



NACBH

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

NEWS

September 2, 2021

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Improving the Use of Psychotropic Medication with Youth in Residential Treatment Facilities

The September 21 Best Practices Committee meeting will feature a presentation by Christopher Bellonci, M.D., FAACAP, on the above-titled, three-year Quality Collaborative launched in 2017. Among the participants were NACBH members: Canopy Children's Solutions in Jackson, Mississippi, and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health centers in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Dr. Bellonci, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, is Senior Policy Advisor and Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, and Vice President of Policy and Practice and Chief Medical Officer for Harvard's Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston.

Please watch your email inboxes for a reminder and Zoom information on Friday, September 17, for the next week's committee meeting. If you missed last February's presentation about Devereux's experience in the Quality Collaborative, you can review the [recording and slides](#) on the committee's web page. The May 2021 final report on the quality collaborative is available [here](#).

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Major Funding Actions Await the Return of Congress



With less than a month remaining in federal fiscal year 2021, both chambers remain in recess. The Senate is scheduled to return to Washington on September 13, and the House on September 20.

Status and next steps on key funding issues:

FY 2022 appropriations: See the August 20 NACBH News [report](#). At least one continuing resolution (CR) is guaranteed in order to complete work in both the House and Senate.

FY 2022 budget [reconciliation](#): On August 11, the Senate passed a \$3.5 trillion [resolution](#) on a party-line vote of 50-49. On August 24, the House interrupted its recess to also pass the resolution, identifying top-line budget numbers for various departments and functions and greenlighting a filibuster-proof reconciliation process in the Senate. Attention now turns to fleshing out the \$3.5 trillion in “human infrastructure” investments in health care, home and community-based services for the elderly and disabled, housing and food assistance, low income and child tax credits, affordable child care and preschool, higher education, and workforce development. [Continue Reading](#)

House Energy & Commerce Committee Continues Productive Streak



Before leaving town for the August recess, the House Energy & Commerce Committee advanced 16 health bills to the House floor, in a collegial markup session lasting less than two hours. Focused largely on non-controversial bipartisan priorities, the markup spotlighted funding programs to reduce fentanyl

overdoses, improve data collection on maternal mortality, and shore up U.S. drug manufacturing.

The only somewhat contentious item was extending Medicaid funding for the territories – for eight years for the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam, and for only five years for Puerto Rico. Unlike Medicaid coverage in the states, where Medicaid is an open entitlement for all eligible enrollees, spending is capped in the territories regardless of how many people are enrolled. Health Subcommittee Chair Anna Eshoo (D-CA) made it clear that the Democrats prefer a permanent and equitable fix, but compromised with Republicans in order to avoid a funding cliff for the territories at the end of September. Republicans compromised by approving the longest extension of this funding since the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010.

The panel reached bipartisan consensus on five bills addressing drug overdose deaths. [Keep Reading](#)

CMS Issues Informational Bulletin on Coverage of Medical Transportation

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [guidance](#) for states about section 209 of last December’s Consolidated Appropriations Act, regarding Medicaid coverage of non-emergency medical transportation. This section codifies in law the longstanding CMS interpretation that generally requires states to assure necessary transportation for beneficiaries to and from covered services, helping remove transportation barriers for Medicaid enrollees seeking needed health care. It is a benefit that was under considerable threat in recent years, and

NACBH participated in a lengthy advocacy effort to protect it as a mandatory benefit. Please email [Pat Johnston](#) if non-emergency transportation for the Medicaid beneficiaries you serve is not easily accessible.

Medicaid and CHIP: New Infant Well-Child Visit Learning Collaborative



CMS has launched a new [Infant Well-Child Visit Learning Collaborative](#) as part of the [Maternal and Infant Health Initiative](#), to support state efforts to increase the number of infants receiving high-quality well-child care. The learning collaborative will offer technical assistance to state Medicaid and CHIP agencies and their partners using two strategies: a webinar series (open to all interested parties) and an affinity group for states interested in implementing quality improvement strategies. The webinar series will include presentations from Medicaid and CHIP representatives, as well as other experts in the field on strategies for states to improve the use of well-child visits for infants ages 0 to 15 months.

NACBH members providing or planning to provide health home and/or home visiting services for this age group may wish to [register](#) for the second and third of four one-hour webinars, in particular: Improving Quality and Utilization of Infant Well-Child Visits on September 10, and Models of Care that Drive Improvement in Infant Well-Child Visits on September 22. [Continue Reading](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Child Welfare Interventions: Clearinghouse Ratings



The [IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse](#) has posted five newly completed reviews and announced a pending re-review of another.

NACBH members are encouraged to review our [reference chart](#) of completed and pending reviews and give some thought to potential nominations when the next public call is issued.

OJJDP Updates Model Program Guide With Two Literature Reviews

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Model Programs Guide [literature reviews](#) provide relevant research and evaluations on more than 50 juvenile justice topics and programs.

- OJJDP recently added a literature review titled [Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems](#). The review focuses on issues related to youth involved in both systems, the systems' characteristics, predictors of crossover from one system to the other, and the impacts of programming for this population.
- OJJDP also updated the [Arts-Based Programs and Arts Therapies for At-Risk, Justice-Involved, and Traumatized Youths](#) literature review, which explores research about the benefit of arts engagement across different youth populations.

The Model Programs Guide offers additional literature reviews on a variety of topics, including bullying, drug courts, mentoring, and juvenile reentry.

Webinar: Improving Access to Mental Health Services for LGBTQ+ Youth



Tuesday, September 21
2:00 – 3:30 Eastern

This webinar will provide an overview of a study sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health that adapts an evidence-based mental health intervention for LGBTQ+ youth of color and their families. It will also showcase potential mechanisms that can be used to adapt the intervention to address mental health disparities. Register [here](#).

Free Online Course: Promoting Emotional Wellbeing for LGBTQ+ Youth

In this [free online course](#)* participants learn about the current landscape for LGBTQ+ youth, protective factors that improve their wellbeing, and best practice tips for creating a safe environment for them. It was developed in concert with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and supported by the [National Quality Improvement Center on Tailored Services, Placement Stability, and Permanency for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Two-Spirit Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)* at The Institute for Innovation and Implementation.

*If this is the first time you are accessing technical assistance resources at The Institute, you will need to create a free account. Link to either of the pages referenced above, click on "Sign In" or "Log In" in the upper right corner, and a box will pop up to allow you to create a new account. Once you have set up an account, you will not need an enrollment key to access online courses or other information; you will simply need to log in.

CONFERENCE

Save the Date!



NACBH Emerging Best Practices Conference

The Don Cesar | St. Pete Beach, FL

December 1-3, 2021

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health | 201 East Main Street,
Lexington, KY 40507 | nacbh.org