

Network of Behavioral Health Providers Behavioral Health Blast #7

Happy [National Minority Health Month](#)

All the best,

The NBHP Team

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Clinical Practice

- **Webinar - Employing Young Adult Peer Support Workers: A Toolkit for Providers**
Date & Time: Thursday, May 11, 11:00 AM Central time
To Register: [Click here](#)
Organizer: Transitions RTC – UMASS Medical School
Presenter: Jonathan Delman, PhD, JD, MPH and Vanessa Vorhies Klodnick, PhD, LCSW
Description: While young adult peer support workers add great value to treatment teams, providers struggle greatly with both recruitment and retention. This webinar will discuss the factors that promote the success of young adult peers and introduce for employers a new Toolkit, which organizes these factors into nine chapters, such as Effective Supervision, Organizational Culture, and Recruitment and Hiring.
- **MHA National Certified Peer Specialist Certification:** Mental Health America just announced the release of the MHA National Certified Peer Specialist (NCPS) credential. This first national advanced credential lets peers show they have the highest levels of knowledge and experience to create new opportunities in public and private settings. The certification builds upon current standards to ensure peers can thrive in a growing workforce with increasing job opportunities. A limited number of scholarships for the application and examination are available. To view more regarding this certification, please [click here](#).

EHRs, Security, and IT

- **ONC updates SAFER guides, outline best practices for EHR configuration:** The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT has updated its SAFER guides, first published in 2014, outlining recommendations for optimal use of electronic health records to ensure patient safety. The SAFER guides – it stands for Safety Assurance Factors for Electronic Health Record Resilience – were first published in 2014, but the evolution of clinical technology since then necessitated

new versions, according to ONC Chief Medical Information Officer Andrew Gettinger, MD. To view more of this article by Healthcare IT News, please [click here](#).

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

- ***Webinar - The Business of Behavioral Health: Best Practices for Billing, Getting Paid and Increasing Cash Flow***

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 26, 12:00 PM Central time

To Register: [Click here](#)

Organizer: Behavioral Healthcare Executive

Presenter: Owen Dahl, author of Think Business! Medical Practice Quality, Efficiency and Profit

Description: This webinar will explain how and why each part of the revenue cycle is dependent upon the other. Dahl will touch on the three main areas of the revenue lifecycle for behavioral health: intake, direct service/coding and the billing/reconciliation process. In addition to a deeper understanding of the foundations of billing, listeners will receive tips and best practices on optimizing an organization's revenue cycle to ultimately improve cash flow. Listeners will also have an opportunity to review successful ideas and concepts and apply them to their own organizations.

- ***MIPS Annual Call for Measures and Activities through June 30:*** The Annual Call for Measures and Activities for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) track of the Quality Payment Program (QPP) will be open through June 30. CMS encourages clinicians, measure stewards, organizations, and other stakeholders to identify and submit measures and activities to be considered for three performance categories of MIPS in future years. Submission details:
 - Quality: Submit measures through [JIRA](#) with the JIRA Measures Under Consideration template and other associated documents
 - Advancing Care Information: Submit measures using the [Advancing Care Information Submission Form](#) to CMSCallforMeasuresACI@ketchum.com
 - Improvement Activities: Submit activities using the [Improvement Activities Submission Form](#) to CMSCallforActivitiesIA@ketchum.com

For more information see the [Annual Call for Measures and Activities](#) fact sheet.

Direct any questions to the Quality Payment Program Service Center at QPP@cms.hhs.gov. (Reminder: behavioral health providers are not currently considered eligible providers under MACRA. However, these clinicians may be added in 2019 through future rulemaking. These clinicians are encouraged to report to MIPS in 2017 and 2018 even though it is not yet required, since it will help them get familiar with the MIPS reporting system without being subject to payment adjustments. Reporting clinicians will receive feedback on their performance and have a chance to improve before possibly being added to the MIPS eligible clinician list in 2019.)

- ***How Medicaid Helps Fight the Opioid Epidemic:*** The Kaiser Family Foundation [released this informational graphic](#) illustrating Medicaid's vital role in covering a range of opioid addiction treatment medications and services.

Outcome-Based Evaluation

- ***Webinar - Managing the Business of Helping: Overcoming the Myths of Outcomes Management***

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 3, 12:00 PM Central time

To Register: [Click here](#)

Organizer: Behavioral Healthcare Executive

Presenter: John S. Lyons, Ph.D., Senior Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Description: A brief overview of some of the more common misconceptions surrounding outcomes followed by an approach that attempts to build on this learning and transcend some of these myths with the goal to create a more meaningful approach in how to effectively help others. This approach is called Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) and has influenced the creation of the CANS and ANSA assessment tools among others.

- ***Community Health Assessment Toolkit:*** The Affordable Care Act requires all nonprofit hospitals to complete a community health needs assessment (CHNA) process every three years. While CHNAs are a recent requirement, community health assessments (CHAs) have long been used as a tool by hospitals, public health departments, and other social service agencies to identify key community health concerns. A CHA is a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs and assets, prioritize those needs, and then implement a plan to address significant unmet needs. To view more from the Association for Community Health Improvement, please [click here](#).

Public Policy/Advocacy

- ***Health Reform Update: Administration Can Change Health Care Without Congress:*** Advocates rejoiced when Speaker of the House Paul Ryan pulled the American Health Care Act (AHCA) from consideration. The proposal would have rolled back the Medicaid expansion and limited Americans' mental health and addiction coverage and care with structural reforms to Medicaid. However, with Congressional action likely on hold, the National Council is monitoring ways in which the Administration could make changes the nation's health care system, including potentially harmful reforms to the Medicaid program. To view more of this National Council on Behavioral Health article, please [click here](#).
- ***Bill Encouraging Trauma-Informed Care Introduced:*** Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and Representative Danny Davis (D-IL) introduced the latest version of the Trauma Informed Care for Children and Families

Act, a bill designed to help identify and aid children who have experienced violence-induced trauma. The legislation creates funding opportunities to expand trauma-informed care across multiple sectors including health care, education, and law enforcement. The bill is a potential vehicle for incorporating the science of adverse childhood experiences and trauma into federal policymaking. To view more of this National Council on Behavioral Health article, please [click here](#).

- ***President Trump Announces White House Efforts on Opioid Addiction:*** On the campaign trail, President Trump vowed to help communities heavily impacted by opioid and heroin addiction. His administration has now taken the first steps towards developing a national strategy on drug addiction by announcing the creation of a new White House commission on opioid addiction and naming a new acting director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. To view more of this National Council on Behavioral Health article, please [click here](#).