

Behavioral Health

NEWS UPDATE

July 2022

AHA statement on Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

In a [statement](#), the AHA said the following: "We expect that this decision will have practical impacts on hospitals and health systems, including on health care provided across state lines, EMTALA obligations, maternal health care, the clinician-patient relationship, medical education and access to care for individuals regardless of socioeconomic status. We are committed to helping our member hospitals and health systems navigate the evolving landscape consistent with AHA's mission of advancing the health of all individuals and communities."

Spotlight

AHA releases guide to help hospitals address workforce challenges



AHA released the first report in a three-part series that offers strategies and resources to help hospital and health system leaders navigate workforce challenges and opportunities. The first report focuses on workforce well-being, behavioral health and preventing workplace violence. View the [report](#) and [digital toolkit](#).

ADVOCACY | Bipartisan legislation to reduce violence signed into law

The House on June 24 voted 234-193 to pass, and President Biden on June 25 signed into law [bipartisan legislation](#) to help reduce gun violence in communities. The AHA-supported package includes behavioral health provisions, including funding for school safety resources, school-based supportive services and expanded access to telehealth for behavioral health services.

ADVOCACY | House passes bill to reauthorize, expand federal behavioral health programs

The House voted 402-20 to pass the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-being Act (H.R. 7666), bipartisan legislation that includes reauthorization through 2027 of more than 30 programs that support mental health care, prevention, education and workforce training. The bill includes AHA-supported legislation that would reauthorize and expand a program that addresses maternal mental health and substance use disorders and require the Health and Human Services Secretary to maintain a national hotline to provide mental health and substance use disorder resources to pregnant and postpartum women and their families. [READ MORE](#)

ADVOCACY | Hospital groups endorse bill to protect health care workers from violence

The AHA and seven other national hospital organizations voiced [support](#) for the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Reps. Madeleine Dean, D-Pa., and Larry Bucshon, M.D., R-Ind., that would give health care workers the same legal protections against assault and intimidation that flight crews and airport workers have under federal law.

ADVOCACY | President issues executive order on advancing LGBTQI+ equality

President Biden directed the Health and Human Services Secretary to develop and release sample policies for states “to safeguard and expand access to health care for LGBTQI+ individuals and their families, including mental health services.” The [executive order](#) on advancing equality for LGBTQI+ individuals also calls for HHS to expand access to family counseling and support programs for LGBTQI+ youth, and address health disparities for LGBTQI+ youth and adults, among other actions.



CONFERENCE

2022 AHA Leadership Summit

JULY 17-19 | SAN DIEGO

The [2022 AHA Leadership Summit](#), July 17–19, features educational programming for behavioral health leaders including: *Pursuing Value with Provider-Partnered Health Plans*; *Creating a Resilient Nursing Workforce Model with Flexible Staffing*; *Not My Patient? Combating Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Stigma by Changing Hospital Culture*; and *The Kids Are Not OK: Meeting Community Behavioral Health Needs Through Partnership*.

NEWS | National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is observed each July to bring awareness to the [unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness](#) in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it harder for racial and ethnic minority groups to access mental health and substance use treatment services.

Throughout the month, the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) will focus on promoting [tools and resources](#) addressing the stigma about mental health among racial and ethnic minority populations. More resources are available at the OMH [National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month webpage](#) and [AHA's Minority Mental Health Awareness website](#); and check out AHA's [People Matter Words Matter poster](#) on culturally/racially aware language.

Additionally, you may be interested in [AHA's Health Equity Roadmap](#) released earlier this year. It is designed to meet hospitals and health systems where they are on their equity journey. It includes customized resources and action plans, among other support tools, to guide organizations throughout the transformation process.

NEWS | 988 Lifeline Transition - Partner Toolkit and Jobs Web Page

The U.S. on July 16 will transition to [988](#) – the easy-to-remember number to reach the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. SAMHSA has added downloadable print files for wallet cards, magnets, and posters to its [988 Partner Toolkit](#). The toolkit already includes [logo and brand guidelines](#), key messages, frequently asked questions, fact sheets (English and Spanish), radio PSA scripts (English and Spanish), and more. One of the most urgent needs for the transition is staffing at crisis centers. Anyone interested in serving in these critical positions is encouraged to visit the [988 jobs web page](#).

AHA is building out a website to include additional resources related to the rollout of 988. We are working with the National Alliance on Mental Illness to keep you informed on this important transition. Until AHA's website is released, check out NAMI's 988 resources [here](#).

NEWS | FDA approves second generic naloxone nasal spray

The Food and Drug Administration [approved](#) the second generic naloxone nasal spray, an emergency treatment for known or suspected opioid overdose. The agency approved the [first](#) generic naloxone nasal spray in 2019.

NEWS | Surgeon General calls for collective action to address health worker burnout

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, M.D. issued an advisory recommending a whole-of-society approach to addressing health worker burnout. Among other actions, the report calls for reducing administrative burdens, improving workplace and learning environments, increasing access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment, addressing workforce shortages, preventing workplace violence, and promoting peer support and team-based care models. [LEARN MORE](#)

PODCAST | Transforming pediatric mental health through care integration

Learn how Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego transformed behavioral health care for children after a 500% surge in emergency department visits for behavioral health concerns. [LISTEN HERE](#)

PODCAST | Trauma-informed leadership at Henry Ford Hospital & Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital

Leading care teams through COVID-19 has been a challenge unlike any other. As hospital leaders struggle to retain and support an exhausted workforce, they are left looking to understand how to address the traumatic stress caused by COVID-19. In this episode, Elisa Arespachaga, AHA's vice president of clinical affairs and workforce, sits down with Brooke Buckley, M.D., vice president and CMO of Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital and Robert Matheny, Manager of Neurodiagnostics at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit to hear about their work on trauma-informed leadership and how they've approached leading teams in the midst of COVID-19. [LISTEN HERE](#)

WEBINAR | Victim-centric response to mass violence incidents

July 14 | 2:00 pm CT

The Justice Department's National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center will host a July 14 town hall webinar on victim-centric response to mass violence, which will also feature speakers from the Office for Victims of Crime, FBI and American Red Cross. The webinar will identify effective strategies to assess and address the needs of mass violence victims, survivors and community members. AHA is a principal partner of the NMVRC, established by a grant from the Justice Department. [REGISTER HERE](#)

VIDEO | Spotighting AHA's ongoing work to support members

From sounding the alarm on the workforce emergency to shining a spotlight on commercial payer abuses, a [new AHA video](#) highlights some accomplishments and key initiatives the association has undertaken to support members this year.

INTERVIEW | Why boards should focus on suicide prevention

This [interview](#) between Sue Ellen Wagner, AHA's vice president of trustee engagement and strategy, and Cathy Frank, M.D., chair of Henry Ford Health's Department of Psychiatry and member of AHA's Committee on Behavioral Health, explores how the health system is addressing suicide prevention and what boards can do to support this vital public health issue.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY | HRSA announces grants to expand rural access to opioid use disorder treatment

Organizations can apply through July 29 for a portion of \$10 million in funding to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder in rural communities, the Health Resources and Services Administration [announced](#). HRSA's Rural Communities Opioid Response Program expects to award 10 grants of up to \$1 million each. According to HRSA, more than half of rural counties lack a Drug Enforcement Administration-waivered MAT provider, and almost 30% of rural Americans live in a county without a buprenorphine provider.

WORTH A LOOK | New AHRQ brief offers direction on evaluating mental health apps

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently issued a technical brief, "[Evaluation of Mental Health Mobile Applications](#)" to aid providers, patients, payers and others. The document provides a framework to assist stakeholders in technology evaluation for recovery and to help in appraising and selecting mental health mobile apps based on factors like risk/safety, technical functionality and mental health features.

The American Psychiatric Association also has a mental health app resource. Visit the [App Advisor webpage](#) for more information.

To access past Behavioral Health Updates, [click here](#), and check out the latest resources at the [AHA Behavioral Health website](#).

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