



Network of Behavioral Health Providers

## Network of Behavioral Health Providers Behavioral Health Blast #18

NBHP would like to thank all the behavioral health professionals in greater Houston/Harris County and beyond for their amazing work during the early days of Hurricane Harvey. Volunteer clinical staff were on the ground from the earliest hours at the George R. Brown Center. People who had started their shifts at area facilities stayed on through the weekend as other staff were unable to get in to replace them. Senior administrators were folding laundry. Staff were moving patients to other areas as parts of facilities flooded. Agencies were sending specialists to other providers just as quickly as passage was safe. There are thousands of stories that tell the world how amazing this community is. The captain of the Red Cross medical team at GRB said she had never seen a behavioral health community response like ours. So thanks to all of you. We can never know just how much each of you did but we do know the impact of what you did.

**YOU'RE INVITED...**



**ANNUAL MEETING**  
*of the*  
Network of Behavioral Health Providers



Wednesday, September 13, 2017 | 4:00 - 6:30 pm

Registration: 3:30 pm

Program: 4:00 pm

*RECEPTION FOLLOWING PROGRAM*

*keynote remarks by*  
**Sandra Lopez, LCSW, ACSW**  
**UNCERTAIN TIMES CALL FOR CERTAIN MEASURES**  
Cultivating Hope, Promoting Resiliency, and Rekindling Passion

1.0 CE hours for LPCs, LMFTs, LCDCs, Social Workers, and Psychologists  
Psychologist CEs provided by the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program of the University of St. Thomas

Free of charge | Seating is limited.

**LOCATION**  
Scanlan Hall, Jerabeck Athletic and Activity Center  
University of St. Thomas, 4000 Mt. Vernon St.

**PARKING**  
We recommend parking in the Moran Center Parking Garage, located at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark streets (enter on Graustark). Parking at the Center is available to all students, employees and visitors 24 hours a day for a \$5.00 fee. Pay machines are located at each exit and accept \$1 bills, \$5 bills, quarters and credit cards. Some street parking is also available in the neighborhood.

CLICK HERE TO  
**RSVP**

Having trouble clicking on the above image? Use this link: <http://bit.ly/AnnualMeetingNBHP>

All the best,

The NBHP Team

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NBHP website – [www.nbhp.org](http://www.nbhp.org)

## **Clinical Practice**

- ***Webinar - Improving Behavioral Health Integration through Culturally Appropriate Service Delivery***  
**Date & Time:** Wednesday, September 13, 2:00 PM Central time  
**To Register:** [Click here](#)  
**Organizer:** SAMHSA-HRSA  
**Description:** Racially diverse and ethnic minority populations continue to experience disparities in behavioral health services access, treatment, and outcomes. Though the factors contributing to these disparities may include social determinants such as housing, education, and job status, provider bias and a lack of cultural and linguistic competency (CLC) may also play a role. Failure to address and acknowledge a patient's culture while providing integrated care can result in poor provider-patient communication and low health literacy. Primary care settings are ideal for screening, assessing, and treating mental health and/or substance use conditions. Join CIHS to hear how culturally and linguistically competent behavioral health integrated care delivery models in primary care can improve the accessibility and the quality of physical and behavioral health services.
- ***Webinar - Suicide Risk Assessment***  
**Date & Time:** Wednesday, September 13, 11:00 AM Central time  
**To Register:** [Click here](#)  
**Organizer:** SAMHSA and National Council for Behavioral Health  
**Description:** This 90-minute webinar (60 minutes instruction, 30 minutes Q&A), led by Sean Convoy, DNP, PMHNP-BC, is sponsored in part by the Cohen Veterans Network. This training will introduce strategies about how to assess, communicate with and engage at risk military Service members and Veterans who are potentially at risk for harm to self or others.
- ***Webinar - The Safety Planning Intervention for Reducing Suicide Risk***  
**Date & Time:** Wednesday, September 20, 11:00 AM Central time  
**To Register:** [Click here](#)  
**Organizer:** SAMHSA and National Council for Behavioral Health  
**Description:** This 90-minute webinar (60 minutes instruction, 30 minutes Q&A), led by Gregory K. Brown, Ph.D., is sponsored in part by the Cohen Veterans Network. Although suicide risk assessments have become an established standard of care, brief interventions to address suicide risk in acute care settings are a recent development in evidence-based treatment of suicidal patients. The purpose of the Safety Planning Intervention (SPI: Stanley & Brown, 2012) is to assist individuals in decreasing suicide risk by consulting a pre-determined set of potential coping strategies and resources to use during a crisis. The SPI is included in the Suicide Prevention

Resource Center's Best Practices Registry and has been adopted as standard of care within the Department of Veterans Affairs and other settings across the country. The SPI is a collaboratively-created plan and involves six steps: 1) recognizing warning signs; 2) identifying internal coping strategies; 3) identifying other people or social settings for distraction; 4) identifying individuals to ask for help; 5) identifying professionals and agencies for help; and 6) making the environment safe. Recent challenges and successes for implementing safety planning in practice care settings will also be discussed.

## **EHRs, Security, and IT**

- ***HHS declares public health emergency in the wake of Hurricane Harvey:*** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service has declared a public health emergency in the wake of Hurricane Harvey's devastation in Texas. The agency will give providers greater flexibility in treating patients in emergency situations, as many Medicare beneficiaries have been evacuated to neighboring communities whose hospitals and nursing homes have no record of their medical history or needs, or even verification that they are in fact a Medicare beneficiary, said HHS Secretary Tom Price. In response, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has waived certain document requirements to ensure that medical facilities can proceed with delivering care to these individual. To read more of this Healthcare IT News article, [click here](#).

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

- ***CMS to invest \$10M to promote Affordable Care Act open enrollment:*** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is investing \$10 million in this year's open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act, a cut of 90 percent over the \$100 million spent last year under the Obama administration. The money will be spent on educational activities to meet the needs of new and returning enrollees in understanding coverage options through the ACA's Navigator program. It will also alert consumers to this year's shorter enrollment season. Open enrollment starts November 1 and ends through December 15. Last year it went through January. To read more of this Healthcare Finance article, [click here](#).

## **Outcome-Based Evaluation**

- ***Webcast: SAMHSA Will Unveil Latest Behavioral Health Data in Conjunction With 28th Annual National Recovery Month Observance***  
**Date & Time:** Thursday, September 7, 8:00 AM Central time  
**To Register:** [Click here](#)  
**Organizer:** SAMHSA  
**Description:** SAMHSA will unveil key data on mental and substance use disorders, including opioid use, at a press conference on Thursday, September 7. Speakers will include HHS Secretary Tom Price, M.D.; Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and

Substance Use, Elinore McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D.; and Office of National Drug Control Policy Acting Director, Richard Baum. Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) will be revealed in conjunction with the kickoff of the 28th annual National Recovery Month observance. Recovery Month celebrates individuals throughout the country who have achieved long-term recovery from mental and substance use disorders, and recognizes the contributions of the dedicated men and women who provide treatment and recovery services.

- ***Report reveals that about 1 in 8 children lived with at least one parent who had a past year substance use disorder:*** About 1 in 8 children (8.7 million) aged 17 or younger lived in households with at least one parent who had a past year substance use disorder (SUD), according to a new report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SUDs are characterized by recurrent use of alcohol or other drugs (or both) that results in significant impairment. In addition, the report shows that about 1 in 10 children (7.5 million) lived in households with at least one parent who had a past year alcohol use disorder and about 1 in 35 children (2.1 million) lived in households with at least one parent who had an illicit drug use disorder in the past year. To read more of this SAMHSA press announcement, [click here](#).

### **Public Policy/Advocacy**

- ***Changes to the State Hospital System:*** Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) is embarking on a multiyear project to expand, renovate, and transform the state hospital system. State hospitals provide in-patient psychiatric care for adults, adolescents and children. In 2017, the Texas Legislature appropriated funds to the project. In fiscal year 2018, HHS will begin the first phase of construction and other changes designed to:
  - Enhance the safety, quality of care and access to treatment for Texans with mental health issues
  - Expand capacity and reduce waiting lists for inpatient psychiatric treatment, particularly for maximum security units
  - Increase collaboration with potential partners, particularly higher education and health-related institutions.

To read more of this Texas Health and Human Services release, [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](http://nbhp.org).