

WEEKLY Update

March 26, 2021

COVID-19 Resources: CMHA has developed a curated set of COVID-19-related resources and announcements from a range of reputable state and national sources. That curated set of resources, which will be regularly updated, **is available by [CLICKING HERE](#)**.

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CMH Association and Member Activities

New! Pathways CMH Announces New CEO

The Pathways [Board of Directors](#) unanimously approved Michael St. John as the Chief Executive Officer at the February 10th board meeting. Mr. St. John earned his Bachelor of Social Work from Central Michigan University and his Master of Social Work from Michigan State University. Mr. St. John has been with Pathways since 2012 both as a clinician and a Clinical Program Supervisor.

[Pathways](#) is a four county Community Mental Health Authority serving Alger, Delta, Luce and Marquette Counties. Pathways provides a full array of services to those with Severe Mental Illness or those with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.

CMHA wishes Michael the best in his new role at Pathways.

Traveling Art Show

Traveling Art Show VI features pieces from Consumer Art Contests across Michigan. Anyone interested in any of the pieces shown may contact Monique at mfrancis@cmham.org. Those NOT sold by October 1, 2021, will be auctioned off at the 2021 Fall Conference in Traverse City, Michigan. Art may be available for viewing locally or on the [CMHA website](#). Check with your local CMH for more information or email Monique at mfrancis@cmham.org.

State & National Developments and Resources

New! ACMH announces #WalkinMyShoes initiative

In honor of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, the Association for Children's Mental Health (ACMH) is offering a three-part virtual event to support youth/young adults and their families in sharing their voices and stories to spread hope, connection, and mental health awareness.

Strategic Storytelling and Social Media Workshop

April 10, 2021 from 12 - 3 PM on Zoom

ACMH will hold a workshop to teach youth/young adults and families how to strategically share their mental health journey and use social media as a tool to reach others. Participants will learn how they can get involved in our #WalkInMyShoes hashtag event across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok.

[Click here to register!](#)

#WalkInMyShoes Hashtag Event

April 9 through May 7, 2021

ACMH will make space for youth/young adults and their families to create videos that capture what it's like to walk in their shoes or a share a mental health awareness message that's meaningful to them. Everyone is welcome to participate! Please share your videos on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, use the hashtag #WalkInMyShoes and tag ACMH when you post.

You can also send your submission to us at sreynolds@acmh-mi.org if you would like us to post your creative expression! Be sure to let us know if you would like us to share your name alongside your creation or if you prefer to remain anonymous.

[Click here for examples and tutorials for posting your video on social media!](#)

#WalkInMyShoes Screening

May 7, 2021 at noon on Zoom

ACMH will host a special event showcasing the submissions that we received to shine light on the real experiences of youth/young adults and their families have in their mental health journey.

[Click here to register!](#)

[Click here](#) for more information on ACMH website.

New! NACo provides detailed analysis of ARP

As part of the \$362 billion in federal fiscal recovery aid for state and local governments, \$65.1 billion is provided in direct aid to counties and an additional \$1.5 billion for public land counties. The American Rescue Plan Act also allocates hundreds of billions of dollars for public health and vaccines, assistance for vulnerable populations, education and housing stabilization, economic recovery assistance and direct assistance for families and individuals.

The analysis conducted by the National Association of Counties (NACo) – a longtime partner of CMHA, through NACBHDD - highlights key provisions for county governments including mental health systems. That analysis can be [found here](#).

Video recording available from recent MDHHS AFC Q&A session on COVID response

As most Weekly Update readers know, MDHHS holds weekly information and Q&A sessions for the

state's Adult Foster Care (AFC) homes and Homes for the Aged (HFA) around responses to the COVID pandemic. MDHHS has received approval to share the recorded version of some (and potentially all from here on out) of these sessions. The recording from the most recent Q&A session can be found at: [AFC/HFA Zoom Meeting 3-17-21](#) with the use of the pass code: 3\$M=Gup4

State Legislative Update

New! View March's Legislative Video on CMHA's Website

The Capitol Briefing is a monthly resource available to CMHA members providing a high-level overview of the key items impacting the public mental health system that (or each) month at the State Capitol.

Our March Briefing features CMHA Associate Director, Alan Bolter, provides an update regarding the confirmation of Elizabeth Hertel as Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the passage of a FY21 COVID Supplemental budget.

To view the latest video, [CLICK HERE!](#)

New! Elizabeth Hertel Appointment Stands Despite Floor Division

On Tuesday, the final day for the Senate to disapprove Elizabeth Hertel as Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the full Senate allowed the appointment of Director Hertel to stand, not without some fireworks however. Senate Republicans gave impassioned floor speeches where they strongly disagreed with the appointment of Director Hertel. Not because they questioned her credentials or experience, most members emphasized their opposition was not personal. However, the main criticisms were that Director Hertel did not disagree with Governor Gretchen Whitmer's restrictions implemented during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and that under her leadership, legislative engagement in the decision-making process (or lack thereof) will not change. Following speeches from Republicans, Senator Curtis Hertel (D-East Lansing) explained he will abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest, as he is married to Director Hertel.

The final vote on the approval of Director Hertel, was an 18 to 16 vote. The Senate did fall short on the necessary votes needed to approve an appointment, which is 19. The Michigan Constitution only provides the Senate the power to reject appointments, so the vote to approve an appointment holds no significance outside of voicing approval and disapproval. Only four Senate Republicans voted in favor of approving Director Hertel, which were Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake), Senators Jim Stamas (R-Midland), Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) and Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth). All Senate Democrats voted in favor of approving Director Hertel.

Executive Orders Signed

Currently, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has signed over 170 Executive Orders in response to COVID-19.

Below is the most recent list of Executive Orders with the topic and a hyper link accessing the Executive Order below.

For a complete list of Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders click on the link below:

https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705---,00.html

- **Executive Order 2020-181** – Amendment to the Safe Start order, please click [here](#) to access Executive Order 181.

Federal Update

Congress Passed 2021 COVID Relief Legislation

Congress just passed the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#), a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill aimed at boosting the availability of vaccinations, providing funding for small businesses and schools and giving relief to families through new stimulus checks, extended unemployment benefits and an expanded child tax credit, among other provisions.

The legislation, which President Biden will sign this week, also includes billions in new relief to address rising demand for mental health and addiction services, workforce shortages and pandemic-related layoffs and furloughs.

In other words, we heard you loud and clear that more relief was needed. And we made sure Congress heard you, too.

Here are some highlights from this historic legislation:

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Block Grants:** Provides \$3 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant and the Community Mental Health Services block grant (\$1.5 billion each).
- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs):** Provides \$420 million to SAMHSA to fund CCBHC Expansion Grants.
- **Provider Relief Funds:** \$8.5 billion in new money to the Provider Relief Fund for providers in rural areas and those serving rural communities.
- **Other Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Funding:** Provides more than \$450 million in additional funding for SAMHSA and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) programming including funding for mental health and addiction services, workforce education and training, suicide prevention and public education campaigns.

Education Opportunities

Save the Dates: CMHA VIRTUAL Annual Summer Conference: June 14-17, 2021



**CMHA Virtual Annual Summer Conference
"Be the Change...Shaping our Future Together"**

June 14 - 17, 2021

Virtual Education Daily from 9:00am – 12:30pm EST

Call for Presentations will be sent out next week.

Watch www.cmham.org for more details!

Webinar: Building a Crisis Services System for all Michiganders

Webinar: Building a Crisis Services System for all Michiganders

Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Log on Time: 12:45pm

Training: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Location: Zoom

No Fee to Attend. No Certificate will be Awarded. Registration Required (registration information below).

Presenters: Krista Hausermann, LMSW, CAADC, Strategic Initiative Specialist, MDHHS Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Administration and Amy Kanouse, MPH, Behavioral Health Program Specialist, Project Manager, COVID-19 Emergency Grants for SMI/SUD Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Brief Description:

You are invited to a discussion with BHDDA staff Krista Hausermann and Amy Kanouse. Presenters will provide a brief overview of Michigan Psychiatric Care Improvement Crisis Services projects. Participants will engage in a facilitated discussion on designing a crisis service system for all Michiganders, with a focus on target population, metrics, crisis service continuum, mobile crisis, and crisis stabilization units.

Registration:

If you are interested in attending this training, you can register in Zoom at the link below.

Registration deadline: 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Questions, email awilson@cmham.org

REGISTER HERE:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZYqfu6uqz8tE9AulkBvaFg2_CFEUgzHDhMn

This webinar is co-sponsored by the SAMHSA funded Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) and facilitated by The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA). This offering reflects a collaboration between CMHA and MHTTC for the common vision of bettering the behavioral health care workforce in Michigan, regardless of any specific funding source.



Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Training

Personal Transformation Institute presents Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)

This virtual 6-day training provides clinicians with an experiential understanding of EMDR under Personal Transformation Institute's S.A.F.E approach: Somatic and Attachment Focused approach to training and therapy.

PTI Basic Trainings Include:

- Engaging Instruction from a PTI Trainer
- Supportive, safe practice
- 10 hours of Consultation
- A training manual written by Deb Kennard, PTI Founder
- Comprehensive post-training online support for 1year
- CEU Credits included

Location of Training: Virtual Training

Dates:

Cohort 1 - May 13-15 & June 10-12, 2021 – Max. 30 Participants

Cohort 2 - July 15-17 & August 12-14, 2021 – Max. 30 Participants

Cost:

\$574.50 per participant.

Who Can Participate: Masters-level clinicians who work in the public mental health systems or as a provider of the system that provides services to ADULTS with Serious Mental Illness.

How to Register:

Contact: Anne Wilson at awilson@cmham.org

Please contact Anne Wilson as soon as possible if you are interested in attending this training. Space is limited for this training. If approved, you will then be sent a website link and code to register and make payment.

Call for Presentations: 22nd Annual Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder Virtual Conference

The Annual Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder Virtual Conference brought in over 1,000 attendees last year. We would love for you to join us by sharing your expertise, research or showcasing a successful program!

22nd Annual Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder Virtual Conference

Health Equity: Transforming to Meet the Challenge

Conference Date: September 13-16, 2021

Conference Location: Virtual

Submission Deadline: *Wednesday, April 14, 2021*

What we are looking for: Presentations that fit into the general theme of the conference, specifically, presentations that address: health disparities, health equity, integration of behavioral health (prevention and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders) and physical health, co-occurring disorder, peers and recovery coaching and strength-based services as well as the topics in the attached guidelines document. Please feel free to submit proposals on other topics that you think will address this year's theme.

- Submit this electronic form by **Wednesday, April 14, 2021.**
- We allow for a maximum of 3 presenters during a workshop.
- Workshops are 90 minutes.
- **Presenter Compensation:** Presenters will receive complimentary registration for the full VIRTUAL conference. The conference budget will not provide honorariums for workshop presenters.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION FORM AND MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Questions? Contact Alexandra Risher at arisher@cmham.org.

VIRTUAL Ethics for Social Work, Substance Use Disorder, Recipient Rights and Psychologist Professionals Trainings – Registration Open

Community Mental Health Association of Michigan is pleased to offer VIRTUAL Ethics for Social Work, Substance Use Disorder, Recipient Rights and Psychologist Professionals Trainings presented by Tom

Moore, LMSW, LLP, CCS, Owner and Principal, Two Moons, LLC online through Zoom. There are 6 CE credits available for this training. This training fulfills the Michigan Social Work Licensing Board's requirement for licensure renewal for ethics. This training fulfills the MCBAP approved treatment ethics code education – specific.

Dates:

- April 5, 2021 ([Register Here](#)) (**SOLD OUT**)
- April 26, 2021 ([Register Here](#)) (**9 spots left**)

Agenda:

Log into Zoom: 8:15am
Education: 8:30am – 11:30am
Lunch Break: 11:30am – 12:00pm
Education: 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Training Fees: \$120 CMHA Members \$143 Non-Members

VIRTUAL Pain Management and Mindfulness Trainings – Registration Open

Community Mental Health Association of Michigan is pleased to offer Pain Management Trainings presented by Tom Moore, LMSW, LLP, CCS, Owner and Principal, Two Moons, LLC online through Zoom.

This course qualifies for 2 CEs and fulfills the Michigan Social Work Licensing Board's requirement for licensure renewal for pain management.

Dates:

- March 30, 2021 (**SOLD OUT**)
- April 6, 2021 ([Register Here](#)) (**34 spots left**)

Agenda:

Log into Zoom: 8:45 am
Education: 9:00am – 11:00am

Training Fees: \$43 CMHA Members \$51 Non-Members

Virtual Motivational Interviewing College Trainings – Registration Open

Registration is open for the FY21 VIRTUAL Motivational Interviewing College trainings which includes Basic, Advanced, Supervisory, and the revamped MI for Leadership & Organizations!

This event is sponsored by the adult mental health block grant and is intended for persons who serve adults only through the mental health and substance abuse provider network in the state of Michigan. It contains content appropriate for CEOs, COOs, clinical directors, supervisors, case managers, support coordinators, therapists, crisis workers, peer support specialists and any other practitioners at the beginning, advanced and supervisory levels of practice.

By registering for these trainings, the participant acknowledges they have read & agree to the updated virtual guidelines and terms & conditions in the brochure to ensure they can fully participate in the virtual education. Registration closes 5 business days prior to each training.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>Registration Link</u>
April 19-20, 2021	M.I. Basic	CLICK HERE
April 22-23, 2021	M.I. Advanced	CLICK HERE



April 29, 2021	M.I. Supervisory	CLICK HERE
July 26-27, 2021	M.I. Basic	CLICK HERE
July 29-30, 2021	M.I. Advanced	CLICK HERE
Aug. 2-3, 2021	M.I. for Leadership & Organizations	CLICK HERE
Aug. 5, 2021	M.I. Supervisory	CLICK HERE

Times:

Training(s) start promptly at 9:00am and adjourn at 4:15pm each day. Zoom Waiting Room opens at 8:30am each morning; attendees must be logged on by 8:45am. (All times in EST)

Training Fees:

\$125 per person for all 2-day trainings / \$70 per person for the 1-day Supervisory training. The fee includes electronic training materials and CEs for each day.

Virtual Co-Occurring Disorders Trainings from Jennifer Harrison – Registration Open

Registration is open for the following co-occurring disorders virtual trainings from presenter Jennifer Harrison.

These events are sponsored by the adult mental health block grant and are intended for persons who serve adults only through the mental health and substance abuse provider network in the state of Michigan. They contain content appropriate for CMHSP clinicians, therapists, peers, supervisors, and nurses.

By registering for these trainings, the participant acknowledges they have read & agree to the updated virtual guidelines and terms & conditions in the brochure to ensure they can fully participate in the virtual education. Registration closes 5 business days prior to each training.

****Note: Due to the limited number of spots in these trainings, each organization is limited to a maximum of 6 registrants.***

Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment 101

Adults with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders have far worse outcomes in employment, hospitalization, housing, and criminal justice involvement than their single disordered peers. This co-prevalence has been studied since the 1980s, yet despite this, most service systems were organized to treat individuals with a single disorder, excluding those with co-occurring disorders, or providing sequential or parallel treatments that were incompatible or in conflict with each other. Integrated and team-based services offer superior outcomes to parallel or sequential treatments, and call providers to develop interventions to assist individuals in moving toward recovery for both illnesses simultaneously. Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment (IDDT) was designed following systematic study of high intensity COD treatment needs and alterations of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model. Within this training attendees will understand the components of IDDT, including fidelity and outcome measurement. Specific attention will be paid to the development of stage-matched assessment, treatment planning, and treatment interventions for adults with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders using the IDDT model.

Dates: April 15, 2021 | **SOLD OUT**

July 15, 2021 | [CLICK HERE to Register](#)

Times: Training: 8:30am – 4:30pm EST | Zoom log in by 8:15pm

\$30 Registration fee includes electronic training materials and CEs

Our Brave New World: Cannabis, Opioids, and Pain in Behavioral Health Treatment

Treatment planning for adults with complex mental health, substance use, and physical health needs involved understanding of stages of change and system navigation. Collaborating with these individuals on their wellness and recovery planning requires motivational approaches and often interventions that are more effective for early stage readiness. The prevalence of cannabis and opioid use makes these cases even more demanding to navigate. Add to this, the opioid crisis in the U.S. Since 1999, sales of opioids in the U.S. have quadrupled. From 1999-2015, more than 180,000 people died from overdoses related to prescription opioids. It is now the #1 cause of accidental death for people under 50. Michigan is one of 31 states with laws allowing medicinal or recreational marijuana use. Opioids and cannabis have become our new legal drugs.

This training will focus attention on providing stage-matched assessment and treatment surrounding use of legal drugs including cannabis and opioids. Focus on treatment planning and provision for individuals who have opioid or cannabis use, as well as management of co-occurring mental health or pain disorders.

Dates: April 27, 2021 | **SOLD OUT**

August 11, 2021 | [CLICK HERE to register](#)

Times: Training: 8:30am – 4:30pm EST | Zoom log in by 8:15pm

\$30 Registration fee includes electronic training materials and CEs

Recovery-Based Co-Occurring Treatment Planning and Delivery

Until the 21st century, most service systems were organized to treat individuals with a single disorder, excluding those with co-occurring disorders, or providing sequential or parallel treatments that were incompatible or in conflict with each other. Integrated services offer superior outcomes to parallel or sequential treatments, and call providers to develop interventions to assist individuals in moving toward recovery for both illnesses simultaneously. Recovery-oriented care requires changes at a systems and individual practitioner level in areas including assessment, treatment planning, and delivery. Integrated co-occurring providers will learn about the research on integrated care including Evidence-Based Practices (EBP), and ways to develop stage-matched assessment, treatment planning, and treatment interventions for adults with co-occurring mental health and substance use.

Dates: May 5, 2021 | [CLICK HERE to register](#)

August 24, 2021 | [CLICK HERE to register](#)

Times: Training: 8:30am – 4:30pm EST | Zoom log in by 8:15pm

\$30 Registration fee includes electronic training materials and CEs

Stage Matched Treatment for Co-Occurring Needs

Adults with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders have far worse outcomes in employment, hospitalization, housing, and criminal justice involvement than their single disordered peers. In addition, treatment engagement is often lower for individuals with COD, particularly when those individuals are in early stage of readiness for one of more presenting

problems. This training will focus on the assessment of stage of readiness using validated tools, and the interventions that are best fit for each stage of readiness. In addition, ways to address organizational readiness for COD treatment will be discussed.

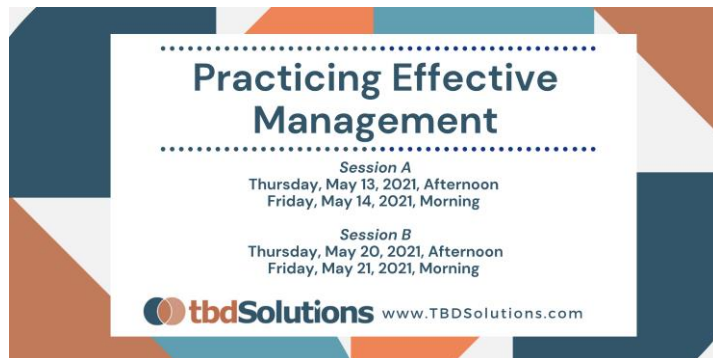
Dates: May 11, 2021 | [CLICK HERE to register](#)

August 31, 2021 | [CLICK HERE to register](#)

Times: Training: 8:30am – 4:30pm EST | Zoom log in by 8:15pm

\$30 Registration fee includes electronic training materials and CEs

Practicing Effective Management Virtual Training



TBD Solutions is hosting its next Practicing Effective Management Training online on May 13, 14, 20, and 21. This virtual training provides practical guidance for enhancing relationships and improving results through structured supervision, effective feedback, delegation, interviewing, time management, and employee development. This dynamic, interactive training is relevant for all levels of management.

Since 2016, TBD Solutions has proudly trained more than 300 supervisors, managers, and directors from CMHs, PIHPs, and nonprofit organizations, while maintaining a 98% satisfaction rate.

To register please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/practicing-effective-management-tickets-140075773409>

For questions or additional information, contact Molly at MollyR@TBDSolutions.com

New! MPHI announces virtual health equity and social justice workshop

The Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) is hosting a virtual workshop this June focused on health equity and social justice.

Please feel free to share the [Facebook event](#) for the workshop with your network. Attached is a PDF and PNG version of a flyer promoting the event that can be repurposed for sharing on social media or other channels. Find more details about the workshop below.

On June 7-9, and 21, 2021 from 1-5 p.m. EST, MPHI will host Equity in Action: Advancing Justice Together (ADJUST), a Health Equity and Social Justice workshop. These dialogue-based sessions are led by experienced co-facilitators and seek to illuminate how racism, classism, and other types of oppression are root causes of health inequity.

This virtual workshop consists of three consecutive half-day sessions, followed by a fourth day two weeks later. The sessions provide a 16-hour personalized experience, spread over four days, with a small

cohort, breakout sessions, and interactive exercises. The registration fee is \$995 per person. Registration begins April 5, 2021. For additional information visit: <https://www.mphi.org/adjust/>

Behavioral Telehealth Resource Center

Telehealth Resource Center

Michigan's Behavioral Telehealth Resource Center serves to provide current information on telehealth policies, training and engagement opportunities. Please visit the [webpage](#), to see available resources. If you have information to be included on the webpage, please contact astagg@cmham.org.

Early Diversion Virtual Learning Community

SAMHSA's GAINS Center has announced its Early Diversion Virtual Learning Community, a five-part series on enhancing systems responses for people with mental and substance use disorders who are justice-involved or at risk for justice involvement. Open-format discussion groups will allow webinar participants to take a deeper dive into the material and pose questions to the speakers.

PART 2: ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL NEED FOR HOUSING AND STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO IMPROVE HOUSING ACCESS

April 22, 2021, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET; discussion group 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

Housing is a critical need for individuals experiencing homelessness who are in crisis and at risk for justice involvement. Services alone cannot address the overwhelming disruption homelessness contributes to well-being and health. Barriers to accessing housing include criminalization of homelessness, lack of partnership development, funding issues, and navigating myths and realities related to securing housing. Presenters will address comprehensive strategies to improve housing access, which is key to early diversion.

PRESENTERS

Julia Orlando, Ed.M., M.A., CRC, DRCC, Director, Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center, New Jersey

Letitia N. Robinson, M.S.W., M.P.A., Assistant State Director, Office of Supportive Housing, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

[Click here](#) to register for the Part 2 webinar and the discussion group taking place immediately afterward.

PARTS 4-5: TO BE ANNOUNCED

New! New Coverage to Care (C2C) Telehealth Resources Available

In response to the increased use and expanded coverage of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, [From Coverage to Care](#) (C2C) released two new resources to support providers and patients in making the most of virtual care:

- [Telehealth for Providers: What You Need to Know](#) – Providers can learn how and when to use telehealth. Topics include how to set up telehealth services, how to conduct a successful visit, and how to keep up to date on telehealth payment (particularly for Medicare and Medicaid).
- [Telehealth: What to Know for Your Family](#) – Patients can find out the types of care they can receive through telehealth, how to prepare for an appointment, what to expect during a visit, and more. This resource is also available in [Spanish](#).

Providers and partners can download graphics to post on their social media channels and help spread the word about these new resources. All of these resources can be downloaded at go.cms.gov/c2ctelehealth

New! Disparities in Telehealth Use Among California Patients with Limited English Proficiency

This [research article](#) suggests that policy makers and clinicians must focus on limited English proficiency as an important dimension to promote telehealth equity and decrease the digital divides.

FCC Launches Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched an Emergency Broadband Benefit Program to help households struggling to pay for internet service during the pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, and virtual classrooms. The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price.

Review! Proposed Policy Draft: Asynchronous Telemedicine Services

Please review the [Proposed Policy Draft for Asynchronous Telemedicine Services](#). The purpose of the bulletin is to clarify current Medicaid program coverage of asynchronous telemedicine services, including store and forward technologies, interprofessional telephone/internet/electronic health record consultations and remote patient monitoring services. Please submit comments and state reasons why you support or oppose the change. Comments are due April 15, 2021 to Laura Kilfoyle, kifoyel@michigan.gov.

Medicare Law Requires in Person Visit for Telehealth Coverage

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, section 123 includes language that requires behavioral health providers to have seen their client in person during the prior six months before a telehealth visit will be covered by Medicare. Further, providers must have in-person visits on a “regular interval” to be determined by the Health and Human Services Department for telehealth visits to be covered by

Medicare. This change, signed into law in the last days of December 2020, has raised confusion in the telemental health provider community. As discussed in the blog by Nathaniel Lacktman, a partner at Foley & Lardner who chairs the Telemedicine and Digital Health Industry team “the in-person exam requirement is at odds with a direction that telehealth policy has moved over the last decade. It disrupts Medicare’s historical approach which is to defer to state laws on professional practice requirements and clinical standards of care.”

Read the full article [HERE](#).

Did you know? [MSA 20-09](#) is a permanent telemedicine policy

This policy was enacted at the start of COVID-19. This policy adds **home** and “other established site considered appropriate by the provider” **as allowable originating sites and will not expire at the end of the Public Health Emergency**. This bulletin addresses the [CMHA Recommendations](#) #6 for Michigan’s emerging Medicaid telemedicine policies.

Audio-only telemedicine behavioral health Medicaid codes are not under current discussion for immediate change. The Federal government has extended the Public Health Emergency (PHE) order through 2021. Additionally, all states will be granted 60 days post PHE to extend services covered under the PHE order. For reference, please see the COVID-19 Encounter Database which note the opened codes during the COVID emergency: [COVID-19 Encounter Code Chart](#) and the BHDDA Database of Telemedicine allowable services post-COVID: [BHDDA Telemedicine Database \(3/2/2021\)](#).

Telehealth Legislation Re-Introduced

This week, Sens. Portman (R-OH) and Whitehouse (D-RI) and Reps. McKinley (R-WV), Budd (R-NC), Cicilline (D-RI), and Trone (D-MD) re-introduced the [Telehealth Response for E-prescribing Addiction Therapy Services \(TREATS\) Act](#). The legislation, first introduced last Congress, seeks to support the expansion of telehealth services for substance use care. The TREATS Act would allow for the prescription of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) without a prior in-person visit, and for Medicare to be billed for audio-only telehealth services. The National Council supports these efforts to expand access to needed substance use services.

Psychotherapy Notes Excluded from Federal "Open Notes Rule?"

A new rule that prohibits “information blocking” for electronic health records takes effect April 5, 2021. Psychotherapists who use electronic health records (EHR) will have to comply with this federal rule requiring that health care providers give patients better access to their electronic health information (EHI). Exceptions to the Open Notes Rule include:

- Psychotherapists may exclude notes of any type that may cause harm to the patient or others should the patient have access. However, the rule specifically states that psychological distress does not meet the definition of harm (Torous, 2020).
- Psychotherapists who keep paper records will not be impacted.
- Any notes designated as “psychotherapy notes” are excluded from the Open Notes Rule as long as they are stored separately. However, if the psychotherapy notes reference content that is considered medical record notes, they cannot be blocked.

- Psychotherapists who used an uncertified EHR such as PsyBooks are not required to follow the Open Notes Rule.

The American Psychological Association further describes the application of the Open Notes Rule to psychologists here: [New federal rule affects psychologists with electronic health records](#).

Read the full article [HERE](#).

Education & Training Resources from Great Lakes MHTTC



Great Lakes (HHS Region 5)

MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

CMHA's partnership with SAMHSA funded Great Lakes MHTTC

CMHA is the Michigan partner of the Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC). Through this partnership, funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), MHTTC and CMHA provide Michiganders with access to a wide range of evidence-based and promising mental health practices. More information on the work of the Great Lakes MHTTC can be [found here](#).

Catalog of MHTTC resources

The Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) makes available a large catalog of Great Lakes MHTTC products at its [Products and Resources](#) webpage.

This section of the MHTTC website hosts all Great Lakes MHTTC products along with products developed with their partner TTCs within the region and across the country.

News from Our Preferred Corporate Partners

New! Abilita: You WILL Profit from a Technology Audit

There isn't any doubt that 2020 will be deemed "the year of the pandemic". It doesn't matter what line

of business you are engaged in, or what your position in the organization is (was), your technology and telecom picture has changed. And, it may never be quite the same again.

Organizations' technology teams have been overwhelmed with the urgency of the crisis and have had to deploy new collaboration and connectivity solutions without a lot of thought for the long term. 2021 will be the year of preparing for the new reality in telecom and technology which may include:

- more Work From Home challenges
- more video, less telephony
- more flexibility in services and connectivity

Let's call 2021 the "**Year of the Technology Audit**". Look at where you were, where you are, and where and how to move ahead.

For some ideas on how to do this and what you might want to consider, [read this article titled "2021 - The Year of the Audit"](#). To get started now, contact us for a zero-risk review of your technology systems and services.

myStrength: new digital behavioral health resources empower consumers to move beyond trauma

Trauma is incredibly common. Approximately 90% of U.S. adults have experienced at least one traumatic event in their lives, which can adversely affect emotional well-being and interfere with relationships, work and overall quality of life. Expanding on our diverse whole-person resources, Livongo for Behavioral Health by myStrength is pleased to announce new, digital tools to help individuals move beyond trauma. [Click here to request a demo.](#)

CMH Association's Officers & Staff Contact Info

CMHA Officers Contact Information:

The Officers of the CMH Association of Michigan recently proposed, in their commitment to fostering dialogue among the members of the Association with the Association's leaders, that their contact information be shared with the Association membership. While this dialogue will not take the place of the regular dialogue and decision making that occurs during the meetings of the Association's Board of Directors, Steering Committee, Provider Alliance, Association Committees, Directors Forum, PIHP CEOs meeting, nor any of the great number of Association-sponsored and supported dialogue venues, the Officers want to ensure that the members of the Association can reach them to discuss issues of interest to the Association's members. The contact information for the officers is provided below:

President: Joe Stone; Stonejoe09@gmail.com; (989) 390-2284

First Vice President: Carl Rice Jr; cricejr@outlook.com; (517) 745-2124

Second Vice President: Craig Reiter; gullivercraig@gmail.com; (906) 283-3451

Secretary: Cathy Kellerman; balcat19@live.com; (231) 924-3972
Treasurer: Randy Kamps; randyk@4iam.com; (231) 392-6670
Immediate Past President: Bill Davie; bill49866@gmail.com; (906) 226-4063

CMHA Staff Contact Information:

CMH Association staff can be contacted at (517) 374-6848 and via the direct phone lines and e-mail addresses below:

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