

NACCBH

National Association *for* Children's Behavioral Health

National Association for Children's
Behavioral Health

Public Policy Virtual Conference

July 20-22, 2021

AGENDA





As life approaches a return to normal, NACBH has planned one more virtual public policy conference before we can gather in person in Washington next year. Information and advocacy are more important than ever as we welcome new leadership at key federal agencies, a new Congress focused on public health issues exposed by the pandemic, the looming implementation deadline for the Family First Prevention Services Act, and a bounty of advocacy opportunities in our priority funding and policy areas.

This dynamic program places children's behavioral health services at the center of a unique moment in federal policymaking and encourages open discussion among public and private leaders committed to "building back better," to borrow a phrase. NACBH is excited to host this engaging virtual conference to educate and advocate while helping you make connections with fellow providers.

PROGRAM

Tuesday, July 20, 1:00 – 5:30 p.m. Eastern

1:00 – 1:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Charlene Hoobler, Chief Operations Officer
Barry Robinson Center, Norfolk, Virginia
NACBH Board President

Molly Marsh
Outgoing NACBH Association Director

1:15 – 1:30 Public Policy Conference Overview

Pat Johnston
NACBH Director of Public Policy

1:30 – 2:30 **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): New Federal Leadership, Future Directions**

*JooYeun Chang, J.D.
Acting Assistant Secretary and
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Services

***UPDATED JULY 19:** Acting Assistant Secretary Chang’s schedule changed and she will not be able to join us. Please plan to participate in a robust discussion during this hour, to share information and compile a list of issues and questions to take back to ACF and the Children’s Bureau. Looking towards the October 1 implementation deadline of this landmark child welfare reform law: What should the new administration be focused on? Do states and providers need additional guidance? Would technical amendments to FFPSA or Medicaid law remove implementation barriers? How can we help achieve the full benefit of Family First?

2:30 – 2:50 **Break**

2:50 – 3:50 **National Priorities for Improving State Medicaid Systems for Children**

Lindsey Browning, M.P.P.
Director of Medicaid Programming
National Association of Medicaid Directors

Lindsey Browning will return to the NACBH forum to update us on the State Medicaid Directors’ leadership agenda to comprehensively improve children’s services and systems as the public health emergency recedes. The first two reports in a three-report *Medicaid Forward* series, released earlier this year, focused on behavioral health and children’s health. We will hear about this ambitious blueprint for the “next normal” as well as NAMD’s overarching federal policy priorities, and offer feedback from the field.

3:50 – 4:10 **Break**

4:10 – 5:00 **FFPSA: QRTPs vs. PRTFs**

Michelle Sanborn, President
The Children’s Alliance, Lexington, Kentucky

David Napier, CEO, and
Peggy Kelly, Chief Clinical Officer
Youth Home, Inc., Little Rock, Arkansas



One of the thorniest questions that states must answer in implementing Family First's congregate care provisions is, "Whether and when a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) versus a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)?" From her many years of navigating Kentucky's child welfare and Medicaid systems, advocating at the state and federal levels for improvements, and working with colleagues in widely varying systems in the National Organization of State Associations for Children, Michelle Sanborn will help us answer this question. Youth Home, Inc. is one of the first provider organizations in the country to operate both a PRTF and a QRTP. We welcome David Napier and Peggy Kelly to share their administrative and clinical insight into the multiple issues beneath "whether and when" to inform other providers' and states' implementation.

5:00 – 5:30 **Observer Panel Discussion**

Wednesday, July 21, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Eastern – final schedule

1:00 – 2:00 **Behavioral Health Legislation in the 117th Congress:
The Big Picture and What It Means for Children's Services**

Katrina Velasquez, Esq., M.A.
Managing Principal, Center Road Solutions, and
Co-Chair, Mental Health Liaison Group

NACBH participates in the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) with more than 100 national organizations representing consumers, family members, mental health and addiction treatment providers, advocates, payers and other stakeholders committed to strengthening Americans' access to behavioral health care. Join leadership of the MHLG and NACBH for a conversation about prospects for legislation in the 117th Congress, and for child and family services in particular.

2:00 – 2:30 **Where Children Figure in the Federal Budget**

Bruce Lesley, President
First Focus on Children

First Focus on Children is a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions. The organization leads a comprehensive advocacy strategy, informed in part by its annual Children's Budget report, a detailed guide to federal spending on children across more than 180 programs and initiatives. Bruce Lesley will us in on The Promises We Must Make to Our Children – the latest policy and funding recommendations – as well related legislation currently before Congress.



2:30 – 2:45 **Leveraging Integrated Networks in Communities (LINC) to Address Social Needs Act**

Elizabeth Darnall, Health Policy Advisor
Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)

2:45 – 3:05 **Break**

3:05 – 3:25 **The Keeping All Students Safe Act**

Aaron Parsons, Ed.D., Vice President of Programs
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Baltimore, Maryland

3:25 – 3:50 **Pending Legislation to Exempt QRTPs from Medicaid IMDs**

Lisette Burton, J.D., Chief Policy & Practice Advisor
Association of Children’s Residential & Community services (ACRC)

3:50 – 4:30 **Tele-Advocating: How to Follow Up From the Field**

Tools and tips for following up with your elected representatives on NACBH’s key issues. Pat Johnston will review talking points on key legislation and fact sheets for your use with Congressional offices.

4:30 – 5:00 **Observer Panel Discussion**

Thursday, July 22, 1:00 – 5:30 p.m. Eastern

1:00 – 1:10 **Overview of the Afternoon’s Agenda**

Pat Johnston, NACBH

1:10 – 2:10 **Medicaid: Federal Priorities and Future Directions**

Marguerite Schervish, J.D., Technical Director
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

As we do every year, we will welcome a key official from the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services to share developments on policies relating to children’s behavioral health services.



Recurring topics include the interaction of FFPSA with Medicaid, how CMS and the Children’s Bureau are working together to ensure seamless health care coverage and, apart from foster care, any changes in how the Medicaid IMD exclusion is applied to programs serving children and adolescents. With the new CMS Administrator recently confirmed by the Senate, we hope to gain insight into priorities and directions under the Biden Administration, particularly around reviving Medicaid access regulations, updating guidance for school-based services, and clarifying sub-regulatory policy for the IMD exclusion.

2:10 – 2:30 **Break**

2:30 – 3:30 **Mental Health Parity in the Private and Public Sectors:
Updates and Prospects**

Tim Clement, M.P.H.
Director of Legislative Development
American Psychiatric Association

David Lloyd, M.B.A.
Senior Policy Advisor
The Kennedy Forum

Colleagues from the Mental Health Liaison Group will brief us on the good news contained in last year’s Mental Health Parity Compliance Act, new parity proposals in the 117th Congress, and significant implications for child and adolescent behavioral health coverage under this year’s *Wit v. United Behavioral Health* remedies order. Parity is accelerating across the private sector. Could it also be on the horizon for Medicaid? We will, of course, touch on the Medicaid IMD exclusion with our experts.

3:30 – 3:45 **Break**

3:45 – 4:45 **Serving Military-Connected Children in Behavioral Health
and Educational Programs**

Eileen Huck
Deputy Director for Health Care
National Military Family Association

Rebecca Porter, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Military Child Education Coalition

NACBH participates in the TRICARE for Kids Coalition, a stakeholder group of children’s health care advocacy and professional organizations, military and veterans’ service organizations,



and military families committed to ensuring that TRICARE meets the unique health needs of the more than two million children covered by TRICARE. This highly effective coalition has gained credibility and visibility in Congress, the Defense Health Agency, and the Pentagon, with behavioral health coverage and access consistently at the top of the agenda. TRICARE for Kids colleagues will join us for a wide-ranging conversation about the health care and educational needs of children in military families, and the critical role that civilian providers play. Current policy issues at the TFK Coalition, including recent changes to the TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration, will be outlined as part of this conversational snapshot of military-connected children's behavioral health.

4:45 – 5:15 **Observations and Final Thoughts**

5:15 – 5:30 **Closing Remarks**

Charlene Hoobler, Chief Operations Officer
Barry Robinson Center, Norfolk, Virginia
NACBH Board President

Jennifer Duckworth
Incoming NACBH Association Director

Save the Date
NACBH Emerging Best Practices Conference
December 1-3, 2021
The Don Cesar | St. Pete Beach, Florida

