



[January 2020 Behavioral Health Update](#)

Advocacy and Regulatory Updates

2019 — Access, Health, Innovation and Affordability

In 2019, AHA successfully delayed the Medicaid DSH cuts, again; achieved much-needed regulatory relief in terms of the Stark and anti-kickback laws; and had several wins in the courts, including defending the 340B prescription drug program from unwarranted cuts that would threaten patient access to care. A top AHA priority continues to be improving access and coverage to behavioral health services; and behavioral health is a top priority for AHA's Center for Health Innovation's Design Studio. Read [more](#).

The future of the ACA in hands of courts

A federal appeals court Dec. 18 ruled the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate unconstitutional, but it did not invalidate the entire law. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals sent the case back to the district court in Texas for the judge to "conduct a more searching inquiry" into which of the law's provisions could survive without the mandate. See the [AHA Special Bulletin](#) for a summary and FAQs about next steps in the case.

White House hosts summit on mental health issues

The AHA recently participated in a White House summit on transforming mental health treatment to combat homelessness, violence and substance abuse. In his remarks, President Trump emphasized the administration's commitment to addressing serious mental illness. Ellie McCance-Katz, M.D., assistant secretary for the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, moderated a panel discussion with mental health advocates on "the need for reform." Click [here](#) to learn more about other speakers and topics.

States to participate in maternal, child behavioral health care models

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has selected 10 states to receive funding under the [Maternal Opioid Misuse Model](#) to help coordinate and integrate health care and other services for pregnant and postpartum Medicaid enrollees with opioid use disorders beginning in 2021: Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. CMS also issued cooperative agreements under the [Integrated Care for Kids Model](#) to help seven states coordinate and manage physical and behavioral health care for children and pregnant women in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program beginning in 2022: Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Oregon.

FCC proposes three-digit suicide prevention hotline

The Federal Communications Commission recently [proposed](#) designating 988 as the national suicide prevention and mental health hotline number. The hotline would direct calls to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a national network of 163 crisis centers that answered more than 2.2 million calls and 100,000 online chats in 2018. The proposed [rule](#) would require all telecommunications carriers and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol service providers to enable the change within 18 months. FCC will accept comments on the proposed rule for 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register.

Upcoming Events and Webinars, and new Resources

AONL Conference in Nashville set for March 18-21

AHA's American Organization for Nursing Leadership March 18-21 will host its 2020 conference in Nashville. Participants will hear Rebecca Love, nurse entrepreneur and inventor, about empowering your nurses and fostering innovation, creativity and collaboration to transform health care; and can take advantage of breakout sessions on *Journey to Zero Suicide and Lead the Way: Workplace Violence Prevention in the Health Care Setting*. View more information and [register](#).

AHA Market Scan: What millennials want from health care

The Dec. 17 [edition](#) of Market Scan — a newsletter from AHA's Center for Health Innovation — looks at what millennials want from health care and more. Of note, data show that millennials strongly prefer a holistic approach to health, with 90% saying they want support for emotional/mental health, adequate sleep and positive family relationships.

Article looks at whole-person approach for a healthy workforce AHA

Check out a recent article in *HR Pulse Magazine*, Winter 2019 [issue](#), a quarterly publication of AHA's [American Society for Health Care Human Resources Administration](#). The article [A Whole Person Approach to a Healthy Workforce](#) provides information to show why investing in a mentally healthy workforce is good for organizational success.

Brief highlights value of integrating physical, behavioral health services

Integrating physical and behavioral health care services can help hospitals and health systems overcome patient barriers to accessing behavioral health services while improving outcomes and value, according to a new [brief](#) from AHA's [The Value Initiative](#). The brief provides examples from specific hospitals and health systems and links to a number of additional AHA behavioral health resources.

Feb. 6 webinar on peer support: State credentials, continuing education and retention/recruitment strategies

AHA and the National Council on Behavioral Health continue to enhance our collaborative work. In this spirit, they are offering a free webinar Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. ET to their members and AHA members. If you're an employer of peer support providers and interested in workforce recruitment and retention, or interested in advancing your peer support skills, register [here](#). Participants will hear national "state-of-the-states" on peer support certification and recruitment/retention strategies for behavioral health care organizations.

Updates

Joint AHA/NABH January behavioral health communication

This month's [edition](#) includes information on: a new GAO [report](#) on variations in parity requirements; a CDC [request](#) for priority prevention topics and more. To access past *Behavioral Health Updates*, click [here](#).

Happy New Year.

Rebecca B. Chickey, Senior Director, Field Engagement, Behavioral Health Services – (312)-422-3303; rchickey@aha.org

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FEBRUARY 2-5
PHOENIX, AZ

AHA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
APRIL 19-21
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AHA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
JULY 19-21
SAN DIEGO, CA

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