



NRI NEWSLETTER

The NRI Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication that brings together news and events relevant to stakeholders of the public behavioral health system.

MAY 18, 2017

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [State News](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Free Educational Opportunities](#)
- [Funding & Awards](#)
- [Links of Interest](#)
- [NRI Leadership](#)

NRI SPOTLIGHT

[NRI and NASMHPD to Host SAMHSA-Sponsored Webinars Series](#)

NRI and NASMHPD are hosting a series of SAMHSA-sponsored webinars focusing on First Episode Psychosis Programs. The May 23rd webinar, *Insights from Measures Used in the National Evaluation of the 10% Set Aside*, and *Proposed for NIMH EPINET*, features the design and outcome measures that will be used in the MHBG 10% Early Intervention Study. Dr. Robert Heinssen of NIMH will also present an update on the EPINET project and its intention to develop a national learning community among FEP programs. [Register now!](#)

STATE NEWS

#MentalHealthMonth: People with Mental Illnesses Meet with Judges, Psychiatrists to Discuss Courtroom Decision Making

On May 1, judges and psychiatrists from across the country gathered with people with mental illnesses and their family members to discuss the place where their lives often intersect—the criminal justice system. [Read more.](#)

Arkansas's Justice Reinvestment Approach: Enhancing Local Mental Health Services for People in the Criminal Justice System

After using a justice reinvestment approach, Arkansas passed legislation that creates local crisis stabilization units that will allow people with mental illnesses who commit low-level offenses to receive treatment in the community rather than go to prison. [Read more.](#)

Georgia Governor Signs Bill to Strengthen Probation and Increase Public Safety

SB 174 offers Georgia residents meaningful supervision, will increase public safety, is expected to lower probation terms for certain people, and waive fines and fees for people who are deemed unable to pay them. [Read more.](#)

Massachusetts Requests Flexibility to Change MassHealth Benefits

Secretary of Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders wrote a six-page letter to Seema Verma, the administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, seeking a large amount of flexibility from the federal government in administering Massachusetts' Medicaid program. Included in the letter was a request for flexibility regarding benefits. [Read the letter.](#)

North Dakota Allocates \$7M for Addiction Treatment

The North Dakota Governor signed legislation that enables the state to appropriate \$7 million from the general fund to increase the quality of community-based behavioral health treatment for people in the criminal justice system. [Read more.](#)

Proposed Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers in Maine and Wisconsin

Wisconsin and Maine are seeking waiver authority to make significant changes to Medicaid that would affect non-expansion Medicaid populations. [Read more.](#)

RESEARCH

Medicaid Coverage as Good as Private Insurance, Survey Shows

According to a new survey of 6000 people by the Commonwealth Fund, a New York-based think tank, Medicaid coverage is not only substantially better than being uninsured, but it is also as good as or better than private insurance in providing access to care. [Read more.](#)

FREE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MAY 24: Accessing Behavioral Health Services: Can Peer Support Help?

Mathematica Policy Research will host a webinar to discuss the findings from an evaluation of HCIA-funded projects that focused on mental health services. [Register here.](#)

MAY 31: Partnering for Success: Spotlight on Missouri Medicaid and Department of Mental Health

This SAMHSA-sponsored webinar explores the reasons MO HealthNet and DMH work together, identifies principles and techniques that go into an effective partnership, summarizes the benefits of a symbiotic relationship, and provides examples of initiatives that were a direct result of this collaboration. [Register here.](#)

JUNE 15: How to Effectively Implement Telebehavioral Health in Primary Care – A Dialogue with Experts

Join this interactive webinar hosted by SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated-Health Solutions to ask subject matter experts about the key elements of successful telebehavioral implementation and learn about practical tools for how to build capacity for telebehavioral health in integrated primary and behavioral health care settings. [Register here.](#)

Webinar Series: Trauma-Informed Innovations in Crisis Services

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Center for Trauma-Informed Care and Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint (NCTIC) presents the Webinar Series: "Trauma-Informed Innovations in Crisis Services." The series runs from April – September 2017 on the 4th Monday of each month, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET. [See the schedule.](#)

FUNDING & AWARDS

Trump Administration Awards \$495 Million in Grants to States to Combat Opioid Crisis

The funding, which is the first of two rounds provided for in the 21st Century Cures Act, will be provided through the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants administered by the Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). [Read more.](#)

Call for Applications for the 2018 American Psychiatric Association Psychiatric Services Achievement Awards

The Psychiatric Service Award is presented to innovative programs that deliver services to the mentally ill or disabled that have overcome obstacles, and that can serve as models for other programs. [Apply by June 1, 2017.](#)

Congressional Leaders Agree on Bill Funding Key Justice Programs

Congressional leaders reached a deal on Sunday, April 30, on a more than \$1 trillion omnibus appropriations bill, which will provide new funding for the federal government for the current fiscal year. [Read more.](#)

LINKS OF INTEREST

[Learn The Facts Of Homelessness In The U.S. With These Data Visualizations](#)

[Federal Requirements and State Options: How States Exercise Flexibility under a Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Healthy Marketplace Index](#): The Healthy Marketplace Index measures the economic performance of health care markets across the country. It gives local policymakers, employers, and providers a benchmark as they work to improve health care value and affordability.

[Mental Health Literacy Survey](#): The CAPE team conducted a nationally representative web-based survey to evaluate mental health literacy along four dimensions: 1) Depression; 2) Anxiety; 3) Alcohol Abuse; and 4) Prescription Drug Misuse.

[Future Surveillance of Mental Disorders in the United States](#)

[I Was Diagnosed With Schizophrenia At The Age Of 17, So I Started Drawing My Hallucinations To Cope With It](#)

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