



UPDATE

September 1, 2017

- I. [Science and Service News Updates](#)
- II. [Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources](#)
- III. [Calendar of Events](#)
- IV. [Calls for Public Input](#)
- V. [Funding Information](#)

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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*

SCIENTISTS GIVE STAR TREATMENT TO LESSER-KNOWN CELLS CRUCIAL FOR BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

After decades of relative neglect, star-shaped brain cells called astrocytes are finally getting their due. To gather insight into a critical aspect of brain development, a team of scientists examined the maturation of astrocytes in 3-D structures grown in culture dishes to resemble human brain tissue. The study, which confirms that the lab-grown cells develop at the same rate as those found in human brains, was funded in part by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).

Press Release: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/scientists-give-star-treatment-to-lesser-known-cells-crucial-for-brain-development.shtml>

DEPRESSION'S "TRANSCRIPTIONAL SIGNATURES" DIFFER IN MEN VS. WOMEN; DIVERGENT ILLNESS PROCESSES MAY POINT TO SEX-SPECIFIC TREATMENTS

Brain gene expression associated with depression differed markedly between men and women in a study by NIMH-funded researchers. Such divergent "transcriptional signatures" may signal divergent underlying illness processes that may require sex-specific treatments, they suggest. Experiments in chronically-stressed male and female mice that developed depression-like behaviors largely confirmed the human findings.

Science Update: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/depressions-transcriptional-signatures-differ-in-men-vs-women.shtml>

NIH STUDY UNCOVERS SPECIALIZED MOUSE NEURONS THAT PLAY A UNIQUE ROLE IN PAIN; PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN CATEGORY OF NEURON RESPONDS TO PULLING OF A SINGLE HAIR

NIH researchers identified a class of sensory neurons (nerve cells that electrically send and receive messages between the body and brain) that can be activated by stimuli as precise as the pulling of a single hair. Understanding basic mechanisms underlying these different types of responses will be an important step toward the rational design of new approaches to pain therapy.

Press Release: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-study-uncovers-specialized-mouse-neurons-play-unique-role-pain>

PUBLIC MEMBERS APPOINTED TO NEW FEDERAL EFFORT TO ADDRESS SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the appointment of national experts to guide a new initiative to better serve Americans with serious mental illness. The Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee was established by the 21st Century Cures Act to improve federal coordination of efforts that address the pressing needs of adults with serious mental illness and children and youth with serious emotional disturbance.

Press Release: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/08/16/public-members-appointed-new-federal-effort-address-serious-mental-illness.html>

EVENT REGISTRATION OPENS FOR NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL FACTS WEEK®

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) announced that event registration begins for the next National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week®. To be held January 22-28, 2018, the observance is an annual, week-long series of educational events that brings together teens and scientific experts to SHATTER THE MYTHS® about substance use and addiction.

Press Release: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/event-registration-opens-national-drug-alcohol-facts-week>

SAMHSA REPORT SHOWS INCREASE IN OPIOID TREATMENT FACILITIES

The number of opioid treatment programs in the United States (U.S.) increased by 39 percent from 2003 to 2016, according to figures in a new report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Over the same period, the number of people accessing medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder increased sharply. In 2003, there were 1,067 opioid treatment programs reporting to SAMHSA's National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services. The number rose to 1,482 by the end of 2016. The number of clients receiving methadone in those facilities increased from 227,000 to more than 356,000 through 2015, the latest year with numbers of clients.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201708220100>

NEW REPORT FINDS THAT 12TH GRADE AGED HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS ARE MORE AT RISK FOR SUBSTANCE USE

A new SAMHSA report reveals that substance use was more likely among 12th grade aged dropouts than among 16 to 18 year olds who were still in school. Twelfth grade aged dropouts were more likely to have engaged in past month use of cigarettes (55.9 vs. 20.2 percent), alcohol (41.1 vs. 33.7 percent), binge alcohol (31.8 vs. 22.1 percent), illicit drugs (31.4 vs. 18.1 percent), marijuana (27.5 vs. 15.6 percent), and nonmedical use of prescription-type drugs (9.5 vs. 4.6 percent).

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201708150900>

REPORT REVEALS THAT ABOUT 1 IN 8 CHILDREN LIVED WITH AT LEAST ONE PARENT WHO HAD A PAST YEAR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

About 1 in 8 children aged 17 or younger lived in households with at least one parent who had a past year substance use disorder (SUD), according to a new SAMHSA report. SUDs are characterized by recurrent use of alcohol or other drugs (or both) that results in significant impairment. In addition, the report shows that about 1 in 10 children lived in households with at least one parent who had a past year alcohol use disorder and about 1 in 35 children lived in households with at least one parent who had an illicit drug use disorder in the past year.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201708241000>

GRANTS AWARDED TO ADDRESS OPIOID CRISIS IN RURAL REGIONS

To address the opioid crisis in rural U.S. regions, NIDA, in partnership with several other federal agencies, have issued nine grants to help communities develop comprehensive approaches to prevent and treat consequences of opioid injection, including SUD, overdose, HIV, hepatitis B and C virus infections, as well as sexually transmitted diseases. Once developed, these projects will work with state and local communities to develop best practice responses that can be implemented by public health systems in the nation's rural regions.

Press Release: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2017/08/grants-awarded-to-address-opioid-crisis-in-rural-regions>

THE DISASTER DISTRESS HELPLINE 1-800-985-5990 PROVIDES IMMEDIATE CRISIS COUNSELING TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HARVEY IN THE STATES OF LOUISIANA AND TEXAS

A disaster or tragedy is unexpected and often brings out strong emotions. The Disaster Distress Helpline 1-800-985-5990 can provide immediate counseling to anyone who is seeking help in dealing with Hurricane Harvey in the states of Louisiana and Texas. The Helpline is a 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week resource that responds to people who need crisis counseling after experiencing a natural or man-made disaster or tragedy. <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201708240230>

AD CAMPAIGN FOCUSES ON IMPORTANCE OF DADS

Reinforcing the critical role fathers play in the lives of their children is the focus of a new series of public service announcements (PSAs) released by HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The campaign, funded by the federal government and distributed through the Ad Council direct fathers to fatherhood.gov where they will find helpful tips, tools, information, and jokes to help them get more involved with and connected to their kids.

Press Release: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/media/press/2017/ad-campaign-focuses-on-importance-of-dads>

NEW FROM NIMH

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: SUMMER TRAVELS

In the first of two Director's Messages, NIMH Director Dr. Joshua Gordon talks about his summer travels to scientific meetings and the NIMH Outreach Partnership Program annual meeting.

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/messages/2017/summer-travels.shtml>

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: SUMMER READING

In the second of two Director's Messages, NIMH Director Dr. Joshua Gordon offers highlights of his summer reading in science and literature. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/messages/2017/summer-reading.shtml>

NEW FROM NIH

NIDA DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: NEW MEDICATION FORMULATIONS COULD QUICKLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR TREATING OPIOID ADDICTION

NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow discusses NIH activities to seek new medication formulations to treat opioid addiction that can facilitate access to treatment and improve compliance. NIH is currently forging partnerships between government-funded institutions and private industry aimed to accelerate the translation of scientific solutions to help end the opioid crisis. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2017/08/new-medication-formulations-could-quickly-make-difference-treating-opioid-addiction>

NIDA: OPIOID AGONIST TREATMENT REDUCES SOCIETAL COSTS OF CRIME

Many addiction specialists regard opioid-agonist therapy with methadone or buprenorphine as an effective tool for mitigating the opioid epidemic. Recent NIDA-supported research now adds savings in costs related to crime as a benefit. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2017/08/opioid-agonist-treatment-reduces-societal-costs-crime>

NIDA: POST DEPLOYMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENS SHOW PROMISE

Approximately three to six months after returning from deployment, military service members complete a post deployment assessment that includes screens for substance use and other mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). To determine if service members with positive screens receive timely care from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), NIDA scientists compared screening data from 2008–2011 to VHA enrollment and utilization histories. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/latest-science/post-deployment-behavioral-health-screens-show-promise>

NIA INFOGRAPHIC: TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS

Caregiving can be rewarding, but difficult. Use this National Institute on Aging (NIA) infographic to learn how caregivers can put themselves on the priority list. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/infographics/make-yourself-priority-too-tips-caregivers>

NIA: FATIGUE IN OLDER ADULT

Read this NIA article for tips on feeling less tired. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/fatigue-older-adults>

NIAAA VIDEO: EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TREATMENT FOR ALCOHOL USE DISORDER BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK: A PRIMER FOR NON-CLINICIANS

This archived symposium at the 2017 meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism covers screening and diagnosis of alcohol use disorder (AUD), brief interventions, and referral to treatment, as well as the many treatment options and potential pathways through treatment. <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-noteworthy/everything-you-ever-wanted-know-about-treatment-alcohol-use-disorder>

NIAAA: NEW APPROACH TO IMPROVE DIAGNOSIS OF AUD

AUD is a highly heterogeneous disorder, meaning affected individuals differ in their drinking patterns, motivations for drinking, and clinical signs and symptoms, as well as the neurobiological, genetic, and environmental factors that contribute to alcohol misuse. Efforts are underway at NIAAA to develop a framework, *Addictions Neuroclinical Assessment*, for assessing and classifying individual differences in AUD based on a person's neurobiological and behavioral characteristics.

<https://www.spectrum.niaaa.nih.gov/features/features-01.html>

NIDA DRUGS AND HEALTH BLOG: WHAT IS A "RECEPTOR"?

This NIDA blog post defines what a "receptor" is and explains why it is important to understanding substance abuse. The brain is a communications center containing billions of neurons that connect to each other in circuits—kind of like the circuits in a computer. Brain circuits coordinate everything one feels, thinks, and does. Every neuron in the brain has hard-working receptors on its surface that receive signals from nearby neurons. <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/say-what-receptor>

NIDA DRUGS AND HEALTH BLOG: NON-ADDICTIVE DRUGS: ARE THEY ALWAYS SAFE?

This NIDA blog post describes what teen should know about "non-addictive" drugs. This includes not just medications that require a doctor's prescription, but also "over the counter" (OTC) medications one can buy at the drug store without a prescription. All drugs (including OTC types) have side effects, which—depending on a person's body chemistry, how much of the drug they take, and other factors—can be mild, very unpleasant, or even deadly. <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/non-addictive-drugs-are-they-always-safe>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

VIDEO: EFFECTIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION

This short video provides a brief overview of Suicide Prevention Resource Center's *Effective Suicide Prevention Model*, which can help communities carry out suicide prevention efforts that are most likely to be effective. The video guide viewers through the three elements of the model--Strategic Planning, Keys to Success, and Comprehensive Approach. <http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/effective-prevention-video>

ARCHIVED WEBCASTS: THE POWER OF LANGUAGE AND PORTRAYALS

This series of webcasts focused on SUD and how language and portrayals affect perceptions. Developed in partnership with the Entertainment Industries Council, the webcasts are designed to help journalists and entertainment creators use the best possible language in portrayals of people with SUD.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/power-language-portrayals/webcasts>

ARCHIVED WEBCAST: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: IMPLICATIONS FOR SERVICES TO ADDRESS MENTAL AND/OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

This show discussed how communities are addressing prisoner re-entry, including the efforts of states and municipalities to establish programs to assist those in need of services for mental and/or substance use disorders. Panelists explored how communities can engage people in treatment and recovery programs when they re-enter society. <https://www.recoverymonth.gov/road-to-recovery/tv-series/august-2017-criminal-justice>

NEW PODCASTS ON INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

Learn about podcasts and webinars on important topics related to infant and early childhood mental health consultation. <https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/podcasts-webinars>

ENHANCING TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Learn why addressing trauma is important to recognize and consider when addressing mental and substance use disorders. <https://newsletter.samhsa.gov/2017/08/11/trauma-at-root-of-mental-substance-use-disorder/>

NEW FROM CDC

ANTIDEPRESSANT USE AMONG PERSONS AGED 12 AND OVER: U.S., 2011-2014

This brief from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides the most recent estimates of antidepressant use in the U.S. noninstitutionalized population, including prevalence of use by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, and length of use. This report also describes trends in the prevalence of antidepressant use from 1999-2002 to 2011-2014. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db283.htm>

DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS AMONG ADOLESCENTS AGED 15-19 IN THE U.S.: 1999-2015

This report focuses specifically on drug overdose deaths for older adolescents aged 15-19. In 2015, 772 drug overdose deaths occurred in this age group. Rates for 1999 to 2015 are presented and trends compared for both females and males. Percent distributions of drug overdose deaths for 2015 by intent (e.g., unintentional, suicide, homicide) are presented.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db282.htm>

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN HOMICIDES OF ADULT FEMALES AND THE ROLE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE — NATIONAL VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM, 2003–2014

Findings from this study of female homicides over the period of 2003-2014 in 18 states from the National Violent Death Reporting System show that young women, particularly racial/ethnic minority women, were disproportionately affected. Over half were intimate partner violence-related, with the majority of women killed by their current or former intimate partner.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6628a1.htm>

USING ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO SELECT, ADAPT, AND EVALUATE VIOLENCE PREVENTION APPROACHES

This guidance will help anyone implementing violence prevention programs to identify essential elements of approaches, better understand what evidence-based approaches are, and apply this knowledge to effectively select, deliver, adapt, and evaluate approaches.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/adaptationguidance.pdf>

EVALUATION TOOL HELPS DEVELOP A CUSTOMIZED EVALUATION PLAN AND LOGIC MODEL

EvaluACTION is tool on the CDC's *VetoViolence* website designed to help communities evaluate public health programs and strategies. The tool includes an interactive evaluation plan and logic model that can be completed to create a plan. In addition, it addresses common evaluation myths and identifies the roles different stakeholders can play in an evaluation effort.

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/evaluation/index.html>

NEW FROM AHRQ

2016 NATIONAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND DISPARITIES REPORT

This report prepared by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) assesses the performance of the country's health care system and identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses, as well as disparities, for access to health care and quality of health care among different racial and socioeconomic groups. Selected findings in each priority area are shown in this report, as are examples of large disparities, disparities worsening over time, and disparities showing improvement.

<https://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqdr/nhqdr16/index.html>

BLOG POST: RESEARCH ON STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS PHYSICIAN BURNOUT

This blog post looks at factors that can contribute to physician burnout, including a lack of control over work conditions, time pressures, chaotic workplaces, and difficulties associated with electronic health records.

<https://www.ahrq.gov/news/blog/ahrqviews/physician-burnout.html>

BLOG POST: PROVIDING A STATE-BY-STATE PICTURE OF THE NATION'S OPIOIDS CRISIS

This blog post describes a new interactive map which provides state-specific data that illustrate how the opioid epidemic is affecting hospital care, including trends in hospitalization rates, and how those rates are broken down by sex, age, geographic area, and income.

<https://www.ahrq.gov/news/blog/ahrqviews/state-picture-opioid-crisis.html>

NEW FROM ACF

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD WELFARE: A GUIDE FOR CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES

This guide explores how state and local child welfare agencies can support children and youth victimized by human trafficking as well as those at risk for future victimization. It details federal legislation and initiatives, strategies agencies can implement to address potential trafficking, and steps they can take to support children who have already been victimized. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/trafficking-agencies/>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD WELFARE: A GUIDE FOR CASEWORKERS

This resource looks at how child welfare caseworkers can identify and support trafficked children and youth and prevent the most vulnerable youth from becoming future victims. The bulletin provides background information on human trafficking, specific strategies caseworkers can use in identifying and supporting victims, and tools and resources to help them in this work. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/trafficking-caseworkers/>

HHS BLOG POST: OPIOID EPIDEMIC IMPACT ON WOMEN

This blog post from the HHS Office on Women's Health summarizes how women are impacted by the opioid crisis differently from men. For example, women are more likely to experience chronic pain and use prescription opioid pain medications for longer periods and in higher doses than men. In addition, some studies suggest that women who use opioids not only progress to dependence more quickly than men, but they also experience more cravings than men. It also notes the agency's recent efforts intended to raise awareness about the crisis and promote positive solutions that save lives.

<https://www.womenshealth.gov/blog/fighting-opioid-epidemic>

MENTAL HEALTH ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES: INVESTMENTS, ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED TO ADDRESS STUDENT NEEDS

This National Council on Disability report examines and assesses the status of college mental health services and policies in the U.S., and provides recommendations for Congress, federal agencies, and colleges to improve college mental health services and post-educational outcomes for students with mental health disabilities. This report documents the challenges, best practices, and emerging trends of supporting college students with mental health disabilities; provides relevant, practical recommendations for reform including federal laws and policies; and describes best practices for colleges to provide increased access to services, increased training for staff and faculty, anti-stigma activities and outreach, student engagement, and integrated services. <https://www.ncd.gov/publications/2017/mental-health-college-campuses-investments-accommodations-needed-address-student>

OJJDP TRIBAL YOUTH TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER WEBSITE

This Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center website serves as a clearinghouse of culturally appropriate resources, training, and technical assistance to help OJJDP tribal grantees and federally recognized tribes improve, enhance, and support their juvenile justice systems. The website provides information in areas such as juvenile healing to wellness courts; tribal youth-specific prevention, intervention, and treatment programming; and tribal-state collaborations to meet the needs of American Indian/Alaska Native children exposed to violence.

<https://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/17juvjust/170821.html>

NIMH NATIONWIDE RECRUITMENT: DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF SEVERE IRRITABILITY

(Outpatient: One day evaluation, and may include follow-up visits until age 25)

This study describes, over time, the moods and behavior of children and the associated brain changes. Participants must be in treatment with a physician, medically healthy, and not currently hospitalized, psychotic, or suicidal. Symptoms include chronic anger, sadness, or irritability, along with hyperarousal (such as insomnia, distractibility, hyperactivity) and extreme responses to frustration (such as frequent, severe temper tantrums). The study procedures include research and computer tasks, neuropsychological testing, and brain imaging. Recruiting ages 7-17. [02-M-0021]

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/labs-at-nimh/join-a-study/trials/childrens-studies/brain-function-children-mood-bpd.shtml>

NIH DIRECTOR'S BLOG: HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART IN CLINICAL RESEARCH? LOOKING BEYOND "FIRST IN HUMAN"

NIH Director Francis Collins describes the *First in Human* docuseries, which showed what it's like to take part in an experimental trial of a new treatment at the NIH Clinical Center. He reminds everyone that you don't have to travel all the way to Maryland to be part of NIH-funded clinical research. NIH supports clinical trials all across the country. He encourages everyone to consider how one might be able to participate in clinical research. Not only do clinical trials offer sick people who have no other options a chance to receive experimental treatments that may extend or save their lives, such work is essential for advancing scientific knowledge in ways that will benefit the health of future generations.

<https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2017/08/10/how-can-you-take-part-in-clinical-research-looking-beyond-first-in-human/>

THE NIH ALL OF US JOURNEY: COMMUNITY EVENTS

The *All of Us Journey* is a traveling educational experience of the NIH *All of Us* Research Program which is visiting communities across the country to bring the program to local communities. Find out about events near you to learn more about this research effort to gather data over time from more than one million people living in the U.S., with the ultimate goal of accelerating research and improving health.

<https://www.joinallofus.org/events>

UPDATED INFORMATION, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF A CLINICAL TRIAL

NIH is currently in the process of implementing several policies to improve its stewardship of clinical trials, an effort which was announced in September 2016. NIH's definition of a clinical trial was revised in 2014 in anticipation of these stewardship reforms to ensure the definition was clear and responsive. Over the next several months, NIH will be providing updated information, tools, and resources to the community as guidance about the definition of a clinical trial. The aim of this guidance is to help researchers understand their responsibilities under NIH's broader clinical trial stewardship efforts and to ensure consistency in identification and management of clinical trials across the agency. <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/clinical-trials.htm>

EVENTS

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2017

Every September, SAMHSA sponsors Recovery Month to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders and celebrate the people who recover. This year's theme is *Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities*. The Recovery Month toolkit provides tips and resources for planning events and distributing information in communities across the nation. PSAs are also available to generate media interest for recovery efforts and to inform the public about mental and/or substance use disorders and their impact on affected family members. <https://www.recoverymonth.gov/>

WEBINAR: SUPPORTING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY OPIOID AND OTHER SUDS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

This webinar hosted by SAMHSA and ACF will provide information on the current data on the opioid crisis and child welfare services, information on the changes made to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act through the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and Plan of Safe Care Provision, strategies for strengthening collaboration between systems working with pregnant women with opioid and other SUDs, and lessons learned and best practices from the Substance Exposed Infants In-Depth Technical Assistance program and Policy Academy for addressing prenatal substance exposure.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4134987638497339394>

VIDEOCAST LECTURE: A NATION UNDER PRESSURE: THE PUBLIC HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF STRESS IN AMERICA

SEPTEMBER 7, 2017, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM ET, BETHESDA, MD

In this year's Stephen E. Straus Distinguished Lecture in the Science of Complementary Therapies, the 19th U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy will share his perspectives on stress in America. In a conversation with NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, he will explore the individual- and population-level impact of stress and steps we can take to reduce its effect on our health and our lives.

<https://nccih.nih.gov/news/events/lectures/SES17>

DEMONSTRATION AND DISSEMINATION MEETING: NCATS TOOLKIT FOR PATIENT-FOCUSED THERAPY DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017, BETHESDA, MD (AND AVAILABLE VIA VIDEOCAST)

NCATS encourages the patient community to participate in this meeting which officially launches the NCATS *Toolkit for Patient-Focused Therapy Development* online resource portal. Patients, their caregivers, and patient-support organizational representatives are invited to attend to learn how the toolkit can streamline the search for the right tools to help in their therapeutic development activities. Participants also will have the opportunity to provide input into how the toolkit can be expanded and made more useful. Tools include how to establish a patient registry, how to drive patient-focused discovery and pre-clinical research and development, how to work with NIH and the Food and Drug Administration, and how to conduct post-market surveillance. https://events-support.com/events/NCATS_Toolkit_Meeting/page/1540

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: WELLNESS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 10-16, 2017

SAMHSA's National Wellness Week is held during the third week of September and shares the message that practicing wellness provides an essential foundation for good health. The theme of the 2017 is *Connecting All Aspects of Behavioral Health*. Materials and graphics are available to support local Wellness Week activities. <https://www.samhsa.gov/wellness-initiative/national-wellness-week-resources>

WEBINAR: KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR BUILDING A QUALITY INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION MODEL, PART 1

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

This SAMHSA Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) is providing two webinars to introduce the “Models Section” of the IECMHC Toolbox. In the first webinar, participants will learn how to begin to design an IECMHC approach, including how to develop a core team, complete a needs assessment, create a vision, identify and/or locate funding for their program, determine the audience, and develop a “Theory of Change.” <http://mailchi.mp/edc/upcoming-webinars-key-considerations-for-building-a-quality-iecmhc-model-part-1-and-2-interested>

WEBINAR: EXPLORING PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH FAITH-BASED COMMUNITIES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Faith-based communities (FBCs) are recognized as playing an important role in public health suicide prevention efforts. In this U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) webinar, presenters describe the roles prescribed to FBCs as well as present baseline data related to how some FBCs are currently responding to the needs of their Veteran members/attendees. Implications for research and practice will be discussed. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2684957202190908162>

WEBINAR: SAFE CARE TRANSITIONS IN A ZERO SUICIDE FRAMEWORK

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center is hosting a webinar on safe care transitions in the Zero Suicide framework. Presenters will identify key care transition practices and partnerships for patients discharged from inpatient to outpatient care, describe how one organization includes voices of individuals with lived experience in care transition practices, and demonstrate how health and behavioral health organizations can establish partnerships with crisis service organizations to augment care transition practices.

https://events-na1.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1002235226/en/events/event/private/2258170326/2266588677/event_landing.html?sco-id=2350963458

WEBINAR: NIMH RESEARCH DOMAIN CRITERIA (RDOC) INITIATIVE, NIMH GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH WEBINAR SERIES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017, 9:00-10:30 AM ET

This NIMH webinar will serve as an introductory review and update about the NIMH Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) initiative and will provide an opportunity to discuss the use of RDoC principles in global mental health research. The objectives of the webinar are to provide participants with an overview of the scientific rationale for the RDoC initiative, an introduction to the RDoC matrix, and some considerations for integrating RDoC into global mental health research.

<http://nimhglobalwebinars.thebizzellgroup.com/sept13>

WEBINAR: CREATING INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION WORK ENVIRONMENTS FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

In coordination with the Higher Education Recruitment Consortium, the Department of Labor's Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion is hosting a webinar about effective approaches for ensuring that employees with mental health conditions can succeed on the job. Webinar participants will also learn about the importance of adopting an inclusive workplace culture that supports employee mental health and wellbeing. <http://www.askearn.org/event/creating-inclusive-higher-education-work-environments-people-mental-health-disabilities/>

WEBINAR: TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS OF THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Studies evaluating traumatic brain injury (TBI) and the risk for attempted suicide have yielded mixed results, and few have assessed the impact of psychiatric comorbidity on this association. This seminar will present the results from a recent study which evaluated the association between TBI and attempted suicide and examined whether psychiatric conditions mediate this association in a large sample of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn Veterans.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/141865972000431361>

VIRTUAL EVENT: ANNUAL SUMMIT: ADVANCES IN THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE AND BEST PRACTICE

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2017

The 2017 summit of the Defense Centers of Excellence of Psychological Health and TBI will connect health care professionals, researchers, and academicians involved in all aspects of psychological health and traumatic brain injury care for the military community. This year's event will offer real-time access to up to 28 hours of state-of-the-science programming. Join others from around the globe to participate in panel discussions and question and answer sessions, network with professionals and peers, visit the virtual exhibit hall for resources, and earn up to 14 Continuing Education Credits during the virtual event.

<http://dcoe.mil/training/events>

WEBINAR: THE 2017 REVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR PTSD: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2:00 PM ET

The VA' National Center for PTSD Consultation Program Monthly Lecture Series will offer three lectures about the new *Clinical Practice Guidelines for PTSD*. This first webinar will address recommendations for psychotherapy. <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/consult/lecture-series.asp>

WEBINAR: MEANINGFUL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD TO HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

In this SAMHSA National Resource Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention webinar, participants will learn why and how Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) and Safe Schools/Healthy Students grantees are advancing meaningful family engagement at the state and local levels. Strategies will focus on state and local policy changes made to support and sustain meaningful family engagement in early childhood programs and public schools. Presenters will also share about best practices and methods that they are implementing from early childhood to high school to strengthen family engagement in their child's learning, development and well-being. <http://www.healthysafekids.org/event/meaningful-family-engagement-pre-k-high-school>

WEBINAR: PROJECT VENTURE – POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Project Venture is an evidence-based intervention, combining traditional native wisdom with positive youth development, social emotional learning, outdoor adventure, and service learning that has been implemented in 25 states. This National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities webinar will highlight the project's core elements and guiding principles of this unique, internationally recognized native youth program and assist participants with exploring their readiness to implement it.

<http://tinyurl.com/ProjectVentureRegistration>

WEBINAR: SUICIDE PREVENTION IN WOMEN VETERANS: RISK AND RESILIENCY FACTORS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This VA webinar will provide an overview of available data and findings that support the need to better understand female Veteran suicide risk and describe what is currently known regarding risk and resilience among women Veterans. A more detailed discussion will focus on the association between sexual trauma and suicide and suicidal behavior among women Veterans.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/539006273419273475>

WEBINAR: TRUSTWORTHINESS AND TRANSPARENCY: BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

In this SAMHSA webinar, the Baltimore Police Department Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator will discuss an innovative approach to crisis prevention and intervention in the City of Baltimore. The team provides support to homeless individuals, including helping them to secure needed medical, behavioral, and other services to prevent crisis and enhance adherence. They will explain their unique approaches to engaging people who are homeless, understanding the very complicated homeless community communication network, and maintaining trust within these networks; and their work with the Recovery Network and Baltimore Crisis Response when acute crisis services or immediate access to recovery support is necessary. <https://www.nasmhpd.org/content/crisis-services-vln>

WEBINAR: REWARD SENSITIVITY AND DEPRESSION: FROM MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENTATION, THE DELAWARE PROJECT – ABCT – RDOC WEBINAR SERIES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017, 11:30 AM-12:45 PM ET

NIMH's RDoC Unit, the Delaware Project, and the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies will conduct the second webinar in a series examining the science-to-service pipeline in psychology and psychiatry. This webinar will focus on function and dysfunction in reward systems including anhedonia and other related constructs. Presenters will discuss anhedonia from the standpoint of the basic pathological mechanisms, therapeutic techniques that address these mechanisms, and dissemination and implementation challenges that could make it difficult for practitioners to adopt and implement evidence-based techniques with fidelity. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/rdoc-webinar-reward-sensitivity-and-depression-from-mechanism-to-implementation.shtml>

HHS LIVE-STREAM NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH EVENT: RECOVERY, PREVENTION, AND HOPE: NATIONAL EXPERTS EQUIP FAITH AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ON OPIOIDS AND ADDICTIONS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

HHS will convene national speakers to talk directly to faith and community leaders about the opioid epidemic and other addictions to raise awareness, encourage compassion, reinforce the role of community and families in long-term recovery and prevention, and make a call to action. Please save the date and consider hosting a post-broadcast discussion in your community with local experts and discuss approaches for fostering healing and aligning community-wide efforts to renew wholeness in your community. To help with those discussions, the HHS Partnership Center will introduce a new "Practical Toolkit" for congregations and communities to act as a discussion guide. If you need help hosting an event, contact partnerships@hhs.gov.

WEBINAR: PRECISION MEDICINE AND HEALTH DISPARITIES: THE PROMISE AND PERILS OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

OCTOBER 11, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

The Precision Medicine and Population Health Interest Group in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute, the NIH Genomics and Health Disparities Interest Group, and the CDC Office of Public Health Genomics are hosting this webinar that explores the intersection of genomics, precision medicine, and health disparities. Webinar speakers will explore the appropriate role and impact of genomics and precision medicine in understanding and addressing health disparities in the U.S. and around the world.

<https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/research-emphasis/precision-medicine.html> (Select "Events")

COMMENTS SOUGHT ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PARITY IMPLEMENTATION AND THE 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT PART 38

The Departments of HHS, Labor, and the Treasury are seeking comments on how to improve disclosure under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) and other laws, as required by the 21st Century Cures Act. As part of the solicitation of comments, the Departments are releasing and seeking comments on a draft model form that participants, enrollees, or their authorized representatives could use to request information from their health plan about non-quantitative treatment limitations that affect their mental health or SUD benefits. In addition, the Departments request comments on whether any additional clarification is needed regarding how the requirements of MHPAEA apply to treatment for eating disorders. Comments are accepted through September 13, 2017.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/1a3047d>

HHS ESTABLISHES NEW TASK FORCE ON PAIN MANAGEMENT

HHS recently announced the creation of a new task force to develop best practices for prescribing pain medication and for managing chronic and acute pain. HHS, along with VA and the Department of Defense, will provide oversight of the Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force. HHS is seeking member nominations from the public that include representatives of the mental health treatment and addiction treatment communities, individuals in recovery from substance use disorder, and groups with expertise on overdose reversal. Nominations must be received no later than close of business September 27, 2017. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/1b394a9>

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030

HHS is soliciting written comments on the proposed framework for *Healthy People 2030*, developed by the Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030. The framework refers to the Healthy People 2030 vision, mission, foundational principles, plan of action, and overarching goals that will guide the selection and prioritization of objectives for Healthy People 2030. Members of the public—including individuals, stakeholders, and organizations—are invited to provide comments on the Healthy People 2030 framework. This round of public comment will be open until September 29, 2017 at 5:00 PM ET. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/About-Healthy-People/Development-Healthy-People-2030/Public-Comment>

FUNDING INFORMATION

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS): ZERO SUICIDE INITIATIVE FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

<https://www.ihs.gov/suicideprevention/zerosuicide/fundingannouncement/>

IHS: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=296495>

IHS: PREVENTING ALCOHOL-RELATED DEATHS THROUGH SOCIAL DETOXIFICATION

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=296500>

CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON CHRONIC DISEASE IN THE CARIBBEAN

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-17-470.html>

SYMPTOM CLUSTER CHARACTERIZATION IN CHRONIC CONDITIONS

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-17-461.html> (R21)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-17-462.html> (R01)

BRAIN INITIATIVE: RESEARCH ON THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ADVANCEMENTS IN NEUROTECHNOLOGY AND BRAIN SCIENCE

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-18-500.html>



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.