

Updates From Washington | News You Can Use

NACBH

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

NEWS



Quarter 1, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Updated from Washington

- [President Biden's Budget for FY24](#)
- [NACBH Proposals to Senate Finance Committee on Improving Access to Residential Behavioral Health Treatment](#)

- [NACBH Memo to Member Organizations on Results of December Omnibus](#)
- [NACBH Proposals to Senate HELP Committee on Health Care Workforce Shortages](#)
- [Senate HELP Hearing: Community Health Centers: Saving Lives, Saving Money](#)
- [CMS Prior Authorization Proposed Rule](#)

News You Can Use

- [Applications Open: STOP School Violence Act](#)
- [Medicaid “Unwinding” Information & Resources](#)
- [Office of Civil Rights Guidance on Online Tracking Technologies under HIPPA](#)
- [DEA Announces Proposed Rules for Permanent Telemedicine Flexibilities](#)

Association News

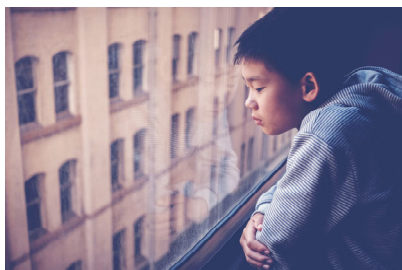
- [Make Plans to Attend the Next NACBH LIVE: The Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis and Oregon's Response](#)
- [Registration is Open for NACBH 2023 Public Policy Conference](#)

UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON



President Biden’s Budget for FY24

On March 9th, President Biden unveiled his [FY 2024 Budget](#) blueprint for Congress. The President’s budget outlines his past success and priorities moving forward, with a focus on [“growing the economy from the bottom up and the middle out.”](#) Through spending and policy proposals alike, the proposed budget includes several noteworthy investments related to behavioral health care and the well-being of children. [Continue Reading](#)



NACBH Proposals to Senate Finance Committee on Improving Access to Residential Behavioral Health Treatment

NACBH has [submitted policy recommendations](#) to the Senate Finance Committee in response to five mental health bills drafted by the committee last fall. The five Senate Finance Committee draft bills covered a variety of issues related to mental health coverage under Medicare, Medicaid,

the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace plans. [Keep Reading](#)



NACBH Memo to Member Organizations on Results of December Omnibus

NACBH has created a memo summarizing the most impactful provisions to children's behavioral health passed in the December Omnibus. This legislative package was significant in size and effect: extending telehealth flexibilities, covering LMFTs and intensive outpatient programs under Medicare, and providing funds and technical assistance to school-based mental health services. The full memo can be found [here](#).



NACBH Proposals to Senate HELP Committee on Health Care Workforce Shortages

NACBH has also submitted [policy recommendations](#) to the Senate HELP Committee in response to Chairman Bernie Sanders and Ranking Member Bill Cassidy's Request for Input issued in February. We're thankful to those who submitted feedback which helped inform these recommendations! Our response covered the significant administrative and regulatory burdens that limit care, low reimbursement rates by payors, and the impact of these drivers on national workforce shortages, particularly in children's behavioral health. [Keep Reading](#)



Senate HELP Hearing: Community Health Centers: Saving Lives, Saving Money

On Thursday, March 2nd, The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions held a full

committee hearing titled [“Community Health Centers: Saving Lives, Saving Money.”](#) The hearing was held to evaluate the value of community health centers – both in terms of saving lives and saving money. In addition, the committee must reauthorize the Community Health Center Fund by September 30th. The hearing aimed to understand the needs of community health centers as the committee enters the reauthorization process.

[Learn More](#)



CMS Prior Authorization Proposed Rule

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has [proposed a rule](#) to address the administrative difficulties of prior authorization, meet shorter decision-making time frames, and improve transparency. The rule proposes that all impacted payers implement and maintain a FHIR Prior Authorization Requirements Documentation, and Decision API (PARDD API). Ideally, the API would streamline the prior authorization process by automating the process to determine whether a prior authorization is required for an item or service, thereby eliminating one of the major pain points of the existing prior authorization process. [Continue Reading](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Applications Open: STOP School Violence Act

Members should apply for STOP School Violence Act funding for their work with and in schools, particularly on suicide prevention and mental health training. The Grants.gov deadline is May 8 and the JustGrants deadline is May 15. Find more information [here](#).



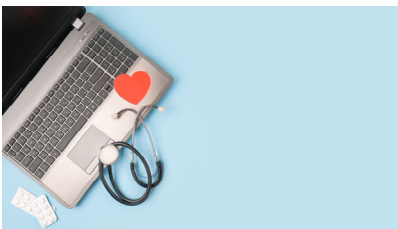
Medicaid “Unwinding” Information & Resources

The Biden Administration has announced that it will end the COVID-19 national emergency and public health emergency declarations on May 11th. As these emergency declarations expire, many expanded Medicaid enrollment protections and increases in federal funding will [expire or change](#). Notably, since March 2020, in order to receive additional federal matching dollars, states have not been allowed to disenroll people from Medicaid. However, beginning on April 1st, states may begin to “unwind” this coverage protection and disenroll families and children who no longer qualify. [Keep Reading](#)



Office of Civil Rights Guidance on Online Tracking Technologies under HIPAA

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently issued a [Bulletin](#) on the disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI) by HIPAA-regulated entities in an online environment increasingly proliferated by tracking technologies. The Bulletin clarifies that regulated entities are not permitted to use tracking technologies/vendors in a manner that would result in impermissible disclosures of PHI or any other violations of HIPAA rules. [Continue Reading](#)



DEA Announces Proposed Rules for Permanent Telemedicine Flexibilities

The Drug Enforcement Administration announced proposed permanent rules for the prescribing of controlled medications via telemedicine, expanding patient access to critical therapies beyond the scheduled end of the [COVID-19 public health emergency](#). The proposed rules aim to extend many of the flexibilities adopted during the public health emergency with appropriate safeguards. [Learn More](#)

ASSOCIATION NEWS



Make Plans to Attend the Next NACBH LIVE: The Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis and Oregon's Response

Join NACBH on **Thursday, June 1 at 1 p.m. Eastern** for the next installment of NACBH LIVE. During this webinar, our two panelists will discuss Oregon Legislature's investment into diversifying and expanding the behavioral health workforce, augment wages, and state funding with a federal match to increase Medicaid behavioral health reimbursement rates by an average of 30%. Legislation also required the Oregon Health Authority to contract for a study of the challenges faced by the behavioral health workforce, including recommendations for how to raise wages for behavioral health practitioners. This presentation will summarize the findings and recommendations from the study of workforce challenges and overview Oregon's efforts to expand and support the behavioral health workforce. Register [here](#).



Registration is Open for NACBH 2023 Public Policy Conference

The annual [NACBH Public Policy Conference](#) is known for convening children's behavioral health visionaries in a key national setting for two days of insightful discussions on the most significant policy issues affecting the industry. Held **July 11-12 in Washington, D.C.**, the NACBH 2023 Public Policy Conference will cover topics such as mental health parity, partnerships with school districts, workforce, and the transition to community care models. Take advantage of early bird pricing and [register now](#) for the NACBH 2023 Public Policy Conference.

NACBH

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

Contact Info:

National Association for Children's
Behavioral Health

201 E. Main St., Suite 1405

Lexington, Kentucky 40507

859.469.5790

info@nacbh.org