



UPDATE

July 1, 2017

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*Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health,
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison*

NEUROIMAGING TECHNIQUE MAY HELP PREDICT AUTISM AMONG HIGH-RISK INFANTS

Functional connectivity magnetic resonance imaging (fcMRI) may predict which high-risk, six-month old infants will develop autism spectrum disorder by age two years, according to a study funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), two components of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The study is published in the June 7, 2017 issue of *Science Translational Medicine*.

Science Update: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/neuroimaging-technique-may-help-predict-autism-among-high-risk-infants.shtml>

NAS REPORT: PROMISING BUT INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE ON INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT COGNITIVE DECLINE, DEMENTIA; SUGGESTS NIH, OTHERS CAREFULLY CUE PUBLIC ABOUT POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF COGNITIVE TRAINING, BLOOD PRESSURE MANAGEMENT, EXERCISE

The public is enormously concerned about dementia and cognitive impairment, and a wide range of programs and products, such as diets, exercise regimens, games, and supplements, purport to keep these conditions at bay. It is difficult for individuals, health care providers, and policy makers to ascertain what has been demonstrated to prevent or reduce risk. To help sort through the data and to understand the quality and weight of current evidence for possible interventions, the National Institute on Aging at the NIH, commissioned experts for an extensive scientific review and to provide recommendations for public health messaging and future research priorities. In response to that request, a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee has concluded that current evidence does not support a mass public education campaign to encourage people to adopt specific interventions to prevent cognitive decline or dementia.

Press Release: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/national-academies-committee-sees-promising-inconclusive-evidence-interventions-prevent-cognitive-decline-dementia>

NIH NAMES WINNERS OF “FOLLOW THAT CELL” PHASE 2 COMPETITION

NIH has named two biological engineering researchers as winners in Phase 2 of its *Follow that Cell Challenge*. The winners will share \$400,000 in prizes awarded for development of new tools and methods for predicting the behavior and function of a single cell in complex tissue over time – and how that reflects the health of the tissue.

Press Release: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/nih-names-winners-of-follow-that-cell-phase-2-competition.shtml>

PREDICTING COGNITIVE DEFICITS IN PEOPLE WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE; NIH-FUNDED TOOL MAY IMPROVE CLINICAL TRIAL DESIGN AND AID IN TREATMENT DEVELOPMENT

Parkinson's disease is commonly thought of as a movement disorder, but after years of living with the disease, approximately 25 percent of patients also experience deficits in cognition that impair function. A newly developed research tool may help predict a patient's risk for developing dementia and could enable clinical trials aimed at finding treatments to prevent the cognitive effects of the disease. The research was published in *Lancet Neurology* and was partially funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

Press Release: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/predicting-cognitive-deficits-people-parkinsons-disease>

RESEARCHERS UNCOVER GENETIC GAINS AND LOSSES IN TOURETTE SYNDROME; NIH-FUNDED STUDY FINDS NEW CLUES TO BRAIN DISORDER

Researchers have identified structural changes in two genes that increase the risk of developing Tourette syndrome, a neurological disorder characterized by involuntary motor and vocal tics. The study, published in the journal *Neuron*, was supported by NINDS.

Press Release: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/researchers-uncover-genetic-gains-losses-tourette-syndrome>

NIH SCIENTISTS UNCOVER ROLE OF PROTEINS IN NEURON ACTIVITY AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE; PROBLEMS WITH NEUREGULINS CAUSE PSYCHIATRIC, BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS IN MOUSE STUDIES

Brain proteins known as neuregulins are important for establishing normal brain activity, according to recent studies led by NIH researchers. Genetic changes in neuregulins are thought to increase the risk of schizophrenia, but it is not understood how such changes might increase risk for the disorder.

Press Release: <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/news/releases/Pages/062317-neuron-activity.aspx>

HHS ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF \$195 MILLION TO EXPAND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AT HEALTH CENTERS NATIONWIDE

The United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the availability of \$195 million in a new funding opportunity for community health centers to expand access to mental health and substance abuse services focusing on the treatment, prevention, and awareness of opioid abuse in all U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia. The awards are expected to be made in September of this year. Health centers that receive an award will use the funds to increase the number of personnel dedicated to mental health and substance abuse services, and to leverage health information technology and training to support the expansion of mental health and substance abuse services and their integration into primary care.

Press Release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/06/26/hhs-announced-195-million-funding-to-expand-mental-health-and-substance-abuse-service-access.html>

SAMHSA ANNOUNCES \$44.6 MILLION IN GRANTS TO EXPAND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced funding of up to \$44.6 million for the Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (ATTC) Cooperative Agreements. The purpose of this program is to develop the health care workforce to treat substance use disorders and support recovery. Grantees will establish a network to collaborate with each other and SAMHSA to improve treatment and recovery. The newly created network will feature a National Coordinating Office and 10 regional centers spread around the country.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201706211200>

HHS ANNOUNCES A \$4.9 MILLION GRANT TO REDUCE SUICIDES ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

HHS has awarded \$4.9 million to 17 colleges and universities for suicide prevention and mental health promotion activities. SAMHSA will distribute the grant funding through its Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Program. The Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Program is a comprehensive public health approach to improve behavioral health and prevent suicide at institutions of higher education. The funding will support a wide range of activities for mental health promotion, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, and other prevention activities. These activities include training faculty, students, and staff to recognize a student at risk for suicide and to intervene.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201706200200>

NEW SAMHSA REPORT SHOWS THE AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT IN SPECIALTY MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FACILITIES

A new SAMHSA report examines the availability of supported employment in specialty mental health treatment facilities in the U.S. and whether they offer vocational rehabilitation services. In 2014, 75.4 percent of mental health facilities offered no employment services, according to the study. Further, among the 19.6 percent of facilities that did offer supported employment and 15.9 percent that offered vocational rehabilitation, there occurred significant overlap in service delivery.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201706150900>

HHS AWARDS \$72.5 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

HHS has awarded \$72.5 million in grants through the Expansion and Sustainability of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances Program, also known as the Children's Mental Health Initiative. SAMHSA will distribute the funding to seven states and one local government agency to improve outcomes for children, youth, and young adults who experience serious emotional disturbances and their families. Regions receiving funding include Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Carrol County in Maryland. Grants range from \$1 to \$3 million per year over four years.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201706131100-6>

NEW AHRQ REPORT SHOWS SHARP RISE AMONG WOMEN FOR OPIOID-RELATED HOSPITAL STAYS; SUBSTANTIAL STATE-TO-STATE VARIATION IN THE AGE GROUP WITH THE HIGHEST RATE OF OPIOID-RELATED HOSPITALIZATIONS

Hospitalizations involving opioid pain relievers and heroin increased 75 percent for women between 2005 and 2014, a jump that significantly outpaced the 55 percent increase among men, according to a new report from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Because of the accelerated rates among women during that 10-year period, women and men were hospitalized at virtually the same rate nationwide in 2014 – about 225 hospitalizations per 100,000 people, according to AHRQ's analysis.

Press Release: <https://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsroom/press-releases/women-opioid-related-hospital-stays.html>

Infographic: <https://www.ahrq.gov/research/data/data-infographics/images/2014-opioid-men-women.html>

NEW FROM NIMH

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: RDOC: OUTCOMES TO CAUSES AND BACK

In the second of two Director's Messages on the Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) project, NIMH Director Dr. Joshua Gordon talks about the role of computational psychiatry in the effort to understand the brain processes underlying behavior and mental disorders.

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/messages/2017/rdoc-outcomes-to-causes-and-back.shtml>

CONDUCTING RESEARCH WITH PARTICIPANTS AT ELEVATED RISK FOR SUICIDE: CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESEARCHERS

This document serves to update NIMH guidance on suicide intervention research. It is intended to support the development of NIMH research grant applications in suicide research, including those related to clinical course, risk and detection, and interventions and implementation, as well as to support research conduct that is safe, ethical, and feasible. An additional purpose is to point readers to current federal policy and guidance documents on human subject research, privacy protections, participant safety monitoring and reporting, common data elements, data sharing, and Institutional Review Boards.

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/funding/clinical-research/conducting-research-with-participants-at-elevated-risk-for-suicide-considerations-for-researchers.shtml>

MEN AND DEPRESSION-REVISED

This brochure discusses depression in men, including differences from women, signs and symptoms, types, causes, treatment, and how to help or get help. <https://infocenter.nimh.nih.gov/nimh/product/QF%2017-5300>

NEW FROM NIH

NIH RESEARCH MATTERS: A NONINVASIVE DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION TECHNIQUE

Researchers designed a noninvasive way to stimulate cells deep in the brains of mice without affecting surrounding tissue. The results suggest a more convenient strategy for treating Parkinson's disease and mental health disorders using electrical stimulation. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/noninvasive-deep-brain-stimulation-technique>

SCIENTISTS EXPLORE BRAIN REGION'S ROLE IN COMPULSIVE DRUG SEEKING

The lateral habenula region of the brain is known for registering negative and aversive outcomes, including to drugs. A new report suggests that impairment of the lateral habenula contributes to the transition from controlled drug use to the compulsive use seen in addiction. Scientists at the National Institute on Drug Abuse found that shutting down activity in the lateral habenula increased rats' persistence in efforts to obtain cocaine despite cues that they had learned to associate with no drug being available.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/latest-science/scientists-explore-brain-regions-role-in-compulsive-drug-seeking>

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND COGNITIVE FUNCTION, DEMENTIA, AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

This digest from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health summarizes current information on “what the science says” about several dietary supplements that have been studied for cognitive function, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease. Although a few trials of natural products for the prevention of cognitive decline or dementia have shown some modest effects, direct evidence is lacking. In addition, research on some mind and body practices such as music therapy and mental imagery, which have shown promise in treating some symptoms related to dementia, as well as alleviating stress among caregivers, is ongoing. <https://nccih.nih.gov/health/providers/digest/alzheimers>

NEW FROM CDC

QUICKSTATS: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AND TEENS AGED 4-17 YEARS EVER DIAGNOSED WITH ADHD, BY SEX AND URBANIZATION OF COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

During 2013–2015, the percentage of children and teens aged four to 17 years who had ever received a diagnosis of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was significantly higher among boys than among girls within all urbanization levels. Among boys, those living in small metro and non-metro micropolitan areas were more likely to have received a diagnosis of ADHD than were those living in large central and large fringe metropolitan areas. Among girls, those living in large central areas were less likely to have received a diagnosis of ADHD than those living in each of the other five types of urban/rural areas.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6623a7.htm?s_cid=mm6623a7_e

40TH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE NATION FEATURES LONG-TERM TRENDS IN HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE DELIVERY IN THE U.S.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released *Health, United States, 2016*, the 40th annual report on the health of the nation. This year's report features a Chartbook on Long-Term Trends in health and health care delivery over the past 40 years. The 27 charts and 114 tables present life expectancy and leading causes of death, health risk behaviors, health care utilization and insurance coverage, and health expenditures. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

PAIN MANAGEMENT AND OPIOID USE WITH VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

Military service brings a risk for serious injury, and with it, the possibility of severe or chronic pain. Such pain may be treated with prescription medication – sometimes opioids – which carry a risk for overuse or misuse. This SAMHSA News article describes how SAMHSA has been working with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enhance informed prescribing practices and prevent misuse that can result in overdose or even death. <https://newsletter.samhsa.gov/2017/06/12/opioid-pain-management-for-veterans-active-duty-military/>

REDESIGNED NREPP LEARNING CENTER LAUNCHED

SAMHSA announces the launch of the new Learning Center website for the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices. The site was designed to provide resources for developing, implementing, and sustaining culture-centered and evidence-based programs and practices. Learning Center tools provide practical support for using evidence-based programs and practices to improve the behavioral health of clients, family members, and communities.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/1a3de1d>

PROJECT ECHO LGBT: MAKING SYSTEM CHANGE TO ADDRESS A HIGH-RISK POPULATION

This SAMHSA ATTC blog post describes *Project ECHO LGBT* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender), an initiative of CDC, the National Association for Community Health Centers, and the Weizmann Institute, which helped providers at 10 health care centers across the U.S. improve the quality of care for LGBT patients. <http://attcniatx.blogspot.com/2017/06/project-echo-lgbt-making-system-change.html>

BLOG POST: PROTECTING OUR INFANTS ACT: FINAL STRATEGY NOW AVAILABLE

This SAMHSA blog post describes the strategy developed by HHS to respond to the unmet needs of pregnant women and their newborns as directed by Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015. The adoption of the effective, evidence-based interventions identified in this strategy will improve care for pregnant and parenting women with opioid use disorder and their infants. <https://blog.samhsa.gov/2017/06/28/protecting-our-infants-act-final-strategy-now-available/#.WVT5MYTyupo>

OPERATION PREVENTION: NEW RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

Operation Prevention, an initiative from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Discovery Education, aims to combat the growing epidemic of prescription opioid misuse and heroin use by educating students about the science behind addiction and its impacts on the brain and body. The newest Operation Prevention resources include the *Science of Addiction Student Learning Module* which allows students to investigate the impacts of heroin and prescription opioids on the brain and body through a self-paced scientific exploration; the *Elementary School Lesson* which explains how medications work in our bodies and why it is important to use them responsibly; the *Extended Parent Toolkit* with discussion starters for elementary age students; and resources in Spanish. <https://www.operationprevention.com/>

DCOE BLOG POST: UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND HEALTH CARE

Cultural identity can affect how service members and their families engage with their health care providers. This blog post summarizes a recent Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) webinar addressing these impacts and how health care providers can help minimize them. <http://dcoe.mil/blog/17-06-12/understanding-cultural-differences-and-health-care>

INDICATORS OF MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS REPORTED BY PRISONERS AND JAIL INMATES, 2011-12

The Bureau of Justice Statistics recently released a study examining the number of state and federal prisoners and jail inmates reporting experiences that met the threshold for serious psychological distress (SPD). The study found 14 percent of state and federal prisoners and inmates and 26 percent of jail inmates reported experiences in the prior 30 days that met the threshold for SPD, compared with five percent of the standardized U.S. general population that met the same threshold. A greater percentage of women in prison or jail reported recent experiences meeting the threshold for SPD than men in prison or jail. Additionally, 37 percent of prisoners and 44 percent of jail inmates had at some point been told by a mental health professional that they had a mental disorder. <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/imhprpji1112.pdf>

EVENTS

WEBINAR: INTEGRATED PRACTICE: THE CONTRIBUTION OF HEALTH LITERACY TO RECOVERY-ORIENTED CARE

JULY 12, 2017 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

This SAMHSA webinar will define health literacy and why it is important to integrated care; provide best practices for sharing written and spoken information so that it is more easily understood and applied by people using services; discuss how culture and linguistics affect how people communicate, understand, and respond to health information; and explore how practitioners can ensure that health information and choice are fully understood and used by the people we serve. https://events-na2.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/916603251/en/events/event/shared/1056942809/event_landing.html?sco-id=1056950978&_charset_=utf-8

WEBINAR: ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF PTSD IN INDIVIDUALS WITH CO-OCCURRING PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS

JULY 19, 2017, 2:00 PM ET

On the third Wednesday of each month, the VA Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Consultation Program hosts a webinar on a topic relevant to treating PTSD. The July lecture will focus on the assessment and treatment of PTSD in individuals with co-occurring psychotic disorders. <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/consult/lecture-series.asp>

WEBINAR: WHO'S LEADING THE LEADING HEALTH INDICATORS? SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

JULY 20, 2017, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Learn about progress made toward achieving the Healthy People 2020 “Social Determinants Leading Health Indicator” in this HHS webinar. Participants will hear how the program, Diplomas Now, is working to increase high school graduation rates by focusing on chronic absenteeism, behavior, and course performance in school. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USOPHSODPHPHF/bulletins/1a5a8e1>

WEBINAR: COLLABORATION AND MUTUALITY

JULY 24, 2017, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

This webinar hosted by SAMHSA's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care and Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint will highlight the efforts of the San Jose, California Mayor's Office of Prevention of Gang Violence. This collaborative model successfully developed and implemented will focus on prevention of gang violence and facilitating community healing through effective collaborations with grassroots stakeholders, including the faith-based community, gang members, community providers, etc.

<https://www.nasmhpd.org/content/community-vln>

WEBINAR: COLLABORATION AND MUTUALITY: HARBEL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MONDAY

JULY 24, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

In this SAMHSA webinar, learn about the role community organization plays in Harbel Community Services. Harbel provides recovery services, but what is unique about their approach is their use of collaborative relationships with a wide range of community partners. Harbel employs persons with lived experience in all aspects of service delivery. A critical role includes outreach and support to individuals struggling with opiate addiction. Peer workers are trained to carry and administer Naloxone to revive individuals who have overdosed and offer recovery-oriented, trauma-informed services immediately, thus helping to address the opioid epidemic. <https://www.nasmhpd.org/content/crisis-services-vln>

THE SCIENCE OF CAREGIVING: BRINGING VOICES TOGETHER

AUGUST 7-8, 2017, BETHESDA, MD

The National Institute of Nursing Research and partners will host a summit that will provide perspectives across the spectrum of caregiving, including the importance of caregiving across the lifespan as well as current and future directions for research to improve the health of patients and caregivers.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/science-of-caregiving-bringing-voices-together-tickets-30258348535?aff=NIHwide>

WEBINAR: CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND GENDER ISSUES: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF HISTORICAL TRAUMA ON COMMUNITIES

AUGUST 28, 2017, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

This webinar hosted by SAMHSA's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care and Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint will address historical trauma in communities and identify strategies that work to address the importance of understanding intergenerational trauma.

<https://www.nasmhpd.org/content/community-vln>

WEBINAR: CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND GENDER ISSUES: THE ALI FORNEY CENTER

AUGUST 28, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

This SAMHSA webinar will feature insights from staff at the Ali Forney Center (AFC) in New York, NY, the largest program dedicated to meeting the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) homeless youth in the nation. AFC provides a comprehensive range of services to LGBTQ homeless and street-based youth, including a drop-in center, mobile outreach, and emergency housing. Their Peer Educator program was created based on the recognition that homeless youth are most likely to trust outreach workers who have been formerly homeless themselves. In addition, their community outreach program is designed to help mental health providers to serve LGBTQ youth in a more culturally-competent manner. <https://www.nasmhpd.org/content/crisis-services-vln>

VIRTUAL EVENT: DCOE ANNUAL SUMMIT: ADVANCES IN THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE AND BEST PRACTICE

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2017

DCoE's 2017 Annual Summit will connect health care professionals, researchers, and academicians involved in all aspects of psychological health and traumatic brain injury care for the military community. This year's event will offer real-time access to up to 28 hours of state-of-the-science programing. Join others from around the globe to participate in panel discussions and question and answer sessions, network with professionals and peers, visit the virtual exhibit hall for resources, and earn up to 14 continuing education credits during the virtual event. <http://dcoe.mil/news/17-06-28/annual-mental-health-tbi-summit-registration-opens-july>

NIH RESEARCH STUDY: DEPRESSION IN TEENAGERS

This study seeks to understand the causes of depression in teenagers. As part of a larger study looking at mood dysregulation, this part of the study is currently recruiting medically healthy teenagers ages 12 to 17, who meet the criteria for major depressive disorder, and are in treatment with a physician. Study participation begins with an initial 1-day evaluation. Research visits may include annual outpatient visits up to age 25, and/or a 4- to 15-week inpatient treatment. Call 1-301-496-8381 [TTY: 1-866-411-1010], Email depressedkids@mail.nih.gov

Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health
<http://go.usa.gov/x8Xmk>

RESOURCE LISTING OR FACEBOOK:

NIH Research Study: Understanding the causes of depression in teenagers. Currently recruiting ages 12-17. Initial 1-day evaluation for outpatient visits annually and/or 4- to 15-week inpatient treatment. Call 1-301-496-8381 [TTY: 1-866-411-1010] or Email depressedkids@mail.nih.gov
<http://go.usa.gov/x8Xmk>

Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health

TWITTER:

Teenagers with Depression: NIH Research study currently recruiting ages 12-17 for outpatient visits & treatment to understand the causes of depression. <http://go.usa.gov/x8Xmk>

BLOG POST: THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH ETHICS TO NATIVE COMMUNITIES

In this HHS blog post, learn how employees at NIH are working to ensure research ethics are more inclusive of the needs of American Indians and Alaska Native communities.

<https://www.hhs.gov/blog/2017/06/08/importance-research-ethics-native-communities.html>

COMMENTS SOUGHT ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PARITY IMPLEMENTATION AND THE 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT PART 38

The Departments of HHS, Labor, and the Treasury are seeking comments on how to improve disclosure under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) and other laws, as required by the 21st Century Cures Act. As part of the solicitation of comments, the Departments are releasing and seeking comments on a draft model form that participants, enrollees, or their authorized representatives could use to request information from their health plan about non-quantitative treatment limitations that affect their mental health or substance use disorder benefits. In addition, the Departments request comments on whether any additional clarification is needed regarding how the requirements of MHPAEA apply to treatment for eating disorders. Comments are accepted through September 13, 2017.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/1a3047d>

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS IMPOSED BY THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND IMPROVING HEALTHCARE CHOICES TO EMPOWER PATIENTS

HHS is working to reduce regulatory burdens and improve health insurance options under Title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). HHS seeks comment from interested parties to inform its ongoing efforts to create a more patient-centered health care system that adheres to the key principles of affordability, accessibility, quality, innovation, and empowerment. Comments accepted through July 12, 2017. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/06/12/2017-12130/reducing-regulatory-burdens-imposed-by-the-patient-protection-and-affordable-care-act-and-improving>

FUNDING INFORMATION

NIMH INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING (T32) INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR: ARCHIVED

This archived NIMH informational webinar on institutional training (T32) applications may be a useful resource in preparing applications. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/media/2017/nimh-institutional-training-t32-informational-webinar.shtml>

NOTICE OF INTEREST TO HIGHLIGHT HIGH-PRIORITY TIME-SENSITIVE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES TOWARD ZERO SUICIDE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

NIMH is issuing this notice to highlight its interest in receiving grant applications focused on applied research that advances the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's "Zero Suicide" goal of preventing suicide events (attempts, deaths) among individuals receiving treatment within health care systems. Zero Suicide is a commitment to the prevention of suicide among individuals served by health care systems and is also a specific set of health care strategies and tools intended to eliminate suicide events. This notice specifically encourages applications that leverage time-sensitive opportunities and clinical infrastructure, including collaborations with organizations supported through SAMHSA's recently announced cooperative agreement initiative to implement Zero Suicide in health systems. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-17-031.html>



National Institute
of Mental Health

The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to increase the public's access to science-based mental health information through partnerships with national and state organizations. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/index.shtml>. To subscribe to receive the Update every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/news-and-updates-from-the-program.shtml>.

The information provided in the **Update** is intended for use by NIMH Outreach Partners, National Partners and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education and partnership programs.