



June 19, 2019

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leadership, resources and association updates. We look forward to starting this new initiative soon - **keep an eye on your inboxes!**

NACBH is taking a **new approach** to communicating the important information you have come to know. We are excited to offer segmented information biweekly to better serve your needs and interests. Don't worry, the NACBH News will continue to include timely public policy updates and news you can use, while we also turn a new page to offering information on organizational



MACPAC Medicaid Recommendations to Congress: Therapeutic Foster Care, State Program Integrity Efforts

Last week, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) issued one of two Reports to Congress required each year, including a chapter on therapeutic foster care, and another on improving state Medicaid program integrity efforts.

The report on [therapeutic foster care](#) was requested by the House Appropriations Committee in its FY 2019 Labor/HHS/Education funding bill, noting the lack of a uniform definition in Medicaid, and asking whether care and treatment of foster children would be improved by developing a standard operational definition and scope of services. [Read more](#) on the report.

The chapter on improving the effectiveness of [Medicaid program integrity](#) (PI) follows up on earlier MACPAC recommendations that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provide states with useful information on how to most effectively focus their PI initiatives. Over time – as NACBH members know well – multiple requirements for what states must do to reduce fraud, waste and abuse have been added to statute and regulation, competing with resources for other program goals. [Read more](#) on this chapter.

As earlier reported, MACPAC's next biannual Report to Congress, due January 1, will include its examination of how Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs) are organized, regulated and paid, the types of services they offer, and the availability of community-based services for persons discharged from their 24-hour care.

ACF Issues Update on Covered Prevention Services Under Family First Act

On June 6, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released a [letter](#) acknowledging the still-pending ratings of prevention services for coverage under the Family First Prevention Services Act.

In the letter, ACF Associate Commissioner Jerry Milner says that the Children's Bureau plans to issue guidance in the coming weeks, allowing states to claim "transitional payments" under the new Title IV-E prevention program until the Clearinghouse can review and rate a service or program, if a state submits sufficient documentation.

The guidance will specify what is sufficient documentation. It is not clear whether states will be subject to retroactive recoupment of transitional payments, should the Clearinghouse later determine that a service was not promising, supported, or well-supported.

Contact lpennington@nacbh.org for help logging into Members Only.



As mentioned in the story about the latest MACPAC report, it's not always possible to extract specific data from broader program reports, especially when the data cross programmatic lines, and certainly not after the data collection instruments are set in stone.

Recently, ACF proposed a new “information collection” about prevention services delivered to children and families under Family First. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires federal agencies to put new and renewing collections out for public comment, to ensure that they are necessary and well-designed to produce information useful to both the government and the public.

In that spirit, NACBH provided feedback that we hope will allow later analysis of how states have used the new IV-E authority to cover prevention plans and services, as well as how IV-E and Medicaid interact to serve children in or at risk of entering the child welfare system. [Click here](#) to read our comments and ACF's proposal.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Casey Family Programs Wants to Know: Who Inspires You?

Casey Family Programs is accepting [nominations](#) for their annual Casey Excellence for Children Awards, which recognize the extraordinary efforts of individuals who have dedicated themselves to building hope and improving outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system. Eligible nominees: foster care alumni, birth parents, foster or adoptive parents, and kinship caregivers.

View last year's winners [here](#). **This year's deadline: 5:00 p.m. (Pacific) on July 25.**

Treatment Family Care: FFTA Issues 5th Edition Program Standards

The Family Focused Treatment Association has released the fifth edition of its program standards for treatment foster care, first developed in 1991. There are several updates from the previous edition, most significantly, an integrated focus on children living with kin. “Treatment foster care” and “treatment family care” are referenced in the particular service standards, to reflect the understanding that kin have some different needs than non-kin, but have the right to the same level of supports and services as those in non-kin families. The FFTA standards themselves are now referred to as Program Standards for Treatment Family Care. Take a look at them [online](#).



How Do Teens in Your State Compare Nationally?

New data from the HHS Office of Adolescent Health show that 30% of American high school students reported having at least one drink of alcohol in the month before the survey, 31% reported they felt sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks in a row in the last year, and 7% reported that they were ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (3% of boys and 11% of girls).

Five new [national and state data sheets](#) were issued last week, on adolescent mental health, substance use, healthy relationships, reproductive health, and physical health and nutrition. Sign up to receive the [OAH Bulletin](#), issued at least monthly with information on engaging and serving youth, statistics on their health status and behaviors, and links to additional resources.

Best Practices Committee

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 in Members Only or contact

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