



Bi-Weekly Bulletin for May 20, 2021

MEMBER NEWS

Jeff Thomas, Jodi Daly and Tom Sebastian: What is good for community behavioral health is good for the health of our communities

Chronic underfunding of community behavioral health prevents agencies from providing competitive compensation to mental health professionals. Community-based providers dedicate nearly 80 cents of every revenue dollar to salaries and benefits for clinicians and other team members, but we cannot compete with the salaries and benefits available through private practice, large hospital systems, state or federal government programs and even new telehealth-based providers serving clients out of state.

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/apr/25/jeff-thomas-jodi-daly-and-tom-sebastian-what-is-go/>

Where there's a Willis, there's a (Path)ways

Pathways CEO Jennifer Willis said her company has big plans moving forward in tackling addiction throughout northeastern Kentucky.

https://www.dailyindependent.com/news/where-there-s-a-willis-there-s-a-path-ways/article_937550c2-a9f2-11eb-8d00-ef99517ab21a.html

Behavioral health means resilience and well-being

Alaska Behavior Health, or AkBH, served 600 kids in a four-month period alone, through outpatient clinics, with predominately trauma-focused care. About 66% of those children had complex trauma experiences, with post-traumatic stress disorder being the most common diagnosis.

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/2021/05/01/behavioral-health-means-resilience-and-well-being/>

Tucson Solutions: Police visit patients, offer rides to mental health treatment

"All right, man, sorry to bug ya. **CODAC** sent us. They said that you haven't been answering your phone or going to your appointments," Godfrey tells him.

https://tucson.com/news/local/tucson-solutions-police-visit-patients-offer-rides-to-mental-health-treatment/article_40227ed2-98df-11eb-bf33-972a0e348420.html

Compass Health receives \$14 million for regional center for behavioral health needs; Virtual Grand Opening May 21

This month, Compass Health marks two significant milestones in its Broadway Campus Redevelopment project, a state-of-the-art regional center to support behavioral health needs across Northwest Washington. Its phase one permanent supportive housing facility officially opens on Friday, May 21, following the May 18 approval of \$14 million in state capital funding to support its phase two facility for intensive behavioral health services. Register to attend Virtual Grand Opening.

<https://sanjuanislander.com/news-articles/32626/compass-health-receives-14-million-for-regional-center-for-behavioral-health-needs-virtual-grand-opening-may-21>

Broomfield Anxiety Intensive Outpatient Program Starts June 14, 2021

MHP's new Anxiety Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) provides cognitive behavioral therapy and trauma-informed care for adults and adolescents who are currently insured through Medicaid. This program is specifically designed for adults and adolescents experiencing high levels of anxiety.

www.mhpcolorado.org/broomfield-anxiety-center

"We Are Boulder Strong" Website Creates Safe, Digital Space for Healing

As part of the ongoing response and support in the aftermath of the Table Mesa Incident on March 22, 2021, MHP has launched a new website titled "We Are Boulder Strong". The website provides information about the #BoulderStrong Resource Center (BSRC), including services offered on-site and through MHP's Moving Beyond Trauma support groups; a section highlighting resources on coping skills, healing from trauma, and cultivating resiliency; information on crisis support; a blog; donation opportunities; and more. To help support these efforts, MHP has also created the "TogetherStrong Fund." Donations to this fund will help cover programming expenses for the Center's first year to ensure the community has access to a full array of no-cost services, including ongoing support groups, health and wellness coaching, peer support specialists, access to community health workers.

<https://weareboulderstrong.com>

MERIDIAN HAS RECEIVED A \$4 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT THAT DESIGNATES US AS A CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CENTER (CCBHC)

"I've never been more excited about the prospect for enhanced coordinated care for those we serve, especially our high-need clients who often struggle to navigate the increasing complicated healthcare system in this country," said Meridian President & CEO, Don Savoie.

<https://www.mbhci.org/meridian-has-received-a-4-million-federal-grant-that-designates-us-as-a-certified-community-behavioral-healthcare-center-ccbhc/>

Mental illness a growing issue; advocates trying to break down stigma

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, and officials with **RiverValley Behavioral Health** are advocating heavily for the issue.

<https://www.owensborotimes.com/news/2021/05/mental-illness-a-growing-issue-advocates-trying-to-break-down-stigma/>

New Denver center offers alternative to jail for people experiencing behavioral crisis

The **Mental Health Center of Denver** will operate the crisis stabilization center under a contract with DDPHE. It will be staffed by 59 clinicians, nurses, peer support specialists, residential counselors and support staff.

<https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/denver-behavioral-health-solutions-center/73-f2565275-c16b-4062-9aa2-4745d18bd0f6>

INDUSTRY NEWS

Applications now being accepted for new Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity

The award recognizes health care organizations and their partners that lead initiatives that achieved a measurable, sustained reduction in one or more health care disparities.

<https://www.jointcommission.org/resources/awards/the-bernard-tyson-award-for-excellence-in-pursuit-of-healthcare-equity/>

CVS To Offer In-Store Mental Health Counseling

The company is leading the way in trying to fill gaps in access to mental health by piloting a counseling service in some of its retail stores. And by negotiating with insurance companies to cover visits, it's also trying to reduce the cost of mental health care.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/04/29/990899374/retail-therapy-cvs-plans-to-expand-mental-health-care-in-stores>

Cigna covers Ginger's mental health app as in-network benefit

Insurer Cigna plans to cover mental health startup Ginger's coaching services as a covered benefit. Investors are pouring more funds into mental health startups as they companies and insurers alike look for more ways to meet people's care needs during a challenging year.

<https://medcitynews.com/2021/04/cigna-covers-gingers-mental-health-app-as-in-network-benefit/>

Mental health services struggled to meet increased demand during pandemic, study finds

The U.S. Government Accountability Office study analyzed data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that found that 27% more adults in the U.S. reported symptoms of anxiety or depression during the pandemic, between April 2020 and February 2021, compared to in 2019. ER visits for drug overdoses increased by 36% and ER visits for suicide attempts rose by 26% in the past year compared to the same time period of the year earlier.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mental-health-services-struggled-to-meet-increased-demand-during-pandemic-study-finds/>

Walmart, CVS & more: How pharmacy chains are breaking into the mental health sector

Several retail pharmacy chains have recently begun offering mental health services in their stores, part of the larger trend of making mental healthcare more accessible, The New York Times reported May 7.

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/walmart-cvs-more-how-pharmacy-chains-are-breaking-into-the-mental-health-sector.html>

What About Us? The Marginalization of Serious Mental Health and Substance Use

In response to this neglect of the mental health workforce in vaccine allocation schemas, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, the National Council of Behavioral Health, and the National **Mental Health Corporations of America** wrote to Robert R. Redfield Jr, MD, then the CDC director, prior to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices issuance of its allocation framework. The mental health organizations argued that mental health practitioners “should be categorized as frontline providers, therefore making them eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine in its earliest phase of distribution.”²⁵

<https://www.psychiatrytimes.com/view/what-about-us-the-marginalization-of-serious-mental-health-and-substance-use>

BUSINESS NEWS & LEADERSHIP ARTICLES

What locks out creative thinking is clear and simple. So, too, is what frees it

Von Oech didn't just wax philosophic about the idea that we block ourselves from thinking more openly and creatively. He outlined 10 specific mental locks, making clear that such barriers are self-imposed. They are not natural-born limitations. They are however, deceptively simple in their form and function.

https://www.smartbrief.com/original/2021/04/what-locks-out-creative-thinking-clear-and-simple-so-too-what-frees-it?utm_source=brief

The FBI Way - 7 C's of Excellence

In The FBI Way: Inside the Bureau's Code of Excellence, Figliuzzi organizes and explains that code and how it is maintained as The Seven C's. These seven values are worth considering in any context.

https://www.leadershipnow.com/leadingblog/2021/04/the_fbi_way_the_seven_cs_of_ex.html

7 ways to empower employees and boost retention

When you yield to your employees, you empower them to think for themselves, to be more creative, more enthusiastic and probably more productive. Your employees' enthusiasm and sense of value as team members will increase the odds that they will stay engaged and stick around.

https://www.smartbrief.com/original/2021/04/do-you-give-power-away?utm_source=brief

Past issues of this publication are available online at: <https://mhca.com/about-us/member-news>

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