

Hello everyone and welcome to the BHACA email updates!

This message is the first of what we hope will be many over the next couple of years that will serve as an additional way that the Greater Houston Behavioral Health Affordable Care Act Initiative (or BHACA, pronounced BeeHaKa) can help you in your work to meet the new challenges and opportunities presented by the ACA and enforcement of the Parity Law.

We are thrilled with the response we have had to our first two overview events and our first two issue-specific events on Integrated Health Care and Medicare/Medicaid Credentialing. In late January we will host our third event on Certified Electronic Health Records. We hope to have the Save-the-Date to you before you all scatter for the holidays.

In the meantime, just a few updates:

On the general BHACA front,

- NBHP Executive Director Marion Coleman participated in a 2-day conference in Austin on Dec. 3-4 sponsored by the St. David's Foundation, the Meadows Foundation, and the Texas Council of Community Centers. The meeting provided fantastic information on a number of the issues with which we are dealing and will ultimately impact what we bring to all of you. The PowerPoints for that meeting have now been posted, and I would urge all of you to spend a little time reviewing them at <http://www.txcouncil.com/december2013conferencepowerpoints.aspx>.

In particular, I think the Rosenberg presentation (especially from slide 24 on) really hones in on how behavioral health providers need to change the way they see themselves and conduct their business. Likewise, the Lloyd PowerPoint offers some phenomenal information from the person in this country who understands your business and your challenges the best. It is lengthy but worth the reading.

On the integrated health care (IHC) front,

- The Lloyd PowerPoint referenced above, while not focused exclusively on integrated health care, offers important information relevant to behavioral health organizations as integrated health care partners. I definitely encourage those interested in developing or deepening integrated health care to take a look. You may access it through the link above or directly at <http://www.txcouncil.com/userfiles/file/News/Key%20Elements%20of%20a%20High%20Performing%20Provider%20REVISED%2012-4-13%20TWO.pdf>.
- I know that some of you are already familiar with the **Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS)**, but if you aren't, or if you haven't visited their website, I encourage you to peruse it at <http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/>. You'll find it contains a wealth of resources relating to many aspects of planning, implementing, and sustaining integrated health care services. In the weeks and months to come, I'll be pointing you to

specific CIHS resources that may be of interest, but for now, you may wish to bookmark the website as a great starting place when you're looking for IHC information.

Finally, you are on this list because you are either a member of the Network of Behavioral Health Providers, or you were a participant in one of our first events, or you have otherwise expressed interest in the BHACA Initiative. If you would prefer not to receive these updates or any further email correspondence from us, just reply to Yvonne Mendoza at [ymendoza@mhahouston.org](mailto:ymendoza@mhahouston.org). Likewise, if you would like to share our emails with any of your colleagues either within or outside of your agency, feel free to forward this email to them, and they can contact Yvonne if they are interested in receiving our information directly.

We'll see you in 2014! Happy Holidays!

Thank you,  
The BHACA Team

*Marion Coleman, NBHP Executive Director*  
*Alejandra Posada, MHA IHC Project Director*  
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