **Webinar – Leveraging Managed Care Contract Language to Improve SUD Purchasing Strategies**
Date & Time: Wednesday, December 7, 2:30 PM Central time
To Register: [Click here](#)
Organizer: CMS and Truven Health
Presenters: Virginia Medicaid will discuss how they are working with managed care entities to transform their SUD delivery system to provide the SUD care continuum, remove treatment gaps, and meet the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria standards of care; and Massachusetts Medicaid will share how they expanded

access to SUD care using consistent contract language with their managed care entities, and assigned regional network managers to monitor quality.

Description: This webinar will discuss key elements of managed care contracting that promote good stewardship and purchasing of substance use disorder (SUD) services. Specifically, it will discuss core contract components where SUD service delivery may be strengthened, including benefit design; standards of care; network adequacy; quality metrics; and integration of SUD and physical health. There will be two featured state partners on the webinar panel to discuss their efforts to offer a comprehensive SUD treatment care continuum.

BHACA: Outcome-Based Evaluation

- ***LAST DAY to Submit an Informal Review for 2017 Physician Quality Reporting System Results:*** If you have any questions regarding the status of your 2015 PQRS reporting or are concerned about potentially receiving the PQRS downward payment adjustment in 2017, please do not hesitate to submit an informal review request. CMS will be in contact with every individual EP or PQRS group practice that submits a request for an informal review of their 2015 PQRS data. If you believe you have been incorrectly assessed the 2017 PQRS payment adjustment, submit an informal review **by November 30, 2016** requesting CMS investigate your payment adjustment determination. All informal review requestors will be notified via email of a final decision by CMS within 90 days of the original request for an informal review. All decisions will be final and there will be no further review. To view more, please [click here](#).

BHACA: Additional Items of General Interest

- ***Webinar – Election Impact: What to Expect Out of Washington in 2017***
Date & Time: Thursday, December 15, 12:00 PM Central time
To Register: [Click here](#)
Organizer: National Council for Behavioral Health
Description: Join the National Council as they break down the election results and forecast what it means for your organizations, your members, and your clients. Attendees will learn about opportunities to influence policy and effective techniques needed to succeed.

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.

