



# NACBH

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

# NEWS

June 11, 2021

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## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### NACBH Welcomes Jennifer Duckworth



NACBH is pleased to introduce to the membership, Jennifer Duckworth. Jennifer is a member of the AMR team supporting NACBH and will be stepping into the role of Association Director as of July 26. Jennifer brings with her over 15 years of association and event management experience; she will be responsible for managing the daily operations, supporting the Board of Directors, and enhancing value for members. Molly Marsh has accepted a role on the AMR leadership team and will continue to be a resource to NACBH.

### EHR Survey Results

NACBH recently underwent a review and refresh of our member survey focused on the use of Electronic Health Records (EHRs). [Survey results](#) have been compiled based on EHR platform. We hope the sharing of EHR experiences and information will help you navigate decisions on a new EHR system. The compiled [information page](#) will be updated as additional survey response is received.

*Note: This information is available only to NACBH members. All of the following news content, including "read more" continuations, is publicly accessible.*

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

### White House Releases President's FY 2022 Budget Request

As expected, President Biden's full FY 2022 budget request was released on May 28 and, as advertised, it would reverse what White House officials describe



as a decade of domestic disinvestment. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), ranking member on the Senate Budget Committee, immediately issued the minority's annual declaration that the President's budget is "dead on arrival."

Under the President's plan, total federal spending would rise steadily for the next decade, from \$6 trillion in FY 2022 to \$8.2 trillion in FY 2031. A good chunk of the increase is the rising cost of entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, but there is an unquestionable emphasis on infrastructure, public health and health coverage, education, and child care initiatives. [Continue Reading](#)

### Legislation We're Tracking: IMD Exclusion Repeal

In late April, Representative Grace Napolitano (D-CA) introduced [HR 2611](#), the Increasing Behavioral Health Treatment Act, which would repeal the [Medicaid IMD exclusion](#). It would require states to submit plans to increase access to outpatient and community-based behavioral health treatment including crisis stabilization services, and to improve data sharing and coordination between physical health, mental health, and addiction treatment providers and first responders. It is a very clean approach to resolving the largest and longest-standing violation of parity principles that has been tolerated in American health care.

Eliminating the IMD exclusion has long been a top priority of NACBH, and it has been some years since a complete repeal has been introduced in Congress. We strongly support this bill and expect a companion measure to be introduced in the Senate in the coming weeks. Watch this space and your email inboxes for details on NACBH's advocacy plan. We hope we can count on your participation to demonstrate keen interest on this side of a highly polarized political issue. Posted [here](#) is an excerpt of the relevant statutory language with deletions and additions clearly indicated. [Read More](#)

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### Legislation We're Tracking: Keeping All Students Safe Act



On May 26, the Keeping All Students Safe Act ([HR 3474](#) and [S 1858](#)) was re-introduced for the sixth consecutive Congress. The bill would make it illegal for any school receiving federal funds to seclude a child or use mechanical restraints, chemical restraints, physical restraints that restrict breathing or are otherwise life-threatening, or any form of aversive behavioral health

intervention. It would provide grant funding for states to establish, implement, and enforce policies, procedures, monitoring and enforcement systems that must be developed within two years of the law's enactment. It would also require states to collect and report annually on the use of seclusion and restraint, making the data publicly available while protecting student privacy. [Continue Reading](#)

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### Earmarks: Action Moves From House to Senate

Last month, the House posted [3,309 earmarks](#) proposed by 324 Representatives, totaling \$9.3 billion. While appropriators on that side of the Capitol consider these proposals, characterized as [Community Project Funding](#) in the House, the Senate will receive requests for [Congressionally Directed Spending](#) from its members between June 15 and July 9. Terminology and process are not the only differences between House and Senate plans for earmarks in FY 2022 appropriations. See this excellent [resource](#) from the National Network for Youth for more information on the how, what, when on the Senate side.

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### Medicaid Forward: Children's Health



Medicaid and CHIP cover more than 37 million – or about two in five – American children and nearly half of all births. This week, the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) released [Medicaid Forward: Children's Health](#), the second report in a [three-part series](#), outlining how Medicaid can help children and families recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighting state innovations to improve systems of care.

State Medicaid programs and their leaders are well positioned to provide new strategies and approaches to help build recovery and resilience for children. In the short term, the report lays out a series of steps to connect with and understand the current realities for children, caregivers, and providers, launch a "sprint team" to quickly respond to immediate needs including child and caregiver wellbeing and provider supports, and begin planning for a return to normal eligibility and enrollment when the public health emergency ends. Addressing adolescent mental health is highlighted. [Read More](#)

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE**

## Understanding Suicide Risk Among Children and Pre-teens

Tuesday, June 15  
12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Eastern

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is conducting a synthesis workshop summarizing the work of [three research roundtables](#) focused on understanding suicide risk and risk trajectories among children and pre-teens, including groups with recent increases in risk. The workshop will present the state of the science and highlight research priorities related to this critical topic to, ultimately, inform identification of at-risk youth and timing and targets for intervening. Register [here](#).

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## Investigating Unintentional Injury as a Risk Factor for Self-Harm

In a recent study, researchers funded by NIMH found that certain types of unintentional injury have stronger associations with self-harm than others in adolescents. Review the brief highlights [here](#).

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## Motivational Interviewing: Two Resources for Parents

Wednesday, June 16  
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Eastern



The Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center will close out its Spring Speaker Series with a webinar on The School of Hard Talks: Lessons from Motivational Interviewing for Everyday Families. Emily Kline, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist trained in both child and adult interventions, has created a motivational interviewing training curriculum for parents of teens and young adults. Providers and parents are invited to tune in to learn about these communication techniques and the results of a pilot project involving 50 families who participated in the training. Register [here](#).

[The School of Hard Talks Online](#) is an interactive course to teach parents and caregivers about motivational interviewing, divided into short lessons illustrating how to use these strategies in any situation to have calmer, more productive interactions with their almost-grown-up kids. Links to helpful handouts are included.

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## Talking With Kids About Racism and Violence

This recent [article](#) from the Child Mind Institute provides a framework and specific tips for parents and other adults to begin and continue difficult conversations with children about racism. Suggestions are provided for younger children and teens, kids of color and white kids. Additional resources are listed, and a two-page PDF tip sheet can be downloaded.

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## FDA Authorizes Marketing of New Diagnostic Aid for ASD

Last week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [authorized](#) marketing of a device to help diagnose autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Cognoa ASD



Diagnosis Aid is a machine learning-based software intended to help health care providers diagnose ASD in children 18 months through 5 years of age who exhibit potential symptoms of the disorder. It is not indicated for use as a stand-alone diagnostic device but as an adjunct to the diagnostic process. [Continue Reading](#)



## CONFERENCE



The dynamic [program](#) places children's behavioral health services at the center of this unique moment in federal policymaking and encourages open discussion among public and private leaders committed to "building back better," to borrow a phrase. NACBH is excited to host this engaging virtual conference to educate and advocate while helping you make connections with fellow providers.

Visit the [event page](#) and view the [agenda](#) for more information. Sessions will be recorded and published for viewing post-conference. [Reserve your virtual seat](#) today to be a part of this timely and thought-provoking discussion within a trusted and professional network.

Questions about the conference? Please contact [NACBH](#).

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