



May 23

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DIRECTOR'S DESK



[Molly Marsh](#), NACBH Association Director

Believe it or not, in a little less than two months we'll be joining together in Washington, DC for the 2019 NACBH Public Policy Conference! As the [agenda](#) takes shape, the details begin to emerge about how the program and speakers will address the critical policy issues impacting children's behavioral health service providers all over the country. Whether

it's updates on Medicaid, the impending implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act; TRICARE or juvenile justice, NACBH is here to provide the information,

triaged to our unique field. Your presence is called for to contribute, learn and be informed on the public policy issues affecting the delivery of children's behavioral health services.

As you look at the agenda, I am sure that you are thinking of program directors and other leaders in your organization whose work is impacted by these policies. Think of how much they could benefit from being in the room for these conversations, and all they could bring back to improve the care you offer and how you navigate the ever-changing political landscape. Additional registrants from your organization **save \$300** off the regular rate registration, so share the love...**Register now!**

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE



Family First Prevention Services Act: States, Feds and Congress Look to October 1

Since we last wrote, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) responded to an appeal of their earlier FOIA denial, releasing to the [Chronicle of Social Change](#) a list of states that have requested delayed implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

According to the Chronicle's [report](#), three states have requested a one-year delay (IA, IN, GA), and 14 have requested a two-year delay (AL, AZ, CT, FL, MI, MN, NV, NH, NJ, NY, OK, RI, TN, WI), in addition to two territories (PR, VI) and three Native American Tribes (Chickasaw Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community). Editor-in-Chief John Kelly – as well as other close watchers of Family First developments – predict that many more states will announce the need to delay, as the slow rollout of federal policy guidance has stymied their efforts to plan for widespread reform.

While we await information on which prevention services will be eligible for IV-E reimbursement after states do reform their child welfare plans, ACF and federal Medicaid officials are meeting to resolve larger payment issues. As we reported earlier, ACF [announced](#) that IV-E will be payer of last resort for any prevention services that are already covered by a state's Medicaid plan. But Medicaid is [by statute](#) the payer of last resort whenever any third party is also responsible. The question of which program will pay for dually-covered prevention services is complicated for the feds at this point, and will likely be more so for states as their IV-E and Medicaid plans evolve over time. More complicated, from NACBH's perspective, is how the two agencies address – or continue to avoid – the question of who will pay for the health care services of children in congregate care settings that are [allowed by IV-E but excluded as IMDs under Medicaid](#).

On Capitol Hill, several bills have been introduced to ease the transition to FFPSA:

- [S. 107](#), the State Flexibility for Family First Transitions Act, would extend existing IV-E waivers for two years, through September 30, 2021. This would allow the 27 states with [active waivers](#) the time needed to plan to transition to FFPSA, without reverting back to the existing IV-E program in the interim. Introduced by Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) in January; two additional co-sponsors have signed on. No companion bill in the House.



- S. 1376 and HR 2702, the Family First Transition and Support Act, would provide states a bridge to full implementation by delinking IV-E eligibility from the old AFDC income test, allowing IV-E reimbursement for prevention services under a less stringent standard than FFPSA's, and temporarily increasing both funding and allowable uses for family preservation funding. It would also authorize \$150 million (vs. FFPSA's \$8 million) for states to recruit foster parents and assist congregate care providers become Qualified Residential Treatment Programs. Final bill text is not yet available online. Introduced in April by Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI); two additional co-sponsors have signed on. Introduced in May by Representative Karen Bass (D-CA) with four co-sponsors.

S. 107 is generally expected to stall, with pushback from well-resourced players that any delay will eat away at the law's potential for transforming an outdated and even harmful child welfare system. No predictions yet on the more recent bicameral bill.

[Join us in Washington for the Latest on FFPSA!](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE

SAMHSA Updates Tips for Teens Series

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has released new Tips for Teens fact sheets on opioids and e-cigarettes, and updated Tips on marijuana, tobacco, and steroids. Find these and earlier tip sheets on cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, inhalants, and underage drinking, at SAMHSA's [publications page](#). The series, designed specifically for teenagers, addresses the risks, statistics, and myths about various substances that teens may use.

Webinar: Supervision and Self-Care for Youth Peer Support Specialists

May 30, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Eastern

The [Northwest Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network](#) will host this one-hour tutorial with specific strategies supervisors can use to promote self-care with their youth peer staff, while ensuring accountability to their job duties. Youth peer support is a growing field in many mental health and child-serving systems, and staff development resources are just emerging for this important but often taxing role.

[Register Here](#)

Webinar: Dollars & Cents: Using Varied Funding Sources to Create a Robust Children's Mental Health System

June 6, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

[Community Catalyst](#) will host this one-hour discussion on leveraging a range of funding sources to address trauma and children's mental health. A brief outline of key financing options under Medicaid and other federal funding streams will kick off a roundtable from advocates about what efforts are underway in their states, ending with a brainstorm on resources and next steps.

ENGAGE WITH NACBH

Multiple speakers at the July 18 – 19 Public Policy Conference will provide up-to-the-minute perspective on Family First implementation:



- Child welfare experts will fill us in on how state plans are shaping up, and the key challenges to be resolved.
- Kirsten Beronio, Senior Advisor, Behavioral Health Care Policy, CMS, will update us on Medicaid policy decisions related to children receiving IV-prevention and congregate care services.
- Lindsey Browning, Program Director for Medicaid Operations, National Association of Medicaid Directors, will talk with us about how State Medicaid Directors are working with public child welfare agencies and private providers to flesh out workable approaches.
- Cross-agency and multiple system views will be presented by Shay Bilchik, Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, and Michelle Zabel, Director of the Center for Innovation and Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

And – not least – your participation! [Register](#) today and start packing your questions, intel and insight for another robust NACBH dialogue on the top issue of the day.

[Register Now for the Public Policy Conference!](#)



2019 Emerging Best Practices Conference

NACBH is excited to announce that the **2019 Emerging Best Practices Conference**, December 5-6, will focus on the status of **Family First Prevention Services Act** implementation. Want to help support your fellow members in looking for new program opportunities, evidence-based practices and more? Join the Program Committee! If you'd like to join, contact [Lily Pennington](#) by **May 31st**!

Best Practices Committee Report - May 21st Meeting

Cochairs: [Kayla Erickson](#), Director of Quality & Evaluation, Capony Children's Solutions
[Chrissy Lynch](#), Quality Improvement Manager, Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health

- Heather Krueger, Quality Management Director for [Devereux Texas](#), reported on the recent success of their triennial Joint Commission Survey completed at the

League City campus. The four-day survey of both psychiatric hospital and residential treatment units proved to be a collegial, helpful and collaborative experience. She credits their success to advance preparation for the survey, including internal audits of patient and policy documentation, with support from Devereux's national office.

- A review of validated screening and assessment tools for substance use disorders and discussion of how NACBH members are screening for SUD in their mental health programs.
 - [NIH Screening and Assessment Tools Chart](#)
 - [NIH Screening Tools for Adolescent Substance Use](#)
- Peggy Kelly, Chief Clinical Officer of [Youth Home, Inc.](#), in Little Rock, presented information about the [The Seven Challenges](#), a comprehensive counseling program for young people that applies a decision making approach to reducing alcohol and other substance use.
 - [View the presentation on the Best Practices Committee page](#)

Join the Committee at the Standing Monthly Conference Call:

3rd Tuesday of each month, 1:00 – 2:00 (Eastern)

Access information on the committee page or contact lpennington@nacbh.org