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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UPDATE: November 2017  
A Monthly Report for Members  
of the American Hospital Association [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org) and the  
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems, [www.naphs.org](http://www.naphs.org)

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***1. President Donald Trump Declares Opioid Crisis a Public Health Emergency***

President Donald Trump has declared America's opioid crisis a national public health emergency, which he said will include approvals to states that have asked for relief from the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion.

"As part of this emergency response, we will announce a new policy to overcome a restrictive 1970s-era rule that prevents states from providing care at certain treatment facilities with more than 16 beds for those suffering from drug addiction," the president said in a news conference at the White House on Oct. 26. "A number of states have reached out to us asking for relief, and you should expect to see approvals that will unlock treatment for people in need," he added.

The president did not announce any federal funding associated with the declaration, nor did he say whether he wants Congress to act on more funding. In PBS' *NewsHour* program, Bertha Madras, PhD, a psychobiologist in the division of alcohol and drug abuse at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass. and a member of the president's opioid commission, said the commission's final report will have "far greater detail in terms of areas that need funding, areas that need dramatic reform, and areas, of course, that need prevention." Madras is also a professor of psychobiology at Harvard Medical School.

## **2. President's Opioid Commission to Release Final Report on Nov. 1**

The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis is scheduled to release its final report on America's opioid crisis on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Executive Office of the President, will hold a meeting of the commission to receive personal stories about addiction and discuss and vote on the commission's final report at 1:30 p.m. ET that day. The event will be available via [webcast](#), and the commission—which released an [interim report](#) in late July—will post the final report on its [website](#).

## **3. NAPHS Drafts White Paper on Nation's Opioid Crisis**

NAPHS has drafted [Blueprint for Recovery: Increasing Access to Inpatient and Residential Behavioral Health Treatment](#), a white paper intended to help federal officials address the nation's opioid crisis.

In late July, President Donald Trump's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis released an interim report and included a recommendation to “rapidly increase treatment capacity.” This white paper builds on that recommendation and outlines practical actions that the commission and the Trump administration can take to implement it. NAPHS sent the white paper to the commission, leaders at HHS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and relevant congressional committees in both chambers of Congress.

## **4. AHA Develops Opioid Toolkit**

The AHA has developed a new [opioid toolkit](#) to provide hospitals and health systems with guidance on how they can work with their patients, clinicians and communities to address the public health emergency. The toolkit reviews the role of hospitals and health systems in addressing the crisis; emphasizes the key activities that every hospital should undertake; and offers resources to help hospitals fulfill their roles.

## **5. CMS Issues 100 Frequently Asked Questions about Survey Process for PRTFs**

CMS has released a set of [100 frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) about the survey process for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs). Answers to the FAQs cover a range of topics addressed during the PRTF surveys, including restraint and seclusion, clinical care of residents in PRTFs, PRTF regulations, and the survey process.

## **6. CMS Releases FAQ on Parity Rule for Medicaid and CHIP**

CMS also released a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Rule for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

In the March 2016 rule, CMS applied certain mental health and substance use disorder parity provisions of the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act* to insurance coverage for people enrolled in Medicaid managed care organizations, Medicaid alternative benefit plans, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that ensure financial requirements and treatment limitations on mental health and substance use disorder benefits generally are not more restrictive than the requirements and limitations that apply to medical and surgical benefits in these programs.

## **7. New SAMHSA Report Examines Funding and Characteristics of State Mental Health Agencies**

SAMHSA has released a [report](#) that highlights the structure, financing, responsibilities, policies, and services of single-state agencies and state mental health agencies for 2015. It also features efforts to integrate physical and behavioral health, as well as state agencies' work to address opioid abuse and misuse.

## **8. Commonwealth Fund Issue Brief Examines Medicaid Managed Care Regulations**

The Commonwealth Fund has released an [issue brief](#) that summarizes how recent federal regulations are shifting to an integrated approach to behavioral and physical healthcare. In it, researchers conclude that while two federal rules issued in 2016—the Medicaid managed care rule and the Medicaid managed care mental health parity rule—do not address integrated care specifically, “they should facilitate, and, in some instances, encourage, state movement to integrated care for Medicaid participants.

### **9. Quality Reporting Center to Host Webinar on 2018 Data for IPFQR Program Participants**

The Quality Reporting Center will host an outreach and education webinar for those participating in the Inpatient Psychiatric Quality Reporting Program (IPQRP) on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. ET.

Titled *IPFQR Program Fiscal Year 2018 Data Review*, the presentation will provide a review of the fiscal year 2018 measure and non-measure data results. Webinar slides will be available one day before the presentation on the Quality Reporting Center's [website](#). Please click [here](#) to register. The webinar is not approved for Continuing Education (CE) credits.

### **10. AHA to Host Webinar on Improving Care for Hospitalized Adults with Substance Use Disorder**

The American Hospital Association will host a webinar this month to highlight how a team-based approach is helping to improve care for adults with substance use disorder.

Scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. ET, the [webinar](#) will feature Honora Englander, MD, who serves as associate professor of medicine and director of the Improving Addiction Care Team (IMPACT) at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). Dr. Englander will discuss how she developed IMPACT through understanding local needs and engaging OHSU leaders and community partners.

### **11. ONCHIT Annual Meeting to Address Behavioral Health in Breakout Sessions**

HHS' Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology has included two breakout sessions about behavioral health for the [ONC Annual Meeting](#) in Washington, DC from Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

The first session—*Behavioral Health and Health Information Technology: Tools and Resources for Providers and States*—will show the value of health information technology to behavioral health providers, while the second session—*Interoperability Across the Care Continuum: Behavioral Health & Long-Term Care Providers*—will provide an overview of rates of electronic health record (EHR) adoption and use for behavioral health and long-term, post-acute care providers.

### **12. SAMHSA Provides Services for People Affected by Northern California Wildfires & Las Vegas Shooting**

SAMHSA [announced](#) that its Disaster Distress Helpline can provide immediate counseling to anyone who may need help dealing with two major events this fall: the Northern California wildfires and the shooting rampage in Las Vegas on Oct. 1 that left 58 people dead and more than 500 injured.

The helpline's number is 800.985.5990, and the resource is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. People may also text TalkWithUs to 66746.

### **13. Behavioral Health Advocate Rep. Tim Murphy Resigns**

Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Pa.) resigned from Congress on Oct. 21. Murphy—a practicing psychologist who has been a champion for those with serious mental illness—made the announcement a day after he said he would not seek re-election after his current term ends.

The Pennsylvania Republican had been serving in his eighth term in the U.S. House of Representatives and was a major force in efforts to reduce discrimination and end the stigma of mental illness. His resignation followed news reports that Murphy, an anti-abortion policymaker, allegedly urged a woman with whom he had an extramarital relationship to terminate a pregnancy.

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Jessica Zigmond prepared this edition of *Behavioral Health Update*. Feel free to give us your feedback, stories, and suggestions: **NAPHS:** Jessica Zigmond, NAPHS, [jessica@naphs.org](mailto:jessica@naphs.org), 202.393.6700, ext. 101; **AHA:** Rebecca Chickey, AHA SPSAS, [rchickey@aha.org](mailto:rchickey@aha.org), 312.422.3303

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