

Public Policy Webinar Series

September 15 – 24, 2020

In the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, federal legislative and policy initiatives continue to evolve in ways that have significant impact on the delivery of children’s behavioral health services across the country. We hope you will join the National Association for Children’s Behavioral Health (NACBH) for our upcoming four-part Public Policy Webinar Series highlighting the key policy issues in play as we approach the national election, and laying the groundwork for an exciting advocacy agenda moving forward.

Webinar 1: Tuesday, September 15, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern

Welcome/Overview of Webinar Series

Dick Wolleat, Board President, NACBH, and Pat Johnston, Director of Public Policy, NACBH

The Changing Landscape: Defining a Path Forward

Former U.S. Representative Patrick J. Kennedy, Founder, The Kennedy Forum

It’s hard to believe that 12 years have passed since Congressman Kennedy shepherded the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act across the finish line, and nearly a decade since he left office. His personal and political advocacy for full parity implementation has only expanded in the intervening years, with compelling appearances on stages large and small. We are delighted to welcome Patrick J. Kennedy for a rousing keynote call to action in the children’s behavioral health community.

Map Reading for Advocates: COVID-19, Bipartisanship, FFPSA, New Year and New Congress

Angela Kimball, National Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and Pat Johnston, Director of Public Policy, NACBH

From grassroots action across the country to a prominent presence in Washington, NAMI’s advocacy for mental health policy, services, and research is unmatched. Angela Kimball brings particular expertise in children’s mental health reform and mental health parity to a wide-ranging conversation about directions for progress in children’s behavioral health at this unique moment in time.

Accreditation POV: Council on Accreditation

Jody Levison-Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, COA

The first of three opportunities to hear from the leaders in national accreditation for children’s behavioral health services. We’re grateful for the longstanding support and collaboration of COA, the Joint Commission, and CARF International.

Webinar 2: Thursday, September 17, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern

Federal Medicaid Developments for Children’s Behavioral Health

Brief Background on Key Issues: Pat Johnston, Director of Public Policy, NACBH

Michael Tankersley, Technical Director, Division of Benefits and Coverage, and
John Giles, Director, Division of Managed Care Policy
Disabled & Elderly Health Programs Group
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

These two key team members from the Disabled & Elderly Health Programs Group, CMS, will provide updates on relevant policy developments around Medicaid’s Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs), the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, waivers, managed care, and interaction with the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Accreditation POV: The Joint Commission

Julia Finken, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Care & Human Services, TJC

The second of three opportunities to hear from the leaders in national accreditation for children’s behavioral health services. We’re grateful for the longstanding support and collaboration of the Joint Commission, CARF International, and COA.

Webinar 3: Tuesday, September 22, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern

State Medicaid Priorities for Children’s Behavioral Health

Brief Recap of Webinar 2 Discussion: Pat Johnston, Director of Public Policy, NACBH

Lindsey Browning, Program Director for Medicaid Operations, NAMD
Jack Rollins, Federal Policy Director, NAMD

The National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) convenes a highly effective learning community of state Medicaid leaders, fosters a strong state-federal partnership at the national level, and engages the provider community through organizations like NACBH. This year, we welcome two speakers for a broad look across operational innovations, particularly in light of COVID-19, and NAMD’s federal legislative and regulatory priorities for improving the delivery of children’s behavioral health services.

Accreditation POV: CARF International

Leslie Ellis-Lang, Managing Director, Child and Youth Services, CARF

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Webinar 4: Thursday, September 24, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern

Advocacy for Children and Families: Food for Thought – and Action

We'll close our four-webinar series with two experts in children's health policy analysis, interpretation and framing, to help shape your advocacy plans moving forward.

Joan Alker, Research Professor and Executive Director, Center for Children and Families
McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University

Joan Alker leads this independent, nonpartisan policy shop focused on access to high-quality, comprehensive and affordable health coverage for children and families. She will outline key areas for attention in Medicaid and CHIP, as a result of recent policy set-backs as well as improvements indicated by the current pandemic.

Marlo Nash, National Director of Partnership and Policy, St. Francis Ministries,
and Co-Chair, National Trauma Campaign

Marlo Nash co-chairs a national campaign supporting policies, programs, legislation, and appropriations that prevent and respond to childhood trauma and build resilience. She will describe a trauma lens for legislative and regulatory advocacy, and highlight flexibilities in federal COVID-19 response funding for state-level action.

Closing Remarks

Caelan Soma, Chair, NACBH Emerging Best Practices Conference program committee
Dick Wolleat, NACBH Board President
Molly Marsh, NACBH Association Director