

## **Network of Behavioral Health Providers**

### **Behavioral Health Blast #4**

The NBHP Team

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### **Clinical Practice**

- **MAT Myths and Facts:** Medication assisted treatment (MAT) is one of the most effective forms of therapy for substance use disorders but is widely misunderstood. Take a look at the National Council's [new infographic](#) to separate fact from fiction.
- **White Paper: Opioid Use, Misuse and Overdose in Women:** HHS Office of Women's Health's new white paper explores what is currently known about the opioid epidemic, the promising practices for addressing opioid use disorder prevention and treatment for women, and identifies areas that may warrant further study. To view more, please [click here](#).

### **Choosing a Certified Electronic Health Record System**

- **New 42 CFR Rule Delayed until March 21st:** The Department of Health and Human Services has delayed the implementation of the final rule on substance use disorder record-sharing, known as 42 CFR Part 2, from Feb. 17 to March 21. The delay is the result of a broad Executive Order issued by President Trump intended to give agency officials time to review all current federal regulations. The final rule allows researchers greater access to substance use medical records and removes the automatic requirement that patient consent be obtained every time substance use records are shared with a doctor. See the final rule [here](#).

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

- **Webinar – The MACRA Quality Payment Program: What Behavioral Health Care Professionals Should Know**

**Date & Time:** Thursday, February 23, 11:00 AM Central time

**To Register:** [Click here](#)

**Organizer:** HIMSS

**Description:** The Quality Payment Program (QPP) was developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as part of the far reaching Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA); one of its provisions begins in 2019

when CMS will pay participating providers based on the quality and effectiveness of care they provide to beneficiaries. During this virtual forum you will hear from Paul Cotton, BA, Director of Federal Affairs at the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); and Elizabeth Arend, MPH, Quality Improvement Advisor at the National Council for Behavioral Health, two experts in initiatives that improve health care quality. They will discuss the importance of this new program to the behavioral health field.

- **CMS proposes new rules to encourage insurers to stay in ACA marketplace:** Despite numerous insurers pulling out of the Affordable Care Act business and the promise by President Donald Trump to repeal the ACA, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Wednesday issued proposed reforms to stabilize the individual and small group health insurance market. To view more, please [click here](#).

## **Outcome-Based Evaluation**

- **DLA-20 Outcomes Measurement:** The DLA-20 is a research-backed outcomes measurement tool that evaluates the impact of mental illness or disabilities on areas of daily living. Beginning February 23, [MTM Services](#) will offer a 3-hour DLA-20 training workshop each month for individuals in behavioral health organizations. Due to the interactive nature of the workshops, space is limited. To register, email: [Marian.Bradley@MTMServices.org](mailto:Marian.Bradley@MTMServices.org). The DLA-20 Functional Assessment Guide to Measuring Outcomes is currently available from the National Council's bookstore.

## **Public Policy/Advocacy**

- **Webinar – Uniting to Protect Behavioral Health: Advocacy Webinar Series**  
**Date & Time:** Wednesday, March 1, 2:00 PM Central time  
**To Register:** [Click here](#)  
**Organizer:** National Council for Behavioral Health  
**Description:** With numerous emerging threats to Medicaid and behavioral health services, the National Council will hold biweekly policy webinars to provide updates on the latest news and advocacy opportunities out of Washington. They will monitor and provide updates on issues that matter most, including: the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act, proposed reforms to Medicaid and details on government spending for behavioral health care programs. Each webinar will feature a specific Call to Action.
- **Repealing Medicaid expansion is deadly:** According to an article by Joe Parks, senior medical director for the National Council for Behavioral Health, when we hear about the national epidemics of suicide and opioid misuse, what many don't realize is that Medicaid covers more than a quarter of the behavioral health services necessary to help protect those most endangered by these epidemics. That's why the current discussion on Capitol Hill to roll back the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including

expansion of Medicaid, is a lot like cutting back the number of fire fighters deployed to contain a raging forest fire. It's not a way to succeed. Instead, we would expect to see more deaths. To view more, please [click here](#).

- ***Senate Appropriators Hold Hearing on Expanding Mental Health Services:*** A Senate appropriations subcommittee convened a hearing on mental health treatments and services last Wednesday. The hearing featured testimony from National Council members, Dennis Freeman and David Johnson, and staff, Joe Parks, who presented recommendations for improving the nation's mental health care system. The hearing signaled Congressional members' interest in supporting mental health funding, particularly in rural and underserved areas. To view more, please [click here](#).
- ***Agreement reached in longstanding feud over telemedicine in Texas:*** A years-long fight over the use of telemedicine in Texas appears to have been resolved, with medical and industry groups agreeing to compromise legislation that, if it passes, could benefit patients, especially those in rural areas. Senate Health and Human Services Committee Chairman Charles Schwertner, a Georgetown Republican and orthopedic surgeon, confirmed the deal Wednesday and said he will sponsor the legislation to resolve the longstanding feud over rules to allow doctors to see patients electronically. To view more, please [click here](#).