

COVID-19 UPDATES

SAMHSA COVID-19 EMERGENCY AWARD UPDATE

Having received a supplementary award in January from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) to further develop and sustain COVID-19 emergency grant programming, CBC IPA identified two new network provider agencies to contribute to this effort in March. [New Horizon Counseling Center](#) and [Ohel Children's and Family Services](#) are set to begin providing direct services to more New Yorkers with SMI, SUD and “less than SMI.” The supplemental funding will enable service delivery to at least 1,863 participants, between April 2021 and May 2022. Since program implementation began in late August 2020, nearly 1,300 unique individuals with SMI, SUD or less than SMI diagnoses as determined by [CBC's Geo-mapping of COVID-19 hot-spot neighborhoods](#) have been served by associated agency staff.

In addition to funding treatment services, the SAMHSA grant required the development and implementation of a COVID-19 Self-Care Training Series by and for behavioral health staff across NYS. See the [“Training Institute”](#) section of this CBC Bulletin for more information on the corresponding training series.

CBC INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

“BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EQUITY: RECKONING WITH THE PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON RACIAL DISPARITIES”

On March 16th, CBC held the third and final session of its repurposed **Innovations Conference** on **“Behavioral Health Equity: Reckoning With the Pandemic's Impact on Racial Disparities.”** Over 100 participants tuned in on the day, and 269 attended at least one of the three sessions dating back to October 2020.

The past year has been a fraught one, and particularly for BIPOC populations. From the continued senseless loss of Black lives at the hands of law enforcement to the recent chilling wave of anti-Asian violence sweeping the country, our non-white neighbors continue to face stark challenges relative to white communities.

Matthew Canuteson, MA, [NYS Office of Mental Health](#) (OMH) Diversity & Inclusion Officer/Bureau of Cultural Competence Director, delivered the keynote address that delineated the State's current approach to matters of equity, defining pertinent terms and speaking to upstream social determinants of health that reinforce and perpetuate eventual health outcome disparities. Review his slides [here](#).

The subsequent panel discussion, moderated by **Bianca Nguyen**, MD, MPH, CBC Public Psychiatry Fellow, featured a diverse panel of perspectives from representatives within CBC's IPA network of community-based provider agencies. Each of the distinguished panelists brought specific expertise from a particular corner of the behavioral health system that disproportionately intersects with and serves communities of color. The discussion that followed projected incredible humility and self-scrutiny of the shortcomings of the systemic processes and implicit biases that hamstringing our ability to create impactful change for BIPOC populations. Until these matters are explicitly centered in government and the board rooms of health care systems and community non-profits, we will continue to have conversations like these.

The panel referenced the [Self-Assessment for Modification of Anti-Racism Tool \(SMART\)](#)—developed by the [American Association for Community Psychiatry](#)—which begins to establish the blueprint to dismantle racism at behavioral health institutions by providing tangible steps organizations can take to ensure they are centering BIPOC voices and promoting values that are concurrent with health equity.

The session was recorded and can be streamed on-demand [here](#).

STATEN ISLAND FOUNDATION AWARD UPDATE

Grant-funded activities associated with CBC's [Staten Island Foundation](#) award—operated by [Project Hospitality](#)—ended in March. The grant provided an opportunity to continue CBC's preventive care management program model SI CARES, while pivoting services to pandemic-specific needs that bolster social determinants of health.

Service recipients were initially screened as part of a collaborative process with the [Robin Hood Foundation](#) COVID-19 Screening project and then provided additional supports through Health Coaches. Over 200 Staten Islanders were screened for COVID-19-related needs, of which 150 received further engagement and coordination of care by a designated Health Coach (HC). The HCs provided additional intra-agency referrals, completed applications for housing and food assistance and addressed pandemic-specific needs such as testing access and education. The intervention delivered an array of services that helped mitigate COVID-19 stressors to undocumented and uninsured individuals.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

The NYS COVID-19 Vaccination Program has continued to expand eligibility to allow more New Yorkers to schedule and receive a vaccine against the novel coronavirus. Information on this expanded field and other publicly available resources from various City and State offices have been

aggregated on the "[COVID-19 Updates](#)" page of CBC website. These resources range from landing pages through which visitors can schedule a vaccination to various remote learning opportunities specific to these vaccines, to deliverables that can be shared with behavioral health staff and services recipients. Please continue to use this website as a value-add to your agency's efforts to secure vaccinations.

CBC partnered with [St. Barnabas Hospital](#) to schedule and deliver vaccinations to Bronx-based agency staff and service recipients via [St. Barnabas Health System](#). To date, [ACMH](#), [Community Access](#), [Fountain House](#), [JCCA](#) and [Puerto Rican Family Institute](#) are interested in scheduling vaccinations through this partnership. SBH expects to be providing the Pfizer vaccine from April 19th and will be following up with the partners when vaccine supplies are available. Special thanks to Irene Kaufmann and Luci DeHaan at SBH for their support.

Meanwhile, the CBC network has continued to hold weekly calls to review current guidance with—and pose questions to—[NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene](#) (DOHMH) and [NYS Office of Mental Health](#) (OMH). These calls have been a vital resource cutting through the vast amount of information sources regarding the science of the vaccine and the logistics of securing one for colleagues, clients and ourselves. If you have not been receiving these calendar invites and associated informational emails and wish to,

please contact CBC Project Manager [Alex Wolff](#) to be added to the relevant distribution list.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SAMHSA GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) has announced several new grant opportunities with application dates due in the next month.

Medication Assisted Treatment – Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction

The purpose of this program is to expand/enhance access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services for persons with an opioid use disorder (OUD) seeking or receiving MAT. The desired outcomes for this program are:

1. an increase in the number of individuals with OUD receiving MAT; and
2. a decrease in illicit opioid drug use and prescription opioid misuse at six-month follow-up.

SAMHSA plans to issue approximately 100 awards of up to \$1M per year (for states) or \$525K per year (for other domestic public/non-profit entities) for up to five years. Applications are due on April 27th. Learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral for Treatment (SBIRT)

The purpose of this program is to implement screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment services for children, adolescents and/or adults in primary care and community health settings with a focus on screening for underage drinking, opioid use and other substance use. For the purposes of this FOA, pediatric health care providers are a provider of primary health care to individuals under the age of 21 years.

This program is designed to expand/enhance the continuum of care for substance use disorder (SUD) services and reduce alcohol and other drug (AOD) consumption and its negative health impact, increase abstinence, reduce costly health care utilization and promote sustainability and the integration of behavioral health and primary care services through policy changes that increase treatment access in generalist and specialist practice. These grants support clinically appropriate services for persons at risk (asymptomatic) for SUD, as well as those diagnosed with SUD.

SAMHSA plans to issue approximately 10 awards of up to \$995K per year for up to five years. Applications are due on April 19th. Learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

Provider's Clinical Support System (University)

The purpose of this program is to expand/enhance access to medication-

assisted treatment (MAT) services for persons with opioid use disorder (OUD) seeking or receiving MAT through ensuring the education and training of students in the medical, physician assistant and nurse practitioner fields. This program's focus is to ensure students fulfill the training requirements needed to obtain a DATA waiver to prescribe MAT in office-based settings.

The desired outcomes include:

1. an increase in the number of individuals completing the training requirements for the DATA waiver;
2. an increase in the number of individuals with a DATA waiver; and
3. an ultimate increase in those prescribing.

SAMHSA plans to issue approximately 36 awards of up to \$150,000 per year for up to 3 years. Applications are due on April 20th. Learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC)

The purpose of this program is to enable community mental health centers to support and restore the delivery of clinical services that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and effectively address the needs of individuals with serious emotional disturbance (SED), serious mental illness (SMI), and individuals with SMI or SED and substance use disorders, referred to as co-occurring disorder (COD). SAMHSA recognizes the needs of individuals with behavioral health

conditions—including minority populations and economically disadvantaged communities—have not been met during the pandemic and that CMHC staff and other caregivers have been impacted.

SAMHSA plans to issue hundreds of awards of up to \$2.5M per year for up to two years. Applications are due on May 21st. Learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

CDC GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Preventing Violence Affecting Young Lives (PREVAYL) program. Through this program, CDC will award \$10M in total funding to entities (not-for-profit or for-profit) that address multiple forms of violence impacting adolescents and young adults in communities with high rates of violence. Award recipients will address risk factors such as social determinants of health and racial inequity by implementing strategies to prevent and decrease rates of violence, such as education campaigns and jurisdictional violence prevention plans.

CDC anticipates funding eight awards between \$225,000 and \$250,000 annually through this program. Contracts are expected to last for five years, beginning on September 1st.

Proposals must be submitted by May 1st. The full RFA is available [here](#).

NYS OMH GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The [New York State \(NYS\) Office of Mental Health](#) (OMH) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the provision of Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO), telepsychiatry, and teletherapy services in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) that are accepting OMH long-stay patients, who are generally older adults with SMI and/or dementia. Through this program, OMH will award one not-for-profit applicant with \$6M in total funding to provide telehealth services and virtual psychiatric consultations for eligible SNF residents.

Proposals must be submitted by May 10th. Applicants **must** submit a non-binding Letter of Intent via email to [Deborah Beaudin](#) by May 4th. Awards are expected to be announced on June 14th.

NYS HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The [New York State Health Foundation](#) (NYSHF)'s 2021 Special Project Fund Request for Proposals (RFP) is now open. The NYSHF has a broad mission to improve the health of all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable. The Special Projects Fund supports projects that fit NYSHF's mission but that are outside of its main priority and focus areas of [Healthy Food, Healthy Lives](#); [Empowering Health Care Consumers](#); or [Veterans' Health](#). All projects must have an impact on New Yorkers either at a local, regional, or statewide level. Special Projects Fund

awards should be considered one-time, nonrenewable funding opportunities. Only in exceptional circumstances would NYSHHealth consider making an additional grant for a project that has been previously funded.

Funding requests can range from \$50,000 to a maximum of \$300,000.

All applicants are required to complete an online inquiry form by April 21st. After reviewing all inquiry forms, NYSHHealth staff members will select applicants to submit a full proposal online.

More information and link to apply [here](#).

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL) is funding an initiative to support the development and enhancement of Network Lead Entities (NLEs) which are providing key access functions within a community such as coordination of information and referral, screening, care coordination, care transitions, eligibility and enrollment and person-centered planning.

A growing share of community-based organizations (CBOs) are coordinating or participating in community-based networks of various types and orientations to create and respond to an increasing demand from health sector organizations that seek services and supports at volumes,

scopes and geographic areas larger than a single CBO can typically meet. This has given rise to the emergence of the community integrated health network (CIHN) and the network lead entity (NLE) that resides at the CIHN's core.

The intent of this funding opportunity is to provide funding directly to NLEs to build their network maturity and align their service capabilities in order to contract with health care sector entities (e.g., accountable care organizations, health plans, managed care organizations, hospitals, health systems, and more) to coordinate and streamline access to all health and social service options so that individuals can obtain the care they need through a single intake, assessment, and eligibility determination process.

ACL anticipates funding ten awards between \$250K and \$350K over a 24-month project period.

Applications are due June 1st. An information conference call is set for April 22nd. More information available [here](#).

NATIONAL CENTER FOR SAFE SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The [National Center for Safe Supportive Schools](#) (NCS3) invites school districts to apply to participate in a two-year national learning collaborative that accelerates and spreads innovation and improvement in the advancement of culturally responsive, trauma-informed, school mental health

systems. Participating districts and schools will receive training, technical assistance, implementation support, and guidance to effectively create the conditions needed for safe supportive schools. Too often, school mental health, trauma-informed schools, and cultural responsiveness and equity efforts are siloed. This learning collaborative intentionally integrates the three components to better promote equity and well-being for all students and staff.

Applications are due April 30th. Application portal and link to full RFA are available [here](#).

IN THE NEWS...

PPP LOAN APPLICATION PERIOD EXTENDED

On March 30th, President Biden signed the [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) Extension Act of 2021](#) into law, which extends the loan application period for the PPP program—originally set to expire on March 31st—through May 31st. The application deadline extension applies to **both first and second draw loans**.

Larger nonprofit organizations are now eligible for PPP loans, as part of the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#). This includes 501(c)(3) organizations that employ no more than 500 individuals per physical location and 501(c)(6) organizations that employ no more than 300 individuals per physical location.

The expanded eligibility is another key victory for the behavioral health sector, as advocates seek to expand PPP loan eligibility to meet the needs of all mental health and addiction treatment organizations, no matter their size.

Please [take advantage of this opportunity](#) if you are newly eligible or have not done so already.

NEW YORK STATE BUDGET PASSES—WHAT IT MEANS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

On April 7th, the New York State Senate and Assembly passed a \$212B budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22. The proposal now awaits Governor Cuomo's signature.

Items of note include:

Telehealth

- Expand eligible distant site locations for telehealth delivery and payment purposes to be any site within the United States where the telehealth provider is located while delivering healthcare services.
- Expand originating site locations to be any site where the patient is located at the time they are receiving healthcare services via telehealth.
- Allow certain unlicensed staff, such as Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) trainees and Peer Specialists, to deliver substance use disorder and mental health services via telehealth.

Multi-Agency

- Appropriate \$46.2M to apply a 1% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for non-profits licensed, certified or otherwise under the auspices of OMH, OASAS or OPWDD, including applying to salaries for direct care workers.
- Include funding of \$38.5M across OMH, OASAS, and OPWDD to support direct salary and fringe costs related to minimum wage increases.
- Authorize OMH and OASAS to jointly license and operate 24/7 Crisis Stabilization Centers that provide stabilization service to individuals at risk of a mental health or substance use crisis and who are voluntary referrals only.
- Arrange for appropriate training, including crisis intervention team training and mental health first aid, to law enforcement and first responders within the catchment areas of Crisis Stabilization Centers.
- Extend, for three years, the authority of OMH and OPWDD facility directors to act as representative payees to use funds for the cost of a resident's care.
- Extend, for one year, current authority for OMH and OPWDD to appoint temporary operators for the continued operation of programs when necessary to maintain a program's viability and protect the health and safety of patients.
- Direct the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), along with OMH, OASAS, DOH and other state agency partners, to implement a

statewide campaign to educate families about adverse childhood experiences.

OMH

- Extend, for three years, the Community Mental Health Support and Workforce Reinvestment Program, which reinvests funds from the closure of inpatient beds in State Psychiatric Centers into community resources. However, OMH is not required to allocate funding for FY 2022.
- Establish application processing fees for the issuance of OMH operating certificates, to be deposited to the General Fund.
- Extend, for three years, OMH's existing authority to implement time-limited demonstration programs that provide individuals with specialized psychiatry services.

OASAS

- The Budget includes the creation of a \$32 million fund from the McKinsey opioid settlement, to be used for treatment and prevention of opioid use disorder, including medication assisted treatment (MAT).

CBC's colleagues at [Mental Health Association in New York State](#) (MHANYS) and [New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services](#) (NYAPRS) have provided an instant analysis of the budget's ramifications for behavioral health in NYS.

The Good

- Passage of HALT legislation;
- 1% Across the Board Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for OMH, OASAS and OPWDD (\$15M in mental health);
- Restoration of proposed 5% cuts to mental health. (\$17M);
- \$20M for mental health housing;
- \$5M for the Joseph Dwyer Veterans Mental Health Peer to Peer Project;
- Crisis Stabilization Centers (Urgent Care Centers for Behavioral Health);
- Minimum wage increase;
- Restoration of self-directed care;
- Prescriber Prevalis;
- \$1M added for Crisis Intervention Teams (CITs); and
- \$1M for Suicide Prevention Programs.

The Bad

- No additional funding for Reinvestment of closed State hospitals into community-based mental health funding;
- No explicit plan/resources to recruit and retain a quality mental health workforce; and
- Scope of funding is small relative to need.

The Opportunities

Crisis Stabilization Centers

Stakeholders successfully advocated for a person-centered and -driven model that features peer staff, fosters a harm reduction model and can only be accessed voluntarily. These centers will be open around-the-clock and accept all admissions without referral, including direct drop-offs

by law enforcement and other first responders. This effort will streamline stabilization and reintegration for individuals in crisis.

988 Emergency

988—the new nationwide number for individuals in crisis to connect with suicide and mental health prevention—will become law in July 2022. There will be an opportunity to link crisis stabilization centers, 988 and mobile crisis teams into a more integrated package of services.

GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES \$29M EMPIRE PANDEMIC RESPONSE REIMBURSEMENT FUND

On March 8th, Governor Cuomo announced the availability of \$29M in funding to support essential workers and first responders with economic needs through the Empire Pandemic Response Reimbursement Fund. The Fund, which will be coordinated by the [NYS Office of Children and Family Services](#) (OCFS), is designed to reimburse out-of-pocket child care, transportation, lodging and other qualifying expenses that enabled essential workers to perform their duties during the COVID-19 emergency.

First responders, health care workers, and many multi-industry workers and their families who earn up to 500 percent of the federal poverty level (\$125,470 for a family of four) may apply for funds to cover out-of-pocket expenses they incurred to respond to COVID-19 that have not been

reimbursed by another source. Workers should be referred by employers, unions or social service providers who can verify employment during the COVID-19 emergency. Up to \$1,000 is available per household. Awards will be made to eligible applicants for eligible expenditures on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted.

Additional information, including a link to sign up to be notified when applications are available, can be accessed [here](#).

TELEHEALTH REGULATORY FLEXIBILITIES EXTENDED

On March 21st, Governor Cuomo again issued an Executive Order maintaining regulatory relief for telemental health services furnished via OMH-licensed, funded, and designated programs. The thirty-day extension assures reimbursement for these virtual/remote encounters through April 20th.

NATIONAL TELEHEALTH LEGISLATION RE-INTRODUCED

Meanwhile, a bipartisan group of US Congressmembers has re-introduced the [Telehealth Response for E-prescribing Addiction Therapy Services \(TREATS\) Act](#). The legislation, first introduced last Congress, seeks to support the expansion of telehealth services for substance use care. The TREATS Act would allow for the prescription of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) without a prior in-person

visit and for Medicare to be billed for audio-only telehealth services.

NYS LAUNCHES TELEHEALTH TRAINING AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS

The state has launched the [NYS Telehealth Training Portal](#) for its medical and behavioral health providers. The open-access program is a collaboration between Stony Brook Medicine, the Reimagine New York Commission, the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center and the state Department of Health. These “Telehealth Essentials” learning modules include an array of short videos on topics including an overview of telehealth, resources to define your telehealth program needs, telehealth team roles/visits/workflows and telehealth technology.

The state has also kicked off the [Reimagine Mental Health](#) outreach campaign to increase awareness of virtual support resources, with a focus on communities that disproportionately face unmet mental health needs. Partner organizations are invited to take a pledge and use the initiative’s array of fliers and other visual materials to promote mental health recognition and literacy in the communities and neighborhoods they serve.

SAMHSA & NAMD PUBLISH NEW “MEDICAID FORWARD” PAPER CENTERING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In February, SAMHSA and the [National Association of Medicaid Directors](#) (NAMD) penned a new framework that offers states options to consider the promotion of health and wellbeing of members and expand access to behavioral health services. It includes strategies along a continuum of need, ranging from upstream prevention and health promotion for all Medicaid beneficiaries to increasing access to behavioral health treatment for unique subpopulations in Medicaid.

Read the “[Medicaid Forward: Behavioral Health](#)” paper [here](#).

GAP & NATIONAL COUNCIL PUBLISH NEW “ROADMAP TO THE IDEAL CRISIS SYSTEM” REPORT

A [new report](#) from the Committee on Psychiatry (the Committee) and the [Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry](#) (GAP), released by the [National Council for Behavioral Health](#), outlines the necessary steps before the launch of 9-8-8 to ensure people in crisis receive the high-quality behavioral health services they need. The report, “[Roadmap to the Ideal Crisis System](#),” provides a detailed vision for communities creating mental health crisis systems to guide this important work.

The Committee and GAP collaborated to produce guidance for communities

beginning the important work to establish the programs and processes in place to support a vibrant mental health crisis system. This groundbreaking new report, distributed by the National Council, illustrates how vital it is to [design and implement a mental health crisis system](#) and demonstrates how a community's response must be fully integrated with the treatment system. Read the [full report](#) or [executive summary](#).

With 9-8-8 fast approaching, it is time to begin the work to plan, design and implement that system of care so the resources are in place when people call for help.

OLDER ADULT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM

Registration is open for the May 6th symposium on older adult mental health. [The National Council on Aging](#), [Administration for Community Living](#) and [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) sponsor the day-long symposium.

Issues around mental health are especially relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic and particularly for older adults who may already face isolation and loneliness.

This free, virtual event will empower professionals with the latest tools to improve the lives of older adults in their communities, both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tom Coderre, acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, will provide opening remarks at 10am in support of all who provided services to older adults and their families during this very difficult year.

Register [here](#).

WELLIFE NETWORK AWARDED PLATINUM NATIONAL RECOGNITION BY GUIDESTAR

[WellLife Network](#), one of the region's largest nonprofits and CBC IPA network member, proudly announces that it is the recipient of the 2021 Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Profile Seal of Transparency. This is the fifth consecutive year that WellLife Network has earned a platinum rating. This award is the highest level of recognition offered by [GuideStar](#), the world's largest source of nonprofit information.

GuideStar's evaluation method focuses on metrics related to progress and results based on a charity's stated mission and awards ratings resulting from the level of transparency in reporting. Only three percent of the more than 1.9 million nonprofits evaluated by GuideStar nationwide achieve this Platinum rating.

Congratulations to WellLife CEO Sherry Tucker and her amazing team!

COMMUNITY ACCESS HIGHLIGHTED IN USA TODAY ARTICLE, SHARED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA

As more people experiencing mental health crises are killed and otherwise harmed in encounters with law enforcement, the vital work to transform how NYC responds to people in crisis continues. Over the past year, this issue has garnered greater attention, and CBC IPA network member [Community Access](#)—in partnership with the [Correct Crisis Intervention Today in NYC \(CCIT-NYC\) Coalition](#)—has been highlighted in local and national news for its work advocating a health-only response to people in crisis, most recently in a [USA TODAY](#) article that [President Obama shared via Twitter](#).

CBC IPA NETWORK PROVIDERS REPRESENTED IN CRAIN'S LIST OF "NOTABLES IN NONPROFITS AND PHILANTHROPIES"

[Crain's New York Business](#) has published its 2021 list of 57 "[Notables in Nonprofits and Philanthropies](#)"—and in so doing, underscored how essential this sector of New York business has been to the city's vitality and perseverance through a most difficult year.

Among the honorees are leaders of behavioral health agencies within the CBC IPA. Congratulations to Dawn Saffayeh ([Heartshare St. Vincent's](#)), Ashwin Vasan ([Fountain House](#)), Kimberly Williams ([Vibrant Emotional Health](#)) and Jane

Hedal-Siegel ([The Jewish Board](#))! Their clear-eyed oversight and service have helped guide us near the other side of a once-in-a-generation emergency.

CARE COORDINATION SERVICES

NYS 2021-22 BUDGET IMPACT ON HEALTH HOMES

The NYS 2021-22 State Budget awaits Governor Cuomo's signature and CBC Health Home is happy to report that the advocacy from the [NYS HH Coalition](#) and CBC HH CMAs have resulted in several gains, including the elimination of an additional 1% across-the-board Medicaid fee-for-service rate reduction, expanded language on telehealth and affordable broadband access for low-income individuals. The HH appropriation is \$524M, which includes no additional cuts. However, the 1.5% across-the-board cut from the 2020-2021 budget is still in effect for all fee-for-service HH claims. Non-budget items that gained legislative backing via a letter of support include an extension of the state guaranteed rate for two years and the inclusion of HH care managers in COVID-19 vaccine eligibility.

HEALTH HOME REDESIGNATION AUDIT

Beginning the week of May 17th, CBC will commence a virtual week-long audit for HH redesignation for its HH Serving Adults and HH Serving Children programs. One month prior to the audit, CBC will

receive its entrance packet, which will detail the areas for scoring including network management, performance metrics and chart reviews. The network will be notified when this information is made available. Any questions relating to the audit can be directed to CBC HH Director [Melissa Martinez](#).

SPECIALTY MENTAL HEALTH CMA Q&A SESSION

On Friday, April 30th, CBC HH will host an open Q&A session from 10:15-11:00am for its 22 designated MH Specialty CMAs. Please submit any questions or topics to address at the meeting by April 23rd to CBC HH+ Program Manager [Teresa Hill](#), will facilitate the discussion. Register for this first assembly of CBC HH's expanded Specialty MH network [here](#).

QUALITY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT (QPM)

UPCOMING Q1 2021 INCIDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

On April 29th, from 10-11:30am, CBC QPM will host its Q1 2021 Incident Review Committee meeting. The committee is comprised of a multidisciplinary team that reviews incidents per quarter. The data are used to identify trends/patterns of incidents to inform recommended trainings, dissemination of best practices and other preventative measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of members. Please contact CBCQPM@cbc.org if you are interested in attending.

CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD & FOOHOLD

The CBC Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) completed the in-depth review of the [Foothold Care Management](#) (formerly Relevant) HSA Comprehensive Assessment, with assistance from [Community Access](#). Content and logistical recommendations are under review by upper management and Foothold. Status updates for implementation of approved recommendations will be provided to the network as it becomes available. Moving forward, the CAB will review a variety of CBC IPA marketing and assessment materials.

The CAB is a peer-driven committee and CBC is looking for Peers or Peer Specialists to join us. Please contact [Ally Oswald](#) or [Bob Potter](#) if you or someone you know is interested in attending the next meeting, currently scheduled for May 11th.

INTRODUCTION OF IRAMS

On April 1st, the [NYS Department of Health](#) (DOH), launched its new Incident Reporting and Management System (IRAMS), located in the Health Commerce System (HCS), to replace the paper-based process for reporting critical incidents, grievances and complaints. Approved users can access IRAMS [here](#). Effective immediately, Health Home Serving Adults & Health Home Serving Children programs must use the system to report grievances/complaints and critical incidents within 24 hours of the incident notification/discovery.

What has changed: CMAs enter incidents directly into the IRAMS system. CBC's QPM staff will monitor the site daily to review incidents uploaded and loop back to CMAs with any questions.

What has not changed: The *AH+ Specific Incident Report Form* is required for AH+ members residing in the community and the circumstance meets the criteria for an AH+ specific incident type.

CBC will be issuing an Incident Reporting and Quick Tips guide that will provide additional information regarding CBC process for reporting and reviewing incidents in IRAMS. If you have questions, please contact CBCQPM@cbc.org.

QMT/CQMT MEETING

CBC's Quality Performance Management department held a Quality Management Team (QMT)/Children's QMT meeting on Friday, March 26th. The QMT/CQMT received updates on the HHSC HCBS audits, the upcoming DOH redesignation audit, and the HH+ Specialty MH CMA designation process. The outcomes of the Q4 2020 Performance Reports and the findings from the Q4 2020 IRC meeting were also reviewed.

QPM introduced the upcoming MCO Gaps in Care Dashboard, which is an aggregate of all CMA data around gaps in care that can be filtered down to member level or MCO level data. The group discussed the preliminary functions of the dashboard and other ways it may be useful

to CMAs. Additionally, the QMT/CQMT provided feedback on a revised policy and closed out with a review of the new Incident Reporting and Management System (IRAMS). The slides from this meeting have been emailed to all participants and uploaded to Box. The next QMT/CQMT meeting will be held in May.

COMPLIANCE

HIPAA SUMMIT: PRIVACY & SECURITY UPDATES

In March, CBC attended the Virtual 30th National [HIPAA Summit](#). The HIPAA Summit had representatives from government regulatory bodies (including Office of Civil Rights, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Federal Trade Commission and SAMHSA) and privacy and security experts that provided best practices, lessons learned and challenges to come related to improving compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other laws governing health information. Key privacy and security takeaways from the summit are outlined below.

Privacy (Access to Records)

HIPAA Individual Right of Access Initiative:

In 2016-2017, a HIPAA Audit Report found the "vast majority of entities made negligible efforts or minimally addressed access requirements." Since then, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has indicated they intend to enforce individual rights to access. Current requirements indicate that

entities—inclusive of behavioral health organizations—must act on an individual's request to access records with no unreasonable barriers no later than 30 days after receipt of request. Unreasonable barriers include but are not limited to verifying identity (i.e. requiring original birth certificate or passport as only appropriate form of ID), requiring in-person requests, providing records only via US mail and mandating use of a web portal to access copies of records. In practice, ensure that your agency has a policy that outlines necessary steps to support an individual's right to timely access to records and that reasons for granting, denying or extending timeframe for access is clearly documented.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM):

Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which proposes changes to the HIPAA Privacy Rule. This could impact individuals' right of access as legislation being considered is to reduce timeline for entities to respond to request to 15 days—which aligns more consistently with NYS DOH best practice of 10-14 days. The public comment period was extended to May 6th. If interested, please visit the [ruling's online Federal Register listing](#) and select the green "Submit a Formal Comment" button.

Security (Cybersecurity & Technology)

Cyber security in organizational culture:

People are the most common vectors for system compromise. This can include clicking on links, downloading unsafe attachments, using unsecure networks,

etc. As such, one of the best and most important measures to prevent data breaches is to foster a culture of data security. In practice, this means that all staff within an organization must be mindful of where and how they are accessing Protected Health Information (PHI) or personally identifiable information (PII). This mindfulness must extend to information-sharing and the use of secure protocols such as encryption. Meanwhile, offering regular trainings on technology and best practices and employing robust IT systems can support the implementation of an appropriately broad cultural shift to a secure workplace.

Technology: Organizational technology must be configured appropriately to prevent breaches and cyber-attacks. In practice, this means enacting regular updates of security patches and software. More strategically, the organization should embrace automated triggers and alerts based on specific PHI/PII criteria, utilization of cloud-based infrastructure in lieu of on-premises or local hard drives for data storage and manipulation. It is also critically important that all individuals in an organization understand their IT infrastructure—its components, processes and purposes. This does not require expert technical understanding, but rather a functional grasp of what is available and why it is used.

TRAINING INSTITUTE



CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

During the May 14th Virtual Office Hours (Fridays @ 10am), [CASES](#) will conduct a Criminal Justice Training for HH Serving Adults and HH Serving Children programs. CASES's Health Home team works exclusively with HH+ members who are currently or previously involved in the criminal justice system. They will share resources and tips on ways to support a member who was recently arrested as well as best practices using a trauma-informed lens when working with individuals who have a history of involvement in the criminal justice system. Look out for the registration link in the upcoming CBC May Training Calendar.

CBC AWARDED NYSHF CONTRACT TO HELP HEAL BH WORKFORCE

CBC Training Institute has been awarded funding to supplement its Self-Care Training Series via the [NYS Health Foundation](#)'s Special Projects Fund. Starting April 1st, CBC TI will add 5-6 group sessions each month from May to December 2021, with the aim of reaching 800 behavioral health service providers

and to help further develop self-care skills and resilience strategies to cope with the stresses and trauma associated with the ongoing pandemic. Sessions will be facilitated by experts in a range of evidence-based practices, including personal medicine (self-care), Reiki, COVID-19 safety training, yoga and meditation bereavement/grief. Smaller groups will be offered to accommodate people who want a more personal experience, and some will be tailored to serve peers and BH residential staff.

SAMHSA COVID-19 EMERGENCY GRANT SELF-CARE TRAINING SERIES

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) COVID-19 Emergency grant provided CBC/CBHS with funding to help address the immense unmet mental health needs in NYS (see the "[COVID-19 Updates](#)" section of this CBC Bulletin for more information on corresponding programming). SAMHSA recognized that frontline staff—especially behavioral healthcare service providers—need support to address their personal and professional experiences with COVID-19.

This training series continues to reach an engaged and expansive audience, having provided 28 supportive workshops and Town Halls since launch that have reached nearly 900 frontline behavioral health staff spanning over 200 behavioral health agencies across New York State (53% NYC, 47% Rest-of-State) since its January launch. March highlights included the culmination of the RISE program via

The Kripalu Center. The six-week series teaches attendees to use mindfulness and meditation practices to promote their own self-care. Feedback from attendees has been universally positive and is exemplified well in the testimonial below.

"I was able to make room in my schedule to attend the six-week Kripalu Rise Series and have to say that it was one of the best virtual trainings I've attended in a very long time. It sadly ended today but I wanted to share my gratitude for offering this to the CBC network as part of the SAMSHA funds. I give my highest remarks to Monique and Myals from Kripalu who led the series so seamlessly and were amazing week-to-week. If given the opportunity, I hope this is offered again as I'd love to see my fellow staff and colleagues, who are the helpers and healers of the communities we service, take advantage of the training."

Beata Vilar de Queiros, LMHC
Associate VP of BH Services
Graham-Windham

Sure enough, CBC and CBHS are offering the RISE program to NYS behavioral health staff once again this spring! Sessions will run from May 5th to June 9th. Register [here](#).

Meanwhile, CBC Training Institute hosted a third COVID-19 Town Hall with Brad Hutton, in which participants ask pressing questions about COVID-19 to a nationally renowned epidemiologist. The session

focused on children/returning to school and was recorded and subsequently [uploaded here](#) for on-demand viewing.

MARCH TRAININGS RECAP

In addition to these SAMSHA-funded trainings, CBC's Training Institute held two further March trainings for its network. These sessions were introductions to the STAIR model for treating trauma, attended by 58 behavioral health staff spanning 15 community-based provider agencies in the CBC IPA, and led by CBC Director of Innovative Programs Juliana Steen. These sessions can similarly be streamed on-demand via CBC's [YouTube channel](#).

APRIL TRAINING INSTITUTE CALENDAR

CBC Training Institute's [April Training Calendar](#) offers further valuable training opportunities to support the CBC network's workforce. For questions about training content, please contact CBC's Training Institute Director, [Emily Grossman](#).

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

PATHWAY HOME™ AWARDED FIVE YEAR OMH CONTRACT

CBC has been selected by [NYS Office of Mental Health](#) (OMH) to operationalize and manage eight Care Transition Support Teams across the city for the next five years. Seven of these teams will mirror existing Pathway Home™ programs,

effectively ensuring the continuity of these services after current contracts end in June. The eighth team under this award enables CBC to add a further PH team to its roster, which will support individuals returning to their communities from Brooklyn's [Kingsboro Psychiatric Center](#). The award is a resounding endorsement of CBC's signature care transition program by the State, which will continue to expand and deliver essential behavioral and social determinants of health services to NYC's most vulnerable well into this decade. In addition, to these eight OMH CTST teams, CBC also received a five-year OMH contract for the continuation of our two successful Adult Home Pathway Home teams that will continue after July 1st.

OASAS AWARDS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: CITYWIDE ADDICTION SUPPORT NETWORK

[NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports](#) (OASAS) has selected a multi-stakeholder partnership between CBC IPA, [Cogency IPA](#), [EngageWell IPA](#) and [NYC Health + Hospitals](#)—with [Samaritan Daytop Village](#) as lead applicant—to reshape prevention, treatment and recovery services for opioid and stimulant use disorders in the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens.



**CITYWIDE
ADDICTION
SUPPORT
NETWORK**

The nascent Citywide Addiction Support Network will:

- Leverage and better integrate the currently available OASAS-funded and certified services in our network to improve access and outcomes.
- Expand addiction treatment and recovery resources for populations that have less access to services and/or experience worse outcomes.
- Increase access to MAT for patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).
- Enhance substance use services for LGBTQ+ patients (with a focus on adolescents and young adults).
- Grow the peer workforce by adding 39 Peer Teams.

TECHNOLOGY & DATA ANALYTICS



IMSNY
INNOVATIVE
MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS
NEW YORK

CLAIMS BY IMSNY

[Innovative Management Solutions NY](#) (IMSNY) is ready to start sharing insights with agencies within its networks. For agencies currently sending 837 billing files, expect connection to the CLAIMS portal in May. In addition to a searchable and filterable rendering of your claims, agencies will be able to see how they compare to the rest of the network, in addition to having a customized view of other agencies in the network with whom you share clients. CBC is currently offering

this service free of charge to IPA members. Please email IMSNY COO [Mathew Smith](#) to schedule a demonstration of the CLAIMS portal or learn how to securely connect your billing files to IMSNY.



IMSNY SOLUTIONS FOR AGENCIES

IMSNY offers high quality solutions to the CBC network at discounted prices. Current opportunities include:

Rethinking Client Transportation

[Ride Health](#) represents an opportunity to reconsider your agency's transportation strategy. As we (hopefully!) are primed to re-enter a predominantly in-person service delivery dynamic, reliable and cost-effective access to transportation is critical. Contact IMSNY to schedule a personalized demonstration for your agency.

CEUs for Clinicians

Are you a clinician in need of quick CEUs for your license? Or just want high quality training content to improve your practice? [Triad](#) has hundreds of continuing education credits, all discounted at 25% of their list price for CBC agencies. Check it out [here](#).

Full-Service Learning Management System

Join the nearly 12,000 [Relias](#) users in the IMSNY network. [Click here](#) to schedule a

demonstration of how Relias can be the “easy button” for your organizations training needs, both in terms of training content and administrative features (quality assurance, reporting, curriculum assignment, and content storage). And if you are already contemplating or negotiating with Relias, [contact us](#) for the IMSNY discount.

Discounted Zoom Licenses

IMSNY's [Zoom](#) licenses include [large conference](#) and [webinar](#) for every business account for the monthly price of \$15 per license. Your agency's current contract can be easily transferred to the IMSNY account. If interested, [contact us](#).

EHR Learning Collaboratives

Join the dozens of agencies assembling to learn from each other and gain insights from guest speakers. We currently offer collaboratives for Foothold Awards and Netsmart MyEvolv users. To participate, email IMSNY Director of Data Solutions [Khushi Shah](#) or [Lucia O'Quinn](#).

Upcoming meetings:

Foothold Awards: 5/10/2021 at 3:30PM

Netsmart MyEvolv: 5/11/2021 at 3:30pm

CONNECT WITH IMSNY

To keep up with IMSNY—including articles, press releases and opportunities—follow the IMSNY [LinkedIn](#) account or check out its regularly updated [website](#).

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: FEDERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS

[Federation of Organizations](#) launched its first program with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) in January. The new OASAS Clinic, located at 1375 Akron St. in Copiague, will offer a full slate of services to help individuals who are struggling with alcohol or substance use to attain or maintain sobriety, as well as services to support family members impacted by a loved one's alcohol or substance use. The clinic, which is overseen by the Director of Clinical Services Jennifer Aldrich, is actively seeking program participants. In addition to individual services, the clinic will offer group services that will include men's groups, women's groups, dual recovery groups (for individuals with both mental health and substance use diagnoses), relapse prevention groups and others. Additional services will include medication assistance treatment, family therapy and naloxone (NARCAN) training. Currently, all services are offered via telehealth due to the pandemic. For more information, please contact **631-552-4240**.

Meanwhile, NYAPRS (New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services) has awarded Federation and peer specialist Julie Burroughs Erdman with prestigious awards. Federation was recognized with the Marty Smith Memorial Award, presented annually to a uniquely inspired and dedicated service agency that has demonstrated exemplary contributions to the advancement of best practices in service to New Yorkers with psychiatric disabilities. Ms. Burroughs Erdman was selected to receive the Jason Brody Faith and Fellowship Award, which recognizes an individual who has been an extraordinary source of kindness, caring and devotion to people within the mental health community. Ms. Burroughs Erdman, who began working at Federation three years ago, is a peer specialist in the Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) program. Congratulations to Federation of Organizations and Ms. Burroughs Erdman on these recognitions!

