



NRI NEWSLETTER

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

April 12, 2018

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SPOTLIGHT

Debunking Caricatures of Behavioral Healthcare

Ron Manderscheid, Ph.D., NRI Board member and Executive Director of the National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD), recently published an article on the Behavioral Healthcare Executive website. In the article, Debunking Caricatures of Behavioral Healthcare, Dr. Manderscheid discusses the importance of recognizing the vast array of sources for behavioral health care beyond visits with a psychiatrist. [Read more.](#)

New Resources for Early Intervention in Psychosis

Since fiscal year 2014, NRI and NASMHPD have collaborated to develop technical assistance resources for states and providers as they implement early intervention programs supported by the MHBG Set Aside for early serious mental illness (ESMI). These [resources include](#) an annual Snapshot of State Plans for Using the MHBG Set Aside that highlights each state's initiatives around early intervention programs, a variety of issue briefs and tutorials that provide insight and guidance on components and populations affected by ESMI, and a series of webinars that feature subject matter experts who address emerging issues in the field. In addition to providing technical assistance, NRI is also working with Westat to implement SAMHSA's MHBG 10% Set-Aside Evaluation. The evaluation assesses the program fidelity of 38 study sites nation-wide over two years, taking into account the local environmental and contextual factors of each site. For more information on any of these initiatives, please contact [Kristin Neylon](#).

RESEARCH

Patients With Early Psychosis May Benefit From App on How to Cope With Symptoms

According to a report published in Schizophrenia Bulletin, Actissist—a smartphone app that prompts patients with early psychosis to share information about psychotic symptoms and responds with tips on how best to manage these symptoms—may offer an advantage over apps that capture data about symptoms alone. [Read more.](#)

Study Finds Certain Medical Disorders, Mental Health Conditions and Demographic Risk Factors Associated with Higher Rates of Suicide

The authors compared demographic and clinical risk factors between patients who died by suicide by using firearms or other means with matched patients who did not die by suicide.

[Read more.](#)

Risk of Victimization Is High in Patients With Psychosis, Meta-Analysis Finds

A meta-analysis in Schizophrenia Bulletin found that rates of victimization were between 4 and 6 times higher among individuals with psychosis than in the general community. [Read more.](#)

Early Intervention Service Improves Long-Term Survival in Patients With First-Episode Psychosis

A study published in JAMA Psychiatry suggests patients experiencing a first episode of schizophrenia-spectrum disorder who participate in an early intervention program may be less likely to die by suicide over the long term. [Read more.](#)

FREE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 16: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics: A New Approach To Providing Mental Health & Addiction Services

During this Virtual Forum, Joseph Parks, MD, Medical Director at the National Council for Behavioral Health and NRI board member, and a practicing psychiatrist; and Darryl Donlin, LCSW, MBA, Senior Associate at OPEN MINDS, will cover the demonstration project and its approach to comprehensive and coordinated mental health and addiction services. [Register now.](#)

APRIL 18: Impact of ACEs and Adoption of Trauma-Informed Approaches in Integrated Settings

Join the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions for this webinar to learn more about trauma and its impact, hear the case for adopting trauma-informed approaches, and take back to your organization a methodology for implementing trauma-informed care. [Register now.](#)

APRIL 18: Assessing and Managing Violence Risk in Veterans with PTSD

This lecture in the National Center for PTSD Consultation lecture series will address assessing and managing violence risk in Veterans with PTSD. [Register now.](#)

APRIL 18: System of Care (SOC) Leadership Learning Community: Considerations for SOC Leaders for Serving Young Children and their Families

This month's SOC Leadership Learning Community will focus on serving young children and their families with the SOC approach and will address areas that should be considered at both the system and service delivery levels to effectively meet the needs of this population. [Register now.](#)

APRIL 20: Understanding Psychosis – Using Formulation to Develop Effective Interventions

This webinar is designed for intermediate level CBT clinicians and aims to build on an existing knowledge-base through examination of different formulation techniques including collaborative development of formulation and team-based formulation. [Register now.](#)

APRIL 24: Understanding the Impact of Suicide in Rural America

The HRSA-supported Rural Health Information Hub will discuss the policy brief on suicide in rural America recently released by the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services. [Register now.](#)

APRIL 26: Why Addiction is a 'Disease' and Why It's Important

A webcast series called The Power of Perceptions and Understanding: Changing How We Deliver Treatment and Recovery Services, hosted by SAMHSA and Massachusetts General Hospital's Recovery Research Institute, for health care providers will focus on the definition of disease and why is it

particularly important for addiction to be emphasized as a disease. [Register now.](#)

FUNDING & AWARDS

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity Announcement: Assertive Community Treatment Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for its Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) grants. The purpose of the ACT grants are to establish, expand, and maintain ACT programs. The ACT model provides around-the-clock support in the form of teams who are available to respond to a home or other setting and avoid crises caused by the symptoms of serious mental illness (SMI). SAMHSA expects this grant program will improve behavioral health outcomes by reducing the rates of hospitalization and death for people with SMI, and that the program will also reduce the rates of substance use, homelessness, and involvement with the criminal justice system among people with SMI. [Learn more.](#)

HELPFUL RESOURCES & LINKS OF INTEREST

[Increasing Employment May Improve Mental and Physical Health for Individuals with Mental Health Challenges](#) Presents findings from three focus groups of stakeholders on their perspectives regarding policies that facilitate employment opportunities for individuals with mental health challenges.

April 28, 2018 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications. The Drug Enforcement Agency has created a new partnership toolbox of materials to help promote the event. The toolbox includes print materials, digital and print billboards, bus ads, site location banners, and a web button. [Learn more.](#)

The [Summer Institute in Mental Health Research](#) will be offered over the course of a two-week period, May 29 – June 8, 2018, by the Maryland Department of Mental Health and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. NRI Board Member Ron Manderscheid will be leading an online course called “**Knowledge for Managing County and Local Mental Health, Substance Use, and Developmental Disability Authorities.**” [Learn more.](#)

[How Technology is Transforming Police Response](#) To better respond to calls that involve those living with mental health challenges, a Houston sheriff’s department is adding another tool to their toolbelt: iPads.

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