

Hello,

We hope everyone has had a good start to 2014! Before the holidays, we sent out the first BHACA e-mail blast. This is e-mail blast #2, and, from here on out, you can expect to receive a blast every other Wednesday.

The purpose of these e-mail blasts is to keep you informed about activities of the Greater Houston Behavioral Health Affordable Care Act Initiative (BHACA) and provide you with relevant resources and information. To make it easier to pinpoint the information of greatest interest to you, we've created three sections:

- **BHACA Activities and Information** – Includes information specific to the core BHACA areas of Medicaid credentialing and billing, certified EHRs, and outcome-based evaluation.
- **Integrated Health Care Activities and Information** – Includes information specific to the fourth core BHACA area, integrated health care.
- **Additional Learning Opportunities and Resources** – Includes information of more general interest (not specific to one BHACA area).

We also realize that even though topics specific to either the first or second sections may be your priority, there may well be other activities mentioned elsewhere that would also be of interest to you. While we will try to cross-reference these instances, we urge you to scan the entire blast just to ensure you don't miss something that your agency is in need of.

We hope you'll find these blasts useful. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or feedback. Also, please feel free to share this information with others who may be interested. Anyone who wishes to be added (or removed) from this e-mail list may contact Yvonne Mendoza at ymendoza@mhahouston.org.

Finally, we know that many of you may be interested in accessing electronic versions of the PowerPoints and handouts from the BHACA meetings that took place in late 2013. We are working on making these available at a centralized location. As soon as they're accessible, we'll let you know where to find them and provide you with a list of available documents.

We're looking forward to a great year!

Thank you,
The BHACA Team

Marion Coleman, NBHP Executive Director
Alejandra Posada, MHA IHC Project Director
Yvonne Mendoza, Project Assistant

BHACA Activities and Information (except for IHC)

- **BHACA Education Event – Choosing a Certified Electronic Health Record**
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 1:00 pm, Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston, 303 Jackson Hill
Overview: This session is designed for agencies that have not yet selected a certified electronic health record system. In case you did not receive the email last Friday with the detailed agenda and registration form, we are reattaching those to this email.
Registration deadline: January 31, 2014
- **National Council Webinar – Transitioning to the ICD-10** – See Additional Learning Opportunities below for details on this important learning opportunity that participants at the Dec. 6 Medicare/Medicaid Educational Session listed as a high priority on which to receive assistance.

Integrated Health Care (IHC) Activities and Information

- **IHC Open Discussion Meeting** – In their evaluations/feedback forms, several participants at the October and November IHC education events expressed an interest in having a forum for open discussion around IHC issues, challenges, and so forth – as one participant expressed it, “a place to talk through issues.” To respond to this interest, we will be holding regularly scheduled IHC Open Discussion Meetings. The first one is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 19, from 2:00 – 3:30 PM at the MHA office, 2211 Norfolk, Suite 810 (77098)**. Since it will be the first such meeting, we’ll start out with introductions and some discussion about how best to structure and schedule future meetings and about what kind of support from the BHACA Initiative will be most useful for you in terms of integrated health care. Then we’ll open up the floor for other thoughts, questions, etc., that you may have around integrated care.

From my experience with learning communities, I’ve found that this kind of regular sharing of ideas in a not-too-structured format can be quite fruitful. In addition, the input from this meeting (and future meetings) will be used to help set the agenda for BHACA-IHC activities in the months to come. For both of these reasons, I hope that many of you will be available to attend and share your thoughts. If you plan to attend, **please RSVP at <http://www.mhahouston.org/events/201> by Friday, February 14**. We hope to see you there!

Additional Learning Opportunities and Resources (of general interest)

- **National Council Webinar – Prosperous Futures: Determining Your Organizational Costs**
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 2:00 – 3:00 pm Eastern (1:00 – 2:00 pm Central)
Speaker: Scott Lloyd, President, MTM Services
Register for free at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/193829162>.
Description from National Council website:

New funding methodologies and person-centered mental health and substance use care models offer bold opportunities for behavioral health agencies to profoundly increase the number of clients they serve and their bottom-line budgets. As community behavioral health organizations build partnerships within integrated health systems, an in-depth understanding of the cost of services in relation to what payers allow for billing will be crucial when entering into negotiations. To ensure your agency has the infrastructure to sustain growing service capacities and increasing budgets in the future, join the National Council for Behavioral Health and MTM Services to take the proactive steps necessary to establish proven and effective costing models in your agency.

- **National Council Webinar – Transitioning to ICD-10: Why It’s Important to Behavioral Health Care Providers and How to Prepare**

Date: Friday, January 24, 2014, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Eastern (11:00 am – 12:30 pm Central)

Speakers: Elinore McCance-Katz, Chief Medical Officer, SAMHSA; Joseph Nichols, Principal, Health Data Consulting; Donna Pickett, Medical Systems Administrator, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC

Register for free at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/436395306>.

Description from National Council website:

Behavioral health providers must transition to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) code sets by October 1, 2014. Mental health and substance use services providers in particular need to be ready, as everyone covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) will be affected by this transition. Join this webinar to learn the steps you need to take for a successful transition, from understanding the ICD-10’s impact on diagnosis and inpatient procedure coding to outlining an implementation timeline and strategy.

- **REMINDER – National Council Webinar – Same-Day Access: Rules for Best Practice Procedures and Cost Savings**

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm Eastern (1:00 – 2:00 pm Central)

Speaker: Scott Lloyd, President, MTM Services

Register for free at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/332867730>.

Description from National Council website:

The prime challenge most healthcare organizations face involves providing adequate, effective, and timely access to treatment. Providing exemplary mental health and substance use services involves agencies’ strict commitment to a range of extremely efficient and standardized practices. In an era of highly integrated health systems, timely access to treatment is more critical than ever. Implementation of truly efficient practices not only improves the overall quality of care and client experience, but simultaneously benefits providers with significant increases in demand and monetary savings. Join the National Council for Behavioral Health and MTM Services to gain critical insights into reducing the time it takes to enter into care, increasing overall treatment engagement, and growing organizational budgets.
