



NACBH

National Association *for* Children's Behavioral Health

NEWS

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PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

CMS Issues Q&A About QRTPs, IMDs, Section 1115 Waivers



Quoting from the cover email, last Friday the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a “technical clarification question and answer document focused on a type of residential setting recently defined in statute called a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) for foster care children. These programs provide a trauma-informed model of care to address the needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances. [This](#)

[document](#) clarifies that QRTPs may be included in the section 1115 demonstrations described in the State Medicaid Director Letter on Opportunities to Design Innovative Service Delivery Systems for Adults with Serious Mental Illness or Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance, issued in November of 2018. [Keep reading](#).

FY 2020 Appropriations Update



As of this writing, the House has passed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through November 21, and the Senate is expected to pass it this week. In addition to continuing federal funding under current authorizations, the CR includes a number of “health care extenders” such as funding for community health centers, the eight-state community behavioral health center demonstration program, teaching hospitals, Medicaid in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. It does not include stopgap funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which expires September 30.

Work simultaneously continues on the 12 separate appropriations bills for the full fiscal year, with no resolution of the established policy disputes. After this week, both chambers will recess for a district work period until October 15.

Family First: Draft Bill Under Discussion to Ease States’ Transition

As we reported back in the Spring, several bills were introduced earlier this year to ease states’ transition to full implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act. None gained traction, and all attracted some level of opposition from advocates concerned that any flexibility would presage failure. [Continue reading](#) about the draft proposal's provisions.

NIMH Announces Funding Awards for Early Psychosis Learning Community

The National Institute of Mental Health [has awarded](#) over \$40 million in six 5-year research grants to develop a learning health care system for the treatment of early psychosis. The awards are part of a broader research initiative, the Early Psychosis Intervention Network (EPINET), designed to advance effective delivery models of coordinated specialty care for people in the early stages of a psychotic illness. [Keep reading.](#)

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Family First: Prevention Services Clearinghouse Call for Submissions

The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse has issued a [call for recommendations](#) of mental health, substance abuse, in-home skill-based parenting, and kinship navigator programs and services to be considered for systematic review. The deadline for submissions is October 31.

Family First: New Brief on Advancing Healthy Outcomes for LGBTQ+ Youth



The Center for the Study of Social Policy released a new brief highlighting ways to promote the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth involved with child welfare. [Advancing Healthy Outcomes](#) outlines how child welfare systems can implement eight strategies to address existing disproportionalities and disparities for these youth and their families, promote optimal well-being, and recognize and affirm multidimensional identities including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identify and expression, and immigration status.

Parity: Department of Labor Updates Implementation and Enforcement Resources

The Employee Benefits Security Administration at the Department of Labor has updated its [parity resource page](#). Several new documents provide examples and

illustrations of how parity provisions in key federal laws are supposed to work, including the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), the 21st Century Cures Act, the SUPPORT for Patient and Communities Act, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. [Keep reading.](#)

Upcoming Webinar: HIPAA-Compliant Use of Texts and Emails

October 24, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Eastern

The Pathways Research and Training Center (RTC) at Portland State University will host this webinar for providers, offering guidance and resources on the technical and administrative requirements for the ethical, HIPAA-compliance use of text and email.

Register [here](#).

Tool Kit for Young Adults Transitioning Out of Foster Care



Pathways RTC has issued [Things People Never Told Me](#), a tip sheet for young adults preparing to live independently for the first time. It includes insights and practical advice from first-hand experience on finances, employment, health care, transportation, and relationships. Available in English and Spanish.

Help "[Shatter the Silence](#)" - share this inspirational, spoken-word story with your communities as we close out National Suicide Prevention Month



Click on the video to listen

NACBH Emerging Best Practices Conference



December 5-6 | Don CeSar | St. Pete Beach, FL

Family First Prevention Services Act: Opportunities to Improve Care

[Registration](#) Open!

View the [preliminary program](#) on the [conference page](#)

Are you a forward-thinking behavioral health leader viewing implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act as an opportunity to expand your

community-based programs and services? If so, we want to hear from you! View information on our [call for proposals](#) and submit yours by September 26!

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