

Hello,

We hope everyone is staying safe and warm this week!

Today, in addition to providing you with the information below, we'd like to give a "shout out" to two Texas organizations – the Texas Council of Community Centers and Lone Star Circle of Care, both recipients of 2014 National Council Awards of Excellence! Speakers from both the Texas Council (Melissa Rowan) and Lone Star Circle of Care (Greg Jensen and Marshall Preddy) presented at BHACA events in the fall. We are thrilled that their exceptional work has been honored at a national level! Information about the Awards of Excellence and honorees is available at <http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/about/awards/>.

Please let us know if you have any questions or feedback on the information below and/or any BHACA activities. As always, please feel free to share this information with colleagues; anyone wishing to be added to the e-mail list may contact Yvonne at ymendoza@mhahouston.org.

Have a great rest of the week (complete with its wild weather)!

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: **REGISTRATION IS FULL.** If you would like to be placed on a waiting list, you may still send in your registration, and we will call you if a slot opens up. If you are registered and have discovered you cannot attend, please contact Yvonne at ymendoza@mhahouston.org as soon as possible to cancel so we can give someone else your place.

Integrated Health Care (IHC) Activities and Information

- **Reminder – 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!

- **Partners in Health: Mental Health, Primary Care, and Substance Use Interagency Collaboration Tool Kit (2nd edition, 2013)** – This tool kit, produced by the Integrated Behavioral Health Project (IBHP), a California-based initiative, is one of the best resources I have seen for implementing and sustaining integrated health care partnerships. It contains a wealth of practical information and examples, such as sample MOUs, job descriptions, and various tools and forms. The tool kit is available at <http://www.ibhp.org/uploads/file/IBHPIinteragency%20Collaboration%20Tool%20Kit%202013%20.pdf>. It is long (about 350 pages), but the table of contents is fully linked so that you may easily access information of interest. Although some of the information is specific to California, much of it applies regardless of location. I highly encourage anyone interested in integrated health care to take a look! (The IBHP website – <http://www.ibhp.org/> – contains additional information and resources on integrated care, including a recently posted series of seven briefs on various aspects of integrated health care. To access the briefs, scroll down on the homepage.)
- **Behavioral Health Integration Advisory Committee – Public Recommendations Requested** – The Behavioral Health Integration Advisory Committee, created by Senate Bill 58 of the 83rd Texas Legislature, is requesting input from the behavioral health community. More information about the committee and its charge is available at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/about_hhsc/AdvisoryCommittees/bhiac.shtml. A form for providing recommendations is available on that page; recommendations are due February 5.

Additional Learning Opportunities and Resources (of general interest)

- **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.
