



UPDATE

May 15, 2017

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*Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health,
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison*

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS COULD PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN REDUCING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)-funded research shows an intervention that includes follow-up phone calls reduces the risk of future suicide attempts for people at risk. A significant proportion of individuals who die by suicide have made a prior suicide attempt and often access emergency care services. The study found that hospital emergency departments can play a vital role in lowering the number of suicide attempts among adults by as much as 30 percent.

Science Update: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/emergency-departments-could-play-significant-role-in-reducing-suicide-attempts.shtml>

BRAIN “RELAY” ALSO KEY TO HOLDING THOUGHTS IN MIND; THALAMUS EYED AS POTENTIAL TREATMENT TARGET FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA’S WORKING MEMORY DEFICITS

Long assumed to be a mere "relay," an often-overlooked egg-like structure in the middle of the brain also turns out to play a pivotal role in tuning-up thinking circuitry. A trio of studies in mice funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are revealing that the thalamus sustains the ability to distinguish categories and hold thoughts in mind. By manipulating activity of thalamus neurons, scientists were able to control an animal's ability to remember how to find a reward. In the future, the thalamus might even become a target for interventions to reduce cognitive deficits in psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, researchers say.

Press Release: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/brain-relay-also-key-to-holding-thoughts-in-mind.shtml>

PRESCRIBING PATTERNS CHANGE FOLLOWING DIRECT MARKETING RESTRICTIONS; NIH-FUNDED STUDY LOOKS AT HOW CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICIES AFFECT MEDICATION PRESCRIBING

A study of how policies restricting pharmaceutical promotion to physicians affect medication prescribing found that physicians in academic medical centers prescribed fewer of the promoted drugs, and more non-promoted drugs in the same drug classes, following policy changes to restrict marketing activities at those medical centers. The analysis encompassed 16.1 million prescriptions; while the decline observed was modest in terms of percentage, proportionally small changes can represent thousands of prescriptions. The study was supported in part by a contract from NIMH and the paper reporting these results appears in the May 2 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* which is devoted to conflict of interest issues.

Press Release: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/prescribing-patterns-change-following-direct-marketing-restrictions.shtml>

STUDY SHOWS BUPRENORPHINE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN MORPHINE FOR TREATMENT OF OPIOID WITHDRAWAL IN NEWBORNS

A newly published study showed that buprenorphine is more effective than morphine in treating withdrawal symptoms in newborns prenatally exposed to opioids, known as neonatal abstinence syndrome. Unlike morphine, buprenorphine did not affect breathing rates, although medications were otherwise comparable for safety. The research was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

News Release: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2017/05/study-shows-buprenorphine-more-effective-than-morphine-treatment-opioid-withdrawal-in-newborns>

DEPRESSION MORE COMMON AMONG ADOLESCENTS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS

New data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reveals higher rates of depression among adolescents with common health conditions, including diabetes, asthma, and obesity. Major depressive episodes (MDEs) are more common among adolescents ages 12 to 17 with asthma or diabetes, than among adolescents without these conditions, according to the new report. Additionally, adolescent girls who were overweight or obese were more likely to have experienced an MDE in the past year than their peers.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201705040730>

NEW SAMHSA TOOLBOX PROMOTES MENTAL HEALTH AND SCHOOL READINESS IN YOUNG CHILDREN

SAMHSA has launched a virtual toolbox to guide early childhood leaders in promoting the mental health and school readiness of young children. The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Toolbox includes videos, interactive products, and resources to enhance early childhood programs through implementing or expanding mental health consultation.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201705030330>

VA, VFW AND WALGREENS COLLABORATE TO ENHANCE VETERANS' ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and drugstore chain Walgreens announced a collaborative agreement, which will help improve mental health care for Veterans through enhanced education, access to resources, and outreach. VA, VFW, and Walgreens will work together to reach Veterans in communities across the country with targeted initiatives to address mental health awareness and treatment, Veteran suicide prevention, and opioid overdose education.

Press Release: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2901>

VA RECOGNIZES MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH WITH PROMOTION OF ‘USE YOUR VOICE’ AWARENESS PROGRAM TO URGE VETERANS TO SPEAK UP ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS

The VA announced that, as part of its recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month in May, it is promoting “Use Your Voice,” a national awareness program that encourages Veterans to seek mental health treatment if they need it. The Use Your Voice program is designed to let not only Veterans, but all Americans know that reaching out for mental health information and support is just as important as talking to one’s doctor about diet, blood pressure, joint pain, and other health challenges.

Press Release: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2897>

NEW FROM NIMH

LATEST ISSUE OF OUTREACH CONNECTION AVAILABLE

Learn how NIMH Outreach Partnership Program partners are bringing research to the community in the Program's latest issue of *Outreach Connection*.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNIMH/bulletins/1984f94>

MEETING SUMMARY: NOVEL APPROACHES TO UNDERSTANDING THE MECHANISMS OF THE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS IN ALZHEIMER'S AND ADVANCING THERAPY DEVELOPMENT

On May 8-9, 2017, NIMH and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) brought together clinical, behavioral science, and neuroscience researchers to discuss neuropsychiatric symptoms and treatment approaches for Alzheimer's disease. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-priorities/scientific-meetings/2017/novel-approaches-to-understanding-the-mechanisms-of-the-neuropsychiatric-symptoms-in-alzheimers-and-advancing-therapy-development.shtml>

NEW FROM NIH

BLOG POST: SMOKING CESSATION MAY IMPROVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

This blog post summarizes research that shows that smokers with behavioral health conditions—like other smokers—want to quit, can quit, and benefit from evidence-based smoking cessation treatments. They may face unique challenges in quitting, and benefit from tailored and more intensive counseling and/or longer use, or a combination of cessation medications. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2017/05/smoking-cessation-may-improve-behavioral-health-conditions-cran-blog>

NICHD PODCAST: NICHD-FUNDED STUDY EXPLORES THE TOLL OF PEDIATRIC TRAUMA

In this National Institute of Child Health and Human Development podcast, a pediatrician specializing in critical care at the Mayo Clinic describes her research exploring the long-term health outcomes of children who experience traumatic injury or a life-threatening illness in early childhood.

<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/news/releases/Pages/041817-podcast-Crow.aspx>

NIDA: COMBINED HIV AND HEROIN VACCINE SHOWS PROMISE

A novel combination vaccine designed to treat heroin addiction and target HIV was found to elicit immune responses in mice and dull their response to injected heroin in a recent preclinical trial.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/latest-science/combined-hiv-heroin-vaccine-shows-promise>

NIDA: SMOKING CESSATION MEDICATIONS ALLEVIATE SYMPTOMS OF NICOTINE WITHDRAWAL, BUT NOT LONG-TERM BRAIN CHANGES

Researchers now report that nicotine replacement therapy and the smoking cessation medication varenicline alleviate ex-smokers' deficits in decision-making, but do not restore reward sensitivity. The new study pinpoints the types of decision errors newly abstinent smokers make, and how their brain activity during decision-making differs from that of non-smokers. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/latest-science/smoking-cessation-medications-alleviate-symptoms-nicotine-withdrawal-not-long-term-brain-changes>

NIDA BLOG POST: FIVE THINGS INHALANTS CAN DO TO YOUR BODY

Inhalants are chemicals found in ordinary household or workplace products that people breathe in (inhale) on purpose to get "high." Examples are glue, gasoline, paint, permanent markers, and aerosol sprays. Inhaling these products' fumes—even just once—can be very harmful to one's brain and body. This blog post outlines just five of the problems that inhalants can cause.

<https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/five-things-inhalants-can-do-your-body>

NIDA: OPIOID ABUSE FACT SHEET SERIES

IMPROVING OPIOID PRESCRIBING

This brief fact sheet provides information about the risks of prescription opioid pain relievers and a summary of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Guideline for Opioid Prescribing for Pain*.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/improving-opioid-prescribing/improving-opioid-prescribing>

NALOXONE FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE: LIFE-SAVING SCIENCE

This brief fact sheet provides information about the life-saving drug naloxone, which can reverse an opioid overdose, including how it works and where to get it. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/naloxone-opioid-overdose-life-saving-science/naloxone-opioid-overdose-life-saving-science>

EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS FOR OPIOID ADDICTION

This brief fact sheet provides information about the effectiveness of Medication Assisted Treatment for opioid use disorders and recent scientific advances in this area.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

SELF-CARE FOR PROVIDERS DURING CHANGE AND STRESS

Health care workers may neglect their own wellness while helping others. Here are five tips to help preserve mood, physical health, and patient care quality through self-care.

<https://newsletter.samhsa.gov/2017/05/03/self-care-for-providers/>

SAMHSA SPOTLIGHTS ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CHRONIC ILLNESS AND DEPRESSION IN YOUTH

SAMHSA released several one-page "Spotlights" to accompany a major report on the association between a MDE and chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and obesity among adolescents.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/19885bd>

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Access SAMHSA fact sheets that help caregivers and young adults learn about symptoms of various mental illnesses, treatment options, and support services. The facts sheets addressing anxiety disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, bipolar disorder, depression, first episode psychosis, and obsessive-compulsive disorder provide the latest scientific information about symptoms and a range of treatment options as well as peer support groups and services. <https://www.samhsa.gov/children/family-educational-materials>

FOCUS ON PREVENTION

This report guides communities in planning and delivering substance abuse prevention strategies. It covers needs assessments, identifying partners, creating effective strategies, marketing, special populations, and program evaluation. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA10-4120>

ALCOHOL AND DEPRESSION: STEVE'S PATH TO A BETTER LIFE

This booklet discusses co-occurring disorders via the story of Steve, a construction worker who is experiencing symptoms of substance use disorder and depression. Steve's co-occurring disorder creates havoc in his work and family life. The booklet aims to reduce negative attitudes toward co-occurring disorders and their treatment by increasing consumer knowledge, and is adapted from the published Spanish-language fotonovela, *El alcohol y la depresión: El camino de Jorge hacia una vida mejor*.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA16-5013>

PREVENTING PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE: SELECTED STRATEGIES AND ASSOCIATED RISK FACTORS

This chart presents strategies that address common risk factors associated with the non-medical use of prescription drugs. <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-capt-learning-resources/preventing-prescription-drug-misuse>

THE MESSENGER MATTERS: USING SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS AND CONTENT CHAMPIONS TO PROMOTE PREVENTION EFFORTS

This resource describes the unique role influencers and champions can play in helping prevention practitioners expand their online audiences and increase the visibility of their prevention efforts.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-capt-learning-resources/the-messenger-matters>

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY- AND STATE-LEVEL LOGIC MODELS FOR ADDRESSING OPIOID-RELATED OVERDOSE DEATHS

This resource presents three examples of logic models to guide practitioners in developing state- and community-level responses to the opioid crisis. <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-capt-learning-resources/logic-models-for-opioids-related-deaths>

NEW FROM ACF

SPOTLIGHT ON CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

This month's *Children's Bureau Express* from the Administration on Children and Families features an article on the mental and physical health of children in foster care, a new podcast featuring three youth as they speak about their firsthand experiences with homelessness or foster care, a report about a survey-based study to determine who would most likely be willing to act as a resource family, useful tools for foster parents and caregivers on navigating the reunification process, and a guide for foster parents on family visits. <https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewSection&issueID=186&subsectionID=7>

PODCAST: YOUTH LEADERS DISCUSS HOW TO ENGAGE RURAL YOUTH IN SERVICES

In this new podcast, rural youth leaders who were once homeless or in foster care themselves offer advice on how to engage vulnerable rural youth.

<https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=186§ionid=2&articleid=4943>

HHS BLOG POSTS

SLIPPING THROUGH THE CRACKS: STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE OPIOID CRISIS

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Price will be publishing a series of blog posts about his national opioids listening tour. This post is the first of the series.

<https://www.hhs.gov/blog/2017/05/12/stories-from-the-front-lines-of-the-opioid-crisis.html>

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH: EMPOWERING CAREGIVERS, STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

This HHS blog post highlights National Foster Care Month, which celebrates the families and individuals who work with children in foster care. This year's theme, "Empowering Caregivers, Strengthening Families," honors the collective efforts of all who assist these young people and their families. Children and youth in foster care often face unique challenges, but the support they receive helps them pursue the promising future every child deserves. <https://www.hhs.gov/blog/2017/05/09/empowering-caregivers-strengthening-families.html>

PERSPECTIVES ON SAFETY: OPIOID OVERDOSE AS A PATIENT SAFETY PROBLEM

This Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality blog post covers the dangers of increased opioid prescribing and strategies to reduce harm. <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/perspectives/perspective/225>

NEW FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHANGING MINDS ABOUT CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

This Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention blog post describes the "Changing Minds" campaign launched in partnership with Futures Without Violence, which highlights five key healing gestures that adults can use in working with children. Adults can celebrate, comfort, collaborate with, listen to and inspire children to help them overcome the trauma caused by violence. The Changing Minds campaign identifies solutions to help children heal and educates the public about the problem of children's exposure to violence. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/changing-minds.html>

VICARIOUS TRAUMA TOOLKIT

The *Vicarious Trauma Toolkit* was developed on the premise that exposure to the traumatic experiences of other people—known as vicarious trauma—is an inevitable occupational challenge for the fields of victim services, emergency medical services, fire services, law enforcement, and other allied professionals; however, organizations can mitigate the potentially negative effects of trauma exposure by becoming vicarious trauma-informed. This toolkit from the Office of Victims of Crimes can be used to: conduct an assessment of an agency's current capacity as a vicarious trauma-informed organization; review existing capacity, identify gaps, and prioritize needs; locate resources and tools to help meet identified needs; and develop a comprehensive plan to address exposure to single incidents of crime or violence and acts of mass violence and terrorism. <https://vtt.ovc.ojp.gov/>

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BLOG POST: ALL ABOUT SKILLS: TAPPING THE POWER OF NEURODIVERSITY

This Department of Labor blog post describes the term, “neurodiversity,” which is increasingly familiar to those in the workforce diversity and inclusion sphere. It’s about the strategic integration of people with neurological disabilities into all workplaces, and its practice can yield results for both employers and employees, including those on the autism spectrum. <https://blog.dol.gov/2017/04/26/all-about-skills-tapping-power-neurodiversity>

NEW FROM VA

USING THE PTSD TREATMENT DECISION AID WITH PATIENTS

The Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Treatment Decision Aid is an online tool to educate people with PTSD about effective treatment options and encourage them to participate actively in decisions about their care. This tool offers comprehensive information on first-line, evidence-based PTSD treatments identified in the 2010 VA/U.S. Department of Defense *Clinical Practice Guideline*, including: antidepressants, cognitive processing therapy, eye movement desensitization and reprocessing, prolonged exposure, and stress inoculation training. https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/treatment/overview/decision_aid_pro.asp

DCOE BLOG POSTS

SIX TOOLS THAT CAN HELP MANAGE MENTAL HEALTH

This Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) post describes available tools to help to improve the mental health of service members and their families.

<http://dcoe.mil/blog/17-05-04/these-6-tools-can-help-you-manage-your-mental-health>

MANAGING SUICIDE RISK, ACCESS TO FIREARMS: GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDERS

Suicide is a sensitive topic and discussing the ways people take their own lives can be extremely difficult. It is important that providers are aware of and able to openly discuss guidelines for managing suicide. This DCoE blog post addresses questions related to firearm access and suicide. [http://dcoe.mil/blog/17-05-](http://dcoe.mil/blog/17-05-02/managing-suicide-risk-access-firearms-guidelines-providers)

[02/managing-suicide-risk-access-firearms-guidelines-providers](http://dcoe.mil/blog/17-05-02/managing-suicide-risk-access-firearms-guidelines-providers)

EVENTS

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

MAY 2017

National Foster Care Month is a time to recognize that everyone can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care. Find resources and information to help ensure that their future is bright. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK

MAY 14-20, 2017

National Prevention Week is an annual health observance dedicated to increasing public awareness of, and action around, substance abuse and mental health issues. The 2017 Daily Health Themes include:

- Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use: Monday, May 15
- Prevention of Underage Drinking and Alcohol Misuse: Tuesday, May 16
- Prevention of Prescription and Opioid Drug Misuse: Wednesday, May 17
- Prevention of Illicit Drug Use and Youth Marijuana Use: Thursday, May 18
- Prevention of Suicide: Friday, May 19
- Promotion of Mental Health and Wellness: Saturday, May 20

<https://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week/about>
Prevention Week Calendar: <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/National-Prevention-Week-Resource-Calendar/All-New-Products/PEP17-NPWCALENDAR>

WEBINAR: NATIONAL CONSUMER AND CONSUMER SUPPORTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS

MAY 16, 2017, 2:00 PM ET

SAMHSA is hosting a webinar to introduce the National Consumer and Consumer Supporter Technical Assistance Centers (NTACs). The NTACs work to support, strengthen, and enhance the lives and work of mental health consumers and peer-operated initiatives. During this presentation, participants will learn about the regional NTACs and their peer leaders, learn about specific activities and initiatives underway, and find out how regional NTACs can support organizations in strengthening peer-provided mental health services. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1585303732796912387>

WEBINAR: OPIOID ADDICTION AND PREVENTION

MAY 17, 2017, 1:30 PM ET

This webinar will discuss the growing issue of opioid addiction and how partner engagement can support prevention efforts. It will feature SAMHSA and state prevention experts as well as National Prevention Week partner, the American Society for Addiction Medicine. <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/news-announcements/conferences-trainings/opioid-addiction-prevention>

WEBINAR: TREATING PTSD AND SUICIDE RISK: SEPARATING MYTH FROM FACT

MAY 17, 2017, 2:00 PM ET

On the third Wednesday of each month, the VA PTSD Consultation Program hosts a webinar on a topic relevant to treating PTSD. The target audience includes mental health professionals or other health professionals interested in topics related to treating Veterans with PTSD. The May webinar covers treating PTSD and suicide risk. <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/consult/lecture-series.asp>

WEBINAR: AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WEBINAR SERIES: THE HOPE SQUAD PROGRAM – ADDRESSING SUICIDE PREVENTION AND UNTREATED MENTAL ILLNESS

MAY 18, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

This webinar will feature the Hope Squad Program, a school-based peer advocate program that works to prevent suicide and decrease the incidence of untreated mental illness. The Hope Squad Program is currently working in American Indian and Alaska Native communities in Alaska, Oklahoma, and Utah. <http://tinyurl.com/HopeSquadRegistration>

WEBINAR: INTRODUCTION OF SAMHSA'S CONCEPT OF TRAUMA AND GUIDANCE FOR A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH TO HEALING COMMUNITIES

MAY 22, 2017, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

Join this first webinar in a monthly webinar series sponsored by SAMHSA's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care and Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint that will highlight communities working to improve member resiliency and responsiveness to community incidents. This webinar will introduce SAMHSA's "Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach to Healing Communities." <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/199ea5a>

WEBINAR: EMPOWERMENT, VOICE, AND CHOICE: PIERCE COUNTY RECOVERY RESPONSE CENTER

MAY 22, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

SAMHSA's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care and Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint is hosting the webinar series, "Trauma-Informed Innovations in Crisis Services," to highlight the innovative work of crisis service providers employing a trauma-informed approach, including prevention, engagement, and inclusion of lived experience and peer support. This webinar will share how the Pierce County Recovery Response Center, located in Washington state, creates opportunities and environments that empower people to recover in a time of crisis. Support staff consists of a team of psychiatrists and other mental health professionals, nurses, individuals that specialize in resources management, and peer support specialists. https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/nctic/nctic-crisis-webinar-series-announcement.pdf

WEBINAR: THE EMERGING FIELD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

MAY 24, 2017, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

This webinar presented by SAMHSA's Minority Fellowship Program Coordinating Center discusses how changes in the behavioral health care field over the past several years, including the move to recovery-oriented systems of care, integrated systems of care, and trauma-informed care, will impact providers and practitioners. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6246750350837699843>

WEBINAR: STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THE HARM OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE

MAY 30, 2017, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

The rise of opioid misuse as a public health issue has many Center for Substance Abuse Prevention grantees focusing on the non-medical use of prescription drugs as a prevention priority. To support these efforts, SAMHSA's Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) is hosting a three-part webinar series titled, "Preventing Prescription Drug Misuse: Prevention Strategies from the Research Literature." The final in the series will provide an overview of strategies that seek to prevent nonfatal and fatal overdose from prescription drugs. Presenters will describe the core components of these strategies, explore potential advantages and disadvantages, and direct participants toward relevant CAPT resources to support strategy selection. <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/news-announcements/conferences-trainings/strategies-reduce-harm-prescription-drug-misuse>

WEBINAR: MANAGING BENZODIAZEPINES: BEST PRACTICES AND ALTERNATIVES

MAY 31, 2017, 12:00 PM ET

Join this SAMHSA-Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Center for Integrated Health Solutions webinar to review ineffective and potentially harmful benzodiazepine prescribing and hear about effective treatment alternatives. Review the value and process of creating guidelines at a large agency, learn what guidelines and standards other medical leaders follow, and learn from state regulatory examples.

<https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1146055>

WEBINAR: PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS: SPOTLIGHT ON MISSOURI MEDICAID AND DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

MAY 31, 2017, 2:00 PM ET

Medicaid is the largest payer of mental health services. To ensure Medicaid beneficiaries have access to mental health services, an effective working relationship between the State Mental Health Authority and the State Medicaid Office is critical. This SAMHSA-sponsored webinar will present lessons learned from Missouri (MO) HealthNet and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) on how to successfully partner to improve the lives of individuals living with mental illness. Webinar presenters will explore the reasons MO HealthNet and DMH chose to work together, identify principles and techniques that made their partnership effective, summarize the benefits of a symbiotic relationship, and showcase initiatives that were a direct result of their collaboration. https://nasmhpd.adobeconnect.com/missouri_reg/event/event_info.html

NIH WORKSHOP: INCLUSION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

JUNE 1-2, 2017, BETHESDA, MD

This NIH workshop seeks to examine the science of inclusion of various populations in clinical trials and studies. The workshop will place a particular focus on pediatric and older populations, as these populations have very specific and unique health issues that must be examined as new interventions are being studied and ultimately inform health care. Plenary sessions will be webcast on both days of the workshop.

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/about/events/2017/inclusion-across-lifespan>

NIH AND THE KENNEDY CENTER PRESENT: SOUND HEALTH – MUSIC AND THE MIND

JUNE 2-3, 2017, WASHINGTON, DC

NIH and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will host the first public initiative of their “Sound Health” partnership, which seeks to explore the relationship between music, health/wellness, and science. The two-day Kennedy Center event features a wide range of performances, presentations, and discussions to engage the public on the intersection of music and science. Presenters will discuss music’s effects on the developing brain and the potential therapeutic effects of music on a range of conditions such as autism, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, and other neurological disorders. Events require tickets unless marked free. <https://www.nih.gov/sound-health/music-mind>

OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

JUNE 6-7, 2017, SACRAMENTO, CA

The HHS Office of Minority Health Resource Center’s University Vision, Design, and Capacity technical grant writing workshop provides university faculty and health professionals with strategies to make grant proposals more competitive. This hands-on workshop hosted by California State University is for junior faculty, staff, and college/university health professionals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities who are interested in community-based participatory research, who are committed to working with underserved populations, and who want to build their institution’s capacity to compete and receive competitive grant awards. <https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=100>

TRANS-FEDERAL WORKSHOP ON EXTREME EVENTS, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, AND THE ELDERLY: SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE, CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

JUNE 13-14, 2017, WASHINGTON, DC

This workshop will explore the scientific evidence for concern about the elderly in the context of extreme man-made and natural disasters and seasonal variations, and elucidate cultural considerations related to specific elder sub-populations. This workshop will feature top academic researchers and representatives of elder population groups and community organizations on environmental, cultural, and societal perspectives of aging issues, while providing knowledge to advance scientific research on how the environment impacts aging populations. Participating federal agencies include the Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIA, Indian Health Service, CDC, and HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary. <https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/trans-federal-workshop-extreme-events-environmental-health-and-elderly-scientific>

WEBINAR: HOW TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT TELEBEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY CARE – A DIALOGUE WITH EXPERTS

JUNE 15, 2017, 3:00 PM ET

Join this interactive SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions webinar to ask subject matter experts about the key elements of successful telebehavioral health implementation and learn about practical tools for how to build capacity for telebehavioral health in integrated primary and behavioral health care settings. Get a brief overview of the basics of telebehavioral health and then dive into discussion on topics such as: how telehealth technology impacts staff and specific roles or responsibilities, how to sustainably finance telehealth technology, implications for practicing across state lines, considerations for developing operational and procedural manuals, and specific components of telehealth for mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs. <https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1145882>

WEBINAR: PEER SUPPORT: FREISE HOPE HOUSE

JUNE 26, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

In this SAMSHA webinar, learn about the Crestwood Behavioral Health's Freise HOPE (Helping Others through Peer Empowerment) House, a short-term, voluntary, mental health crisis residential treatment program in Bakersfield, CA that welcomes guests into a warm, homelike environment. In this program, guests are provided a short-term safe place to land during a psychiatric crisis. Guests are also engaged using a variety of recovery-based tools such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Wellness Recovery Action Plans, and trauma-informed approaches to help them manage their symptoms and develop skills to live effectively in the community. The treatment team is comprised entirely of people with lived experience who are trained and certified peer providers.

https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/nctic/nctic-crisis-webinar-series-announcement.pdf

NCATS ADVOCACY DAY: PARTNERING WITH PATIENTS FOR SMARTER SCIENCE

JUNE 30, 2017, BETHESDA, MD

The inaugural National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Advocacy Day will inform patients and their advocates about NCATS and its programs, identify patient needs, and collectively discuss ways for improved patient inclusion in NCATS' translational science activities. The full day event features presentations, interactive activities, and a poster session. Designed for patients, families, caregivers, and patient advocacy groups, the event will foster an open dialogue among patients and their advocates to discuss common translational science roadblocks, brainstorm ideas for improvement, and apply that knowledge to strengthen patient and community engagement at NCATS.

<https://ncats.nih.gov/events#advocacy>

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REPORT

AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program encourages the public to participate in the development of its research projects. The Program uses these comments to help focus its research and ensure that the final comparative effectiveness reviews answer the most important questions that clinicians, patients, consumers, and policymakers have about a given treatment, test, or procedure. The Program is currently seeking comments for:

DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY OF SCREENING TESTS AND TREATMENT OF POST-ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME DEPRESSION: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW (COMMENTS ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 24, 2017)

<https://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-available-for-comment/comment-draft-reports/?pageaction=displaydraftcommentform&topicid=647&productid=2468&documenttype=draftReport>

ENHANCING PATIENT ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS ACROSS THE FDA

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is soliciting input on ongoing efforts to enhance mechanisms for patient engagement at the Agency. In this tradition, FDA intends to enhance future patient engagement by providing a more transparent, accessible, and robust experience for patient communities. To achieve these goals, FDA is considering establishing a new Office of Patient Affairs. This concept was directly informed by the public feedback solicited through the prior public docket regarding FDA's stakeholder engagement responsibilities outlined by the FDA Safety and Innovation Act. The purpose of this notice is to outline FDA's proposal for the future of patient engagement at the Agency so that the perspectives of patient communities can be better captured. Comments on this proposal are accepted through June 12, 2017.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/03/14/2017-04982/enhancing-patient-engagement-efforts-across-the-food-and-drug-administration-establishment-of-a>

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: INCLUSION IN CLINICAL RESEARCH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

In response to scientific need and a congressional mandate in the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255), the NIH is convening a workshop of experts on the appropriate inclusion of pediatric and older populations in research studies involving human subjects, and is seeking input from the wider scientific community and the public concerning inclusion in research. The NIH is interested in hearing from the public on a number of topics, including best study designs that ensure the inclusion of participants from a broad range of ages, sex/gender, and race/ethnicity in clinical trials or clinical studies; potential ethical challenges when including those individuals under 18 years of age, or frail or cognitively impaired older adults in trials; strategies to expand current successful practices for inclusion of these populations; and potential barriers to and the opportunities for inclusion of pediatric and older populations in clinical studies. Responses will be accepted until June 30, 2017. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-17-059.html>

THE HEALTHY BEHAVIOR DATA CHALLENGE

CDC launched the Healthy Behavior Data Challenge (HBDC), which responds to the call for new ways to address the challenges and limitations of self-reported health surveillance information and tap into the potential of innovative data sources and alternative methodologies for public health surveillance. The HBD Challenge will support the development and implementation of prototypes to use these novel methodologies and data sources (e.g., wearable devices, mobile applications, and/or social media) to enhance traditional healthy behaviors surveillance systems in the areas of nutrition, physical activity, sedentary behaviors, and/or sleep among the adult population aged 18 years and older in the U.S. and U.S. territories. Submissions are due January 15, 2018. <https://www.challenge.gov/challenge/the-healthy-behavior-data-challenge/>

FUNDING INFORMATION

NIMH: INITIATION OF A MENTAL HEALTH FAMILY NAVIGATOR MODEL TO PROMOTE EARLY ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF NEEDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (R01)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-265.html>

NIMH: PILOT STUDIES TO TEST THE INITIATION OF A MENTAL HEALTH FAMILY NAVIGATOR TO PROMOTE EARLY ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF NEEDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (R34)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-266.html>

NIMH: PILOT EFFECTIVENESS TRIALS FOR POST-ACUTE INTERVENTIONS AND SERVICES TO OPTIMIZE LONGER-TERM OUTCOMES (R34)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-271.html>

NIMH: EFFECTIVENESS TRIALS FOR POST-ACUTE INTERVENTIONS AND SERVICES TO OPTIMIZE LONGER-TERM OUTCOMES (R01)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-272.html>

NIMH: INNOVATIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH NOT INVOLVING CLINICAL TRIALS (R01)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-264.html>

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT: BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF RECOVERY

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=293632>

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT: STATE PILOT GRANT PROGRAM FOR TREATMENT FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN

<https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201705110300>



National Institute
of Mental Health

The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to increase the public's access to science-based mental health information through partnerships with national and state organizations. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/index.shtml>. To subscribe to receive the Update every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/news-and-updates-from-the-program.shtml>.

The information provided in the **Update** is intended for use by NIMH Outreach Partners, National Partners and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education and partnership programs.