



Network of Behavioral Health Providers

Network of Behavioral Health Providers Behavioral Health Blast #13

On Monday, June 26th, the members of NBHP met with Mayor Turner and other key Houston/Harris County Administrators to discuss critical behavioral health issues in our community. We would like to thank Mayor Turner and his entire team for hosting this Behavioral Health Solutions Roundtable and allowing us to explore opportunities for collaboration.



The NBHP Team

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Clinical Practice

- ***New SAMHSA report shows the availability of Supported Employment in Specialty Mental Health Treatment Facilities:*** A new report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) examines the availability of supported employment in specialty mental health treatment facilities in the United States and whether they offer vocational rehabilitation services. “Having a job increases self-esteem and promotes recovery,” said Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Kana Enomoto. “It’s vital for people with serious mental illnesses to have employment opportunities that can provide the right supportive services to help them sustain healthy, productive lives.” To read more of this SAMHSA article, please [click here](#).
- ***Webinar - Behavioral Health Services for Sexual and Gender Minority Adults: Where Data and Practice Intersect***
Date & Time: Thursday June 29, 1:00 PM Central time
To Register: [Click here](#)
Organizer: National Council for Behavioral Health
Description: SAMHSA’s 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) yielded data from self-identified sexual minority respondents for the first time in the survey’s history. While the data findings represent only a year of information, they indicate a critical need to better understand the relationship between sexual orientation and behavioral health. This webinar will highlight these key results from the 2015 NSDUH, complimented with corresponding practices from three organizations that serve LGBT individuals and communities: Fenway Health in Boston; Rainbow Heights Club in Brooklyn; **and the Montrose Center in Houston.**

EHRs, Security, and IT

- ***MACRA rule adds EHR flexibility, pushes back mandate for 2015 editions:*** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services delivered a 2018 MACRA proposed rule that would add more flexibility to the health IT mandates associated with the law. The proposal pushes back the requirement that clinicians use 2015-certified electronic health records for another year. Instead, doctors can continue to use legacy systems if they choose and those that opt to use 2015 editions would get a 10 percent payment bonus from CMS. To read more of this Healthcare IT News article, please [click here](#).
- ***ONC updates database of certified EHRs:*** The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology updated its Certified Health IT Product List’s landing page on June 20. The updated database not only means current information is available on this and other products, it also means the site is easier to navigate. To read more of this Healthcare IT News article, please [click here](#).

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

- ***Webinar - Financing Factors for Implementing Medication-Assisted Treatment***

Date & Time: Thursday, June 29, 12:00 PM Central time

To Register: [Click here](#)

Organizer: National Council for Behavioral Health

Description: The use of pharmacotherapy in conjunction with psychosocial services, a modality known as medication-assisted treatment (MAT), has become one of the most effective evidence-based treatment options for opioid use disorder. Yet many prescribers and administrators across the country don't offer MAT due to reimbursement and coverage uncertainties. While MAT financing can vary across provider type, state, and payer engagement, there are several common factors all organizations should consider to ensure sustainability and long-term success of MAT services and programs. During the webinar, participants will learn the numerous financial considerations for successfully implementing MAT within their organization such as medication coverage, service reimbursement and common payer contracts and structures.

- ***MACRA shows CMS is all-in on value:*** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released its revised rules for the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. Since MACRA received wide, bipartisan support when Congress passed it two years ago, it was never threatened when a new administration came to power. But how a new administration would treat value-based incentives as reflected in MACRA's quality payment program for the merit-based incentive payment system and alternative payment model has been open to debate. To read more of this Healthcare Finance article, please [click here](#).

Outcome-Based Evaluation

- ***Behavioral Health Barometer, Volume 4:*** This report presents national data about the prevalence of behavioral health conditions. This data includes the rate of serious mental illness, suicidal thoughts, substance use, and underage drinking. The report also highlights the percentages of those who seek treatment for these conditions. Access state barometer reports. To read more of this Healthcare IT News article, please [click here](#).
- ***Social determinants of health and data are key to enabling better health:*** If there's one point a recent session at America's Health Insurance Plans Institute & Expo 2017 brought home, it's that if providers and payers are going to manage their members as a population, they need to start by knowing them individually. To do this, health organizations need data, not just about medical conditions derived from traditional sources like claims, but information and insights derived from a patient's social conditions. The social determinants of health have proven to correlate with health outcomes and risks. To read more of this Healthcare IT News article, please [click here](#).

Public Policy/Advocacy

- ***Senate Bill to Support Reentry Programs Reintroduced:*** Representatives Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Danny K. Davis (D-IL) reintroduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the [Second Chance Act](#), a law that supports state and local reentry programs to reduce relapse and provides people leaving prison with post-release supportive services, including mental health and addiction treatment. To read more of this National Council for Behavioral Health article, please [click here](#).

The nonprofit Network of Behavioral Health Providers (NBHP) consists of mental health and substance use providers in the greater Houston area. NBHP provides a forum for the behavioral health leaders in the community to work together on issues of common concern. Working on its own and in partnership with other entities at both the local and state levels, the Network has become a strong voice on behalf of behavioral health service providers and the individuals they serve. To learn more, visit our website at nbhp.org.