

Behavioral Health

NEWS UPDATE

May 2022

May is
**Mental Health
Awareness
Month**



Visit aha.org/mental-health-awareness-month for more information.

Keep an eye out for new resources from the AHA throughout the month!

SPOTLIGHT

Integration of Physical Health and Behavioral Health

PODCAST | The Importance of Integrating Behavioral and Primary Health

The integration of behavioral health and primary health care can lead to early detection and treatment of numerous issues. In this [podcast](#), Denise Dugas, senior director of mental and behavioral health at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) joins Rebecca Chickey, AHA's senior director of behavioral health services, to discuss the importance of integration of behavioral and primary health and specialty care within a hospital system, which begins with education and partnerships.

VIDEO | Leadership Dialogue - Talking Behavioral Health with Matthew Stanley, D.O., of Avera Health

In this AHA Chair File podcast, AHA Board Chair Wright L. Lassiter III speaks to Matthew Stanley, D.O., a psychiatrist and clinical vice president of the behavioral health service line at Avera Health and AHA's Behavioral Health Services Committee chair-elect, about the impact that COVID-19 has had on people's mental health and new ways to support increased access to behavioral health services across the continuum, including how hospitals and health systems can do a better job of integrating behavioral health care services. [LISTEN HERE](#)

For additional resources, please visit AHA's [Integration of Physical and Behavioral Health resource page](#).

ADVOCACY | President Biden Sends National Drug Control Policy to Congress

President Biden sent his administration's inaugural [National Drug Control Policy](#) to Congress with the goal of taking a whole-of-government approach to combat the nation's overdose crisis. The comprehensive strategy focuses on what the Administration sees as the main drivers of the crisis—untreated addiction and drug trafficking—as it directs federal agencies to take actions that will expand access to evidence-based prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services, while also reducing the supply of illicit drugs. [LEARN MORE](#)

ADVOCACY | House Holds Hearing on Mental Health Legislation

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health April 5 held a [hearing](#) on legislation to reauthorize federal mental health programs and support mental health and wellbeing, including the AHA-supported Strengthen Kids' Mental Health Now Act (H.R. 7236). H.R. 7236 would increase reimbursement for certain Medicaid pediatric behavioral health services and create grant programs to support pediatric behavioral health care integration, coordination, infrastructure and workforce training. [LEARN MORE](#)



CASE STUDY | Northwell Health's Center for Traumatic Stress, Resilience and Recovery

Northwell Health is an integrated delivery system with 23 hospitals, over 800 outpatient facilities and 76,000 employees making it one of the largest employers in New York State. Given the size and scope of the team and the work they do, including extensive trauma response programs, Northwell

Health had been developing a trauma center, now known as the Center for Traumatic Stress, Resilience and Recovery, for team and community members before the COVID-19 pandemic, which only accelerated the need. [READ MORE](#)

NEWS | Advertorial Calls for Zero Tolerance for Abuse Against Health Care Workers

Recently the AHA and its American Organization for Nursing Leadership published an advertorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) on the need for federal legislation to protect nurses and other health care workers from assault and intimidation. AHA has [urged](#) the Department of Justice to support legislation that would give health care workers the same legal protections against assault and intimidation as flight crews and airport workers have under federal law.

NEWS | Guidance Highlights ADA Protections for People with Substance Use Disorders

The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division recently released guidance on how the Americans with Disabilities Act can protect individuals with opioid use disorder from discrimination. [READ MORE](#)



NEWS | NAM Opioid Collaborative Releases Chronic Pain Journey Map

The National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic has developed a new Journey Map, a visual illustration that intends to describe the diverse experiences of persons living with chronic, non-cancer pain and identifies five key stages of the journey that have critical touchpoints with the health system. [VIEW HERE](#)

NEWS | New 988 Messaging Framework Aims to Align Messaging Efforts

As the United States prepares for the July 2022 transition to 988 as an easy to remember three-digit dialing, texting, and chat code for anyone experiencing a suicidal or mental health related crisis or emotional distress, the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (Action Alliance)—the nation's public-private partnership committed to advancing suicide prevention and changing the conversation about mental health and suicide prevention, of which AHA is a member—recently released the 988 Messaging Framework, with broad guidance for organizations about when and how to develop public messages about 988. [LEARN MORE](#)

BLOG | Making Maternal Mental Health a Priority

At the recent [2020 Mom annual forum](#), a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, payers, health care organizations, mental health survivors, families and social support organizations, discussed policy and system changes needed to help mothers thrive. In this AHA [blog](#), forum panelists Priya Bathija, AHA's vice president of strategic initiatives, and Aisha Syeda, AHA's program manager of strategic initiatives, share key takeaways and highlight efforts by hospitals to support maternal mental health.

RESOURCE | Workforce Well-being

As a member of the National Academy of Medicine Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience, the AHA helped to launch a Resource Compendium for Health Care Workforce Well-Being, which highlights ready-to-be-deployed tools and strategies to address health care workers' burnout. [VIEW HERE](#)

RESOURCE | Americans' Rights Under Law on Coverage for Mental Health Benefits

In partnership with the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services has developed new, [free informational resources](#) that inform Americans of their rights under law on coverage for mental health benefits.

WEBINAR | Fentanyl and the Evolution of the Opioid Epidemic

MAY 24 | 11:00 A.M. ET

Learn practical knowledge about the rates of substance use disorder and overdose, the unique challenges and implications they present to medical providers, and what actionable steps clinicians and health systems can take to offer expanded resources to patients and promote greater awareness among medical providers. Sponsored by Hazelden Betty Ford. [REGISTER NOW](#)



To access past Behavioral Health Updates, [click here](#), and check out the latest resources at the [AHA Behavioral Health website](#).

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