



Special Feature

An Important Update on the CCBHC Demonstration**

(Message from Chuck Ingoglia, President and CEO, National Council for Behavioral Health)

After much debate and political back and forth, the House and Senate [June 28] passed a short-term extension of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Medicaid demonstration program.

As was announced last week, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved legislation to extend the original eight CCBHC demonstration states through December 2021. The legislation passed the House by a vote of 371-46. Despite tremendous bipartisan support in the House, efforts to extend the original eight states and expand CCBHCs to two new states stalled in the Senate... (See full article [here](#).)

****NOTE:** At press time, OMHSAS/DHS were in the process of confirming the full extent of this announcement and its impact on PA CCBHCs moving forward. ◀



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Members in the News

- ▶ In Mental Health Play, Anthem to Buy Beacon Health Options
- ▶ Congratulations to RCPA Member Community Services Group on Receiving National Recognition for Exceptional Employee Engagement!
- ▶ Save the Date: RCPA Member Inperium Open House / First Affiliate Provider Fair – Thursday, September 12, 2019, Reading
- ▶ Thanks to Assistive Technology, TV Now Eye Controlled (RCPA member Magee Rehab is mentioned in article)
- ▶ Human Services Secretary Visits Center of Excellence Focused on Rural Patients in Fighting the Opioid Crisis (RCPA member Gateway Rehab featured here)
- ▶ 26th Annual Golf Tournament Raises \$79,000 for RCPA Member Hope Enterprises



Visit the [RCPA website](#) for up-to-date information on legislation, meetings, trainings, and other industry developments. ◀



NEW MEMBERS

PROVIDER

Central Region

[Commonwealth Clinical Group, Inc.](#)

41 E Orange St

Lancaster, PA 17602

Cathy DeGuire, CEO

Southeast Region

[Associated Production Services, Inc.](#)

325 Andrews Rd

Trevose, PA 19053

J. Jay Belding, Executive Director

Southwest Region

[McGuire Memorial](#)

2119 Mercer Rd

New Brighton, PA 15066

Christopher Shay, President – Successor

As the largest state association of its kind, RCPA continues to look for ways to strengthen its voice. One way to facilitate this is by the recruitment of new members. For new provider members, there is a discount for the first year of membership. If you have questions about membership or know of an organization that would benefit from membership with RCPA, please contact [Tieanna Lloyd](#), Accounts Receivable/Membership Services Manager.

RCPA Annual Conference: IMPACT Exhibit Booths Are Going Quickly; Reserve Yours Today!

New this year, based on requests from our previous exhibitors and sponsors, is booth self-selection. In order to be considered for self-selection, a completed contract with payment must be submitted. Booth selections are contingent upon availability.

Exhibit activities take place September 25–26. Based on your feedback from last year, we have increased the number of activities offered throughout the event. RCPA encourages all interested parties to complete the contract now! Events within Exhibit Hall include an opening reception, breakfast, coffee breaks, lunch, and prize giveaways. Exhibit hours occur during the two busiest days of the conference, increasing the opportunity for exhibitors — an integral component to conference success — to interact with the maximum amount of attendees. A “Best of Show” competition provides even more prospects to engage guests and winners receive a discount on 2020 exhibit rates.

Interaction with conference guests outside of the exhibit area is just as important! Participating in other conference events such as receptions, meals, and educational offerings provides exhibitors greater potential and flexibility to establish opportunities for business. RCPA includes two exhibitor registrations with the exhibit fee; since exhibitors can attend the entire conference, RCPA encourages organizations to use those registrations fully. Complete information about exhibiting options is available [here](#). Contact [Sarah Eyster](#), Conference Coordinator, for more information. ◀



Opportunities Still Available to Sponsor RCPA Annual Conference – Don’t Miss Out!

The association is privileged to have the backing of the finest organizations in the field for our conference. Through the use of sponsorship circles, RCPA is able to honor all supporting organizations. Within each sponsorship circle, specific events and items such as meals, receptions, conference tote bags, attendee materials, etc. are available, providing additional “naming recognition” for sponsors. Other ideas are welcome as well. Please [review sponsorship materials](#) and contact [Sarah Eyster](#) to reserve your opportunity.

NOTE: The deadline for inclusion in all digital material is **July 26, 2019**. Sponsors, exhibitors, and advertisers who wish to be listed on the website, the mobile app, and in the online conference program must adhere to that deadline.

The association looks forward to welcoming you at the conference! Space and opportunities are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and no reservation is considered complete without payment. For any additional questions, please contact [Sarah Eyster](#), Conference Coordinator. ◀

Bill to Increase Access to Psychology Services Earns Committee Approval

Senator Judy Ward's (R-Blair) Senate Bill 67 (SB 67), a bill that would expand access to psychology services, was approved by the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

Each state has its own set of laws governing the practice of psychology, making it extremely difficult for a psychologist to obtain a license to practice in several states. As a result, it can be a challenge for psychologists to serve patients across jurisdictional boundaries.

To deal with these issues, the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards has developed the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) to allow telepsychological practice across state lines as well as temporary in-person services. [SB 67](#) would allow Pennsylvania to join PSYPACT, in order to improve patient access to services across the Commonwealth.

To date, 10 states have adopted the Compact. The Compact Commission will develop and publish bylaws and rules before licensed psychologists can apply for and use compact certificates to practice in compact states. Senate Bill 67 was sent to the full Senate for consideration. ◀

Save the Date – National Council's Hill Day

The National Council for Behavioral Health will be hosting its Annual Hill Day Sept 17–18 in Washington, DC. Additional information can be found [here](#). ◀



RCPA PAC Needs Your Help!!

Now, more than ever, health and human service providers need to be proactive in helping elected officials work towards common sense solutions in the areas of workforce, tax, regulation, health care, and human services.

The RCPA PAC raises money and supports campaigns of state legislators who work tirelessly on issues that benefit mental health, intellectual disabilities, children's services, substance use disorder treatment and services, brain injuries, medical and vocational rehabilitation, physical disabilities and aging, and other related human services. The funds raised through RCPA PAC can make the difference between a win and a loss on an issue or assist in making a new ally.

Interested in learning about more fun ideas to raise money for RCPA-PAC or interested in donating now? Please visit our website, download the [PAC FAQ Card](#), [Donation Card](#), or email [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs.

Your participation in the RCPA PAC is completely voluntary and you may contribute as much or as little as you choose. Donations are not tax-deductible and will be used for political purposes. You may choose not to participate without fear of reprisal. You will not be favored or disadvantaged by reason of the amount of your contribution or decision not to contribute. ◀

RCPA's Legislative Tracking Report

RCPA is constantly tracking various policy initiatives and legislation that may have positive or negative effects on our members and those we serve — so for your convenience, RCPA has created a legislative tracking report. You can [review this tracking report](#) to see the legislative initiatives that the General Assembly may undertake during the 2019/20 Legislative Session. If you have questions on a specific bill or policy, please contact [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs. ◀

RCPA Legislative Information

RCPA members can now find the most recent [documents](#) on legislative priorities, position papers, and other important legislative information on RCPA's website. Please check the [RCPA website](#) for additional updates on legislative happenings. ◀

Federal News

CMS Requests Public Input on Patients Over Paperwork Initiative

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a [press release](#) with a Request for Information (RFI) seeking new ideas from the public on how to continue progress of the [Patients Over Paperwork Initiative](#) to be published in the June 11, 2019 Federal Register. The initiative was originally launched in the fall of 2017. Since that time, CMS estimates that through regulatory reform alone, the health care system will save an estimated \$40 million hours and \$5.7 billion through 2021. These estimated savings come from both final and proposed rules.

This RFI invites patients and their families, the medical community, and other healthcare stakeholders to recommend further changes to rules, policies, and procedures that would shift more of clinicians' time and our healthcare system's resources from needless paperwork to high quality care that improves patient health. CMS is especially seeking innovative ideas that broaden perspectives on potential solutions to relieve burden and ways to improve:

- ▶ Reporting and documentation requirements
- ▶ Coding and documentation requirements for Medicare or Medicaid payment
- ▶ Prior authorization procedures
- ▶ Policies and requirements for rural providers, clinicians, and beneficiaries
- ▶ Policies and requirements for dually enrolled (i.e., Medicare and Medicaid) beneficiaries
- ▶ Beneficiary enrollment and eligibility determination
- ▶ CMS processes for issuing regulations and policies

Comments on this initiative must be submitted by August 12, 2019. For additional information, visit the Patients over Paperwork [page](#) on the CMS website. ◀



OMHA Updates Case Processing Manual

On May 24, 2019, the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA) published two revised [chapters](#) (Chapter 6 and Chapter 11) of the OMHA Case Processing Manual (OCPM). This manual standardizes the day-to-day procedures for carrying out adjudicative functions, in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, and OMHA directives, and gives OMHA staff direction for processing appeals at the OMHA level of adjudication. ◀

FDA Holds First Hearing on Cannabis Products

On May 31, 2019, the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) held their first public [hearing](#) to obtain scientific data and information about the safety, manufacturing, product quality, marketing, labeling, and sale of products containing cannabis or cannabis-derived compounds. Over 140 individuals testified over the course of the all-day hearing, including academics, manufacturers, and state government officials. A webcast recording is available and a docket for public comments on the hearing was established. Public comments will be accepted until July 16, 2019. ◀

CMS Publishes Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Final Rule

On June 3, 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published the [final rule](#) that updates the requirements for the Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs. PACE provides comprehensive medical and social services to certain individuals who qualify for nursing home care, but at the time of enrollment, can still live safely in the community. The rule addresses application and waiver procedures, sanctions, enforcement actions and termination, administrative requirements, PACE services, participant rights, quality assessment and performance improvement, participant enrollment and disenrollment, payment, federal and state monitoring, data collection, record maintenance, and reporting. The changes will provide greater operational flexibility, remove redundancies and outdated information, and codify existing practice. The regulations become effective on August 2, 2019. ◀



State News

CHC Fact Sheet on Provider Relationships Released

Community HealthChoices (CHC) began its implementation in PA in 2018 with the rollout beginning in the southwest part of the state, followed by the southeastern part of the state in 2019. Both areas are currently live. The rollout for the remainder of the state begins in January 2020. CHC is Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care program for individuals who are dually-eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, and individuals 21 years of age or older with physical disabilities. Managed care is new for long-term services and supports, but Pennsylvania has provided physical and behavioral health care through a managed care model for many years. A [fact sheet](#) was developed to provide information about how care providers will work with CHC's managed care organizations to deliver quality care to CHC participants. In addition to the fact sheet, a 30-minute online [training](#) is available, as well as an extensive question and answer [document](#). ◀

Inpatient Rehab Appeal Settlement Reached With CMS

Beginning June 17, 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is accepting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for a settlement option targeted towards certain Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) appeals pending at the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC), the Qualified Independent Contractor (QIC), the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA), and/or Medicare Appeals Council (Council) levels of review. CMS expects to include situations where appeal rights for IRF-related claims have not yet been exhausted at the QIC, OMHA, and/or Council level. Specifically, IRF appellants that filed appeals at the MAC for redetermination no later than August 31, 2018, that are currently pending or are eligible for further appeal at the MAC, QIC, OMHA, or Council, will have the opportunity to settle their eligible appeals, as follows:

CMS will pay 69% of the net payable amount for all claims associated with pending IRF appeals that do not otherwise meet the special criteria below:

- ▶ Specific to Intensity of Therapy Appeals, CMS will pay 100% of the net payable amount for all IRF appeals in which the claim was denied based solely on a threshold of therapy time not being met where the claim did not undergo more comprehensive review for medical necessity of the intensive rehabilitation therapy program based on the individual facts of the case.
- ▶ CMS will pay 100% of the net payable amount for all IRF appeals in which the claim was denied solely because justification for group therapy was not documented in the medical record.

Although the appeal must have been filed no later than August 31, 2018, CMS relies on the date the settlement agreement is signed to determine whether appeals are ultimately included in the settlement. Appeals must be pending at the MAC, QIC, OMHA, and/or Council, as of the date the settlement agreement is signed. If they are no longer pending but are eligible for further appeal and have not exhausted timely filing, CMS will include those, as well. Additional information is available on the CMS [website](#). ◀

CMS Publishes Outpatient Rehab Therapy Services Booklet

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published a new *Outpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Services: Complying with Medicare Billing Requirements* [booklet](#). Outpatient rehabilitation therapy services include physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and speech-language pathology (SLP) services. The booklet describes common outpatient rehabilitation therapy services Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) program errors, how CMS calculates improper payment rates, the necessary documentation to support billed Medicare Part B claims, and managing potential overpayments. ◀

Updated IRF Compare Data Available

The June 2019 IRF Compare refresh data is now available on the [IRF Compare website](#). With this quarterly refresh, CMS has updated the quality measure information publicly reported on IRF Compare to reflect data that providers submitted between Quarter 3 of 2017 and Quarter 2 of 2018. ◀



Article Focuses on Brain Training Program & Cognitive Function For Military Personnel

A recent article published in *BrainFutures* — “Brain Training Program Improves Memory for Military Personnel with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury” — focused on a study conducted at five military and veterans’ hospitals. The study found that BrainHQ, a training program, improved cognitive function in military personnel and veterans diagnosed with mild Traumatic Brain Injury. The Department of Defense funded the BRAVE Study to determine whether a plasticity-based, computerized brain-training intervention could be broadly and remotely applied and could produce significant improvements in persistent cognitive deficits across a diverse mTBI population. BrainHQ has been offered free to active-duty personnel and their families since early 2018. ◀

What Influences Critical Care Doctors in Withdrawing Life Support For Patients With Brain Injury?

Scienmag, June 17, 2019

Decisions to withdraw life support treatments in critically ill patients with severe brain injury are complicated, are based on many factors, and are usually made by critical care physicians and families in the intensive care unit. A study in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal) provides new understanding on the decision-making processes for this patient population, which accounts for most hospital deaths from trauma.

“Many clinicians struggle to make recommendations to withdraw life-sustaining treatments because decision-making is often complicated by uncertainty from trying to match family or caregiver opinions about what they think the patient would have wanted in terms of quality of life and how well physicians can predict a prognosis,” says Dr. Alexis Turgeon, a critical care physician and researcher at CHU de Québec — Université Laval Research Centre and Canada Research Chair in Critical Care Neurology and Trauma at Université Laval, Québec City, Quebec... [read full article here.](#) ◀

FDA Deems Molecular Test For Concussions ‘Breakthrough Device’ BRAINBox Solutions working with Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Carilion Clinic to bring mTBI test to market

Virginia Tech Daily, June 17, 2019

A portable test to help people suspected of having concussions or mild traumatic brain injuries has received a boost from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

BRAINBox Solutions, a molecular diagnostics innovator dedicated solely to the field of brain injury that works extensively with the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC, announced it has been granted U.S. Food and Drug Administration Breakthrough Device Designation to speed development of a multi-modality product, which includes a blood-based test to aid in prognosis and diagnosis of mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI)... [read full article here.](#) ◀

BIAA Announces Upcoming Webinars

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has [posted](#) their upcoming live webinars, including:

- ▶ Status of State Concussion Legislation in the US;
- ▶ Multidisciplinary Concussion Clinics: State of the Practice;
- ▶ The Challenge of Brain Injury in Older Adults;
- ▶ Psychological Risk Factors for Persistent Post-Concussive Symptoms;
- ▶ Cultural Competency in Rehabilitation;
- ▶ Supported Decision Making and Independence After Brain Injury;
- ▶ Employment and Accommodation After Brain Injury; and
- ▶ How to Use Apps and Strategies in the Real World.

Physical Disabilities & Aging

Articles and topics selected for this newsletter are designed to help build continued knowledge base among our members for the topics that will impact you most as we move to managed care in Pennsylvania.

EVV Update

The Department of Human Services has issued updated information about the implementation of Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) on January 1, 2020 to meet requirements in the 21st Century Cures Act. Information is available [here](#) for all affected services in OLTTL and ODP programs, including dates from July through December for informational webinars and the technical specifications for compliance. ◀

Enrollment

The Office of Long-Term Living (OLTTL) continues work to develop a new, more efficient process for eligibility determinations and enrollment into long-term care programs. Over 30 respondents submitted comments to the request for information, including RCPA on behalf of members that provide brain injury services. Issuance of a draft Request For Application is planned for July with another opportunity for stakeholder feedback. ◀

PA Population Changes

The Pennsylvania State Data Center (PSDC) has released 2018 detailed population estimates available [here](#). New data are available from the US Census Bureau which provide estimates of the July 1, 2018 population for the nation, states, and counties by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. This brief highlights statewide trends in Pennsylvania's changing population. As of 2018, Pennsylvania's fastest growing populations include the population age 65 and over, the Hispanic or Latino population, and the non-Hispanic Asian population. For information about the report, contact:

Tim Schock, MS | Data Analyst
[Pennsylvania State Data Center](#)
717-948-6671
[@pasdc_psu](#)



CHC Corner

The Office of Long-Term Living (OLTTL) continues to prepare to implement services through Community HealthChoices (CHC) in the remaining three regions on January 1, 2020. The three regions are Lehigh/Capital, Northwest, and Northeast. Provider summits were held in all three regions, including a session focusing on transportation issues. Providers unable to attend a session can find the presentations [here](#).

Communications to participants will begin over the summer with awareness flyers that will be posted [here](#). General information about CHC is available [here](#). ◀

from front cover

An Important Update on the CCBHC Demonstration**

(Message from Chuck Ingoglia, President and CEO, National Council for Behavioral Health)

After much debate and political back and forth, the House and Senate [June 28] passed a short-term extension of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Medicaid demonstration program.

As was announced last week, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved legislation to extend the original eight CCBHC demonstration states through December 2021. The legislation passed the House by a vote of 371-46. Despite tremendous bipartisan support in the House, efforts to extend the original eight states and expand CCBHCs to two new states stalled in the Senate. To provide themselves more time, House and Senate members agreed to a two-week extension, continuing the program through the 4th of July recess.

While we cannot guarantee a path forward beyond this short-term extension, we have every reason to believe that upon its return Congress will pass another continuation of the program through the end of September 2019. As we have throughout this legislative process, the National Council will keep you informed and do its very best to make you aware of opportunities for action and advocacy at every turn.

Thank you all for your outstanding efforts these last few years. Through your hard work and advocacy you have expanded access to individuals in need, transformed how these services can and should be delivered in your communities and built a strong network of allies who believe in the promise of CCBHCs and have worked with us to support their continuation.

****NOTE:** At press time, OMHSAS/DHS were in the process of confirming the full extent of this announcement and its impact on PA CCBHCs moving forward. ◀



Outpatient Regulations Are at The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)

On June 5, in accordance with Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act, the final-form annex of the outpatient regulations, 55 Pa. Code Chapter 1153, Outpatient Psychiatric Services and 55 Pa. Code Chapter 5200, Psychiatric Outpatient Clinics, were submitted to the IRRC. The regulations will be reviewed at the July 18 meeting and RCPA staff will attend in support. ◀

Outpatient Redesign Moving Forward

As mentioned in the article to the left, the outpatient regulations should be approved this month. While that is good news, we know that there is much more work to be done to help providers remain financially viable when offering outpatient services. To that end, a group of RCPA outpatient service delivery members met with RCPA staff to brainstorm the right model for now — and the future — of outpatient service delivery. With more work ahead, an outpatient base model of service delivery should be ready for external comment by September. ◀

Federal Grants ‘A Lifesaver’ in Opioid Fight, But States Still Struggle to Curb Meth

Kaiser Health News, June 17, 2019

Carmen Heredia Rodriguez, @ByCHRRodriguez
Elizabeth Lucas, @eklucas

In his 40 years of working with people struggling with addiction, David Crowe has seen various drugs fade in and out of popularity in Pennsylvania’s Crawford County.

Methamphetamine use and distribution is a major challenge for the rural area, said Crowe, the executive director of Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission. But opioid-related overdoses have killed at least 83 people in the county since 2015, he said... [read full article here.](#) ◀

Senate Bills Take Aim at Opioid Crisis

By John Finnerty, CNHI State Reporter, The Herald, June 20, 2019

HARRISBURG – The state Senate voted unanimously [June 19] to pass legislation that would limit opioid prescriptions to seven days in almost all cases.

The proposal was among seven bills passed by the state Senate this week targeting the opioid epidemic that claimed, on average, about 15 lives in Pennsylvania every day at its peak in 2017.

(At press time) Lawmakers [were] scheduled to be in session for a final legislative push to get the state budget passed by June 30... [read full article here.](#) ◀

Meth in The Morning, Heroin at Night: Inside The Seesaw Struggle of Dual Addiction

Kaiser Health News, June 24, 2019

April Dembosky, KQED: @adembosky

In the 25 years since she snorted her first line of meth at a club in San Francisco, Kim has redefined “normal” so many times. At first, she said, it seemed like meth brought her back to her true self — the person she was before her parents divorced, and before her stepfather moved in.

“I felt normal when I first did it, like, ‘Oh! There I am,’” she said.

Kim is 47 now, and she has been chasing normal her entire adult life. That chase has brought her to some dark places, so she asked us not to use her last name. For a long time, meth, also known as speed, was Kim’s drug of choice.

Then she added heroin to the mix. She tried it for the first time while she was in treatment for meth.

“That put me on a nine-year run of using heroin. And I thought, ‘Oh, heroin’s great. I don’t do speed anymore.’ To me, it saved me from the tweaker-ness,” Kim said, referring to the agitation and paranoia many meth users experience, and how heroin, an opiate, calmed that.

Now, Kim has finished treatment for both drugs... [read full article here.](#) ◀



Incident Management Draft Bulletin

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has released a draft [Incident Management \(IM\) Bulletin](#) for review and comment. The IM Bulletin gives instruction to all stakeholders about how to implement the Chapter 6100 regulations (that have yet to be published). Many members of RCPA have concerns regarding the increased amount of responsibilities required of providers of service and SCOs. The additional workload and time required to complete all the duties appears to be overwhelming. This bulletin outlines the requirement to assign a Certified Investigator to a much wider range of incidents than what is currently required. This will require that additional staff members obtain certification, and there is already a waiting list for attendance at the trainings. Investigations increase administrative burden as well as a significant disruption to the lives of individuals served, staff, and the services provided. While we support certified investigations for incidents that jeopardize the health and safety of individuals served, there needs to be a reasonable standard applied to the level of incidents that are investigated with this methodology.

A group of members have been working on developing comments to submit to ODP by the due date of Friday, July 5, 2019. If you are interested in participating in this review and development of comments, please contact [Carol Ferenz](#). ◀

Regulatory Compliance Guide for Chapter 6400 Available for Public Comment

The [Regulatory Compliance Guide \(RCG\)](#) is a companion piece to the updated version of Chapter 6400 regulations (relating to community homes for individuals with an intellectual disability or autism) that will be released concurrently with the Chapter 6100 regulations. It is meant to help providers, licensing staff, and other stakeholders better understand how the regulations will be administered to ensure the highest possible quality of life for individuals supported in Community Homes. The RCG will replace the current Licensing Inspection Instrument as the official Chapter 6400 interpretive guide.

A work group of residential provider members are developing comments to submit to ODP regarding the RCG. The deadline for submitting comments has been extended to Monday, July 15, 2019. If you are interested in participating in the review of the guide and development of comments, please contact [Carol Ferenz](#). ◀

Community Participation Rates Discussed at Health and Human Services Hearing

RCPA President/CEO Richard S. Edley, PhD testified at a hearing held on Wednesday, June 5, with the Health and Human Services Committee. Many of our members are concerned with the proposed rates for Community Participation Services (CPS) scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2019. ODP released the new rate structure (proposed to ODP last summer by a small work group organized to develop a simplified rate structure for CPS services) with proposed rates in early March. Public comment was accepted on these proposed rates. The rates for services provided in facilities were particularly of concern to providers. RCPA staff and representative members spent time educating legislators about CPS and the challenges with implementation during a Policy Committee Roundtable. Legislators also toured some facilities and met with individuals served. The adjusted rates, published in May, remain of concern to providers serving individuals who chose and/or require care provided in a licensed facility, due to medical or behavioral issues. Dr. Edley presented these concerns at a hearing with the Health and Human Services Committee, in the hopes that some resolution can be reached for these service needs. We will keep members informed as to any new developments. ◀

Also Open for Public Comment: Proposed Amendments to the Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) Waivers

Whenever substantive changes are made to an approved waiver, ODP must submit an amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval. ODP published proposed changes and are accepting comments until Monday July 8, 2019. ODP is proposing the following:

- ▶ Increase the number of individuals served in the Consolidated and Community Living waivers as provided for in the Governor's proposed budget to support more people in the community.
- ▶ Add planning requirements for Administrative Entities (AEs) to address access to needed waiver services upon graduation to individuals who will graduate from special education and who are not eligible to continue their education through the next year.
- ▶ Provide for support of children with medical needs who transition from a facility that does not meet waiver home and community-based settings requirements to live with their families or, if living with their family is not possible, in the home of another nurturing caregiver.
- ▶ Increase community participation of waiver participants through changes in service definitions, such as the addition of an on-call and remote support component to the Community Participation Support service and clarification as to where newly enrolled licensed facilities can be located.
- ▶ Increase competitive integrated employment of waiver participants by allowing supported employment services to be provided when a waiver participant has received an offer of competitive integrated employment and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has not made an eligibility determination at that time, and by clarifying where advanced supported employment services can be provided.
- ▶ Develop and support qualified staff by extending the timeframe by which requirements for employment credentials or certificates must be obtained to July 1, 2019 for supported employment, small group employment, and the prevocational component of the Community Participation Support service.
- ▶ Promote health, wellness, and safety by clarifying that supports coordinators should review information in health risk screening tools when applicable, and determine whether there have been any changes in orders, plans, or medical interventions prescribed or recommended by medical or behavioral professionals, when supports coordinators monitor a waiver participant's health and safety and develop Individual Support Plans.
- ▶ Clarify the role direct service professionals perform through communication specialist services.

The proposed amendments to the Consolidated, P/FDS, and Community Living Waivers, effective October 1, 2019, are available [online](#). ◀



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Implements Waiting List

The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (PA OVR) is funded by both state and federal funds and receives a four-to-one federal match for each state dollar awarded. OVR is currently maxed out on the amount of federal funds that can be obtained. Pennsylvania expects to receive less federal reallocation funding for the vocational rehabilitation program in the future, and requests for services have outpaced available resources. Due to the anticipated decline in federal reallocation funds, the independent Pennsylvania State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation voted unanimously at their meeting on June 13 to begin the process of closing the order of selection, in essence creating a temporary waiting list for new OVR customers. This decision was also approved by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

As a result, The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has been discussing this situation with CMS in anticipation of this possibility and CMS will allow ODP to approve the use

of waiver funds for employment services since OVR funds are not considered to be available.

OVR and ODP have issued joint [Bulletin 00-19-02, OVR Referrals During a Period when OVR's Order of Selection is Closed](#). This bulletin supplements the guidance provided in ODP [Bulletin 00-19-01, OVR Referral Process for ODP Employment-Related Services](#), regarding requirements for when individuals must be referred to OVR. Most individuals may receive an ODP employment-related service during the closure of the order of selection without a referral to OVR. Services will continue for current OVR customers with an Individualized Plan for Employment, as well as Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities, as required by federal law. For more information regarding the OVR Waiting List and how it would be managed, please refer to these [Frequently Asked Questions](#). ◀

ODP Communications Since Last RCPA News

- ▶ 19-062 Revised Goals and Objectives Cheat Sheet for AAW and ACAP
- ▶ 19-063 2017–2018 IM4Q and NCI Reports Now Available on MyODP
- ▶ 19-064 55 Pa. Code Chapter 6400 Regulatory Compliance Guide Public Comment Period Extended to July 15, 2019
- ▶ 19-065 Health Risk Screening Tool Implementation Update – Identifying Raters and User Accounts
- ▶ 19-066 Open for Public Comment: Proposed Amendments to the Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) Waivers
- ▶ 19-067 Becoming an Informed Supporter: What You Should Know About Autism Webinar Series
- ▶ 19-067 Updated Announcement 6/18/19
- ▶ 19-068 Person Centered Thinking Training Available
- ▶ 19-069 Process Modification in The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Provider Enrollment Process
- ▶ 19-069 Reissue 6/14/19: Process Modification in The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Provider Enrollment Process
- ▶ 19-069 Second Reissue 6/18/19: Updated Process Modification
- ▶ 19-070 Incident Management (IM) Bulletin Listening Sessions Registration Available, Additional Sessions Added
- ▶ 19-071 Process for Updating Entity Contact Information for Quality Assessment & Improvement (QA&I) Process
- ▶ 19-072 Announcing New SPeCTRUM 2.0 Training
- ▶ 19-073 Registration Now Open for June Certified Investigator Forum (date has passed)
- ▶ 19-074 New ODP Communication Notification Feature for MyODP Users
- ▶ 19-075 Agency with Choice (AWC) Wage Ranges and Benefit Allowance for Specific Participant Directed Services Effective July 1, 2019
- ▶ 19-076 Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA) Wage Ranges and Benefit Allowance for Specific Participant Directed Services Effective July 1, 2019
- ▶ 19-077 Office of Developmental Programs' Virtual Training Offerings July 2019
- ▶ ODP News June 2019

PA Juvenile Justice Systems Enhancements Continue Drive for Change

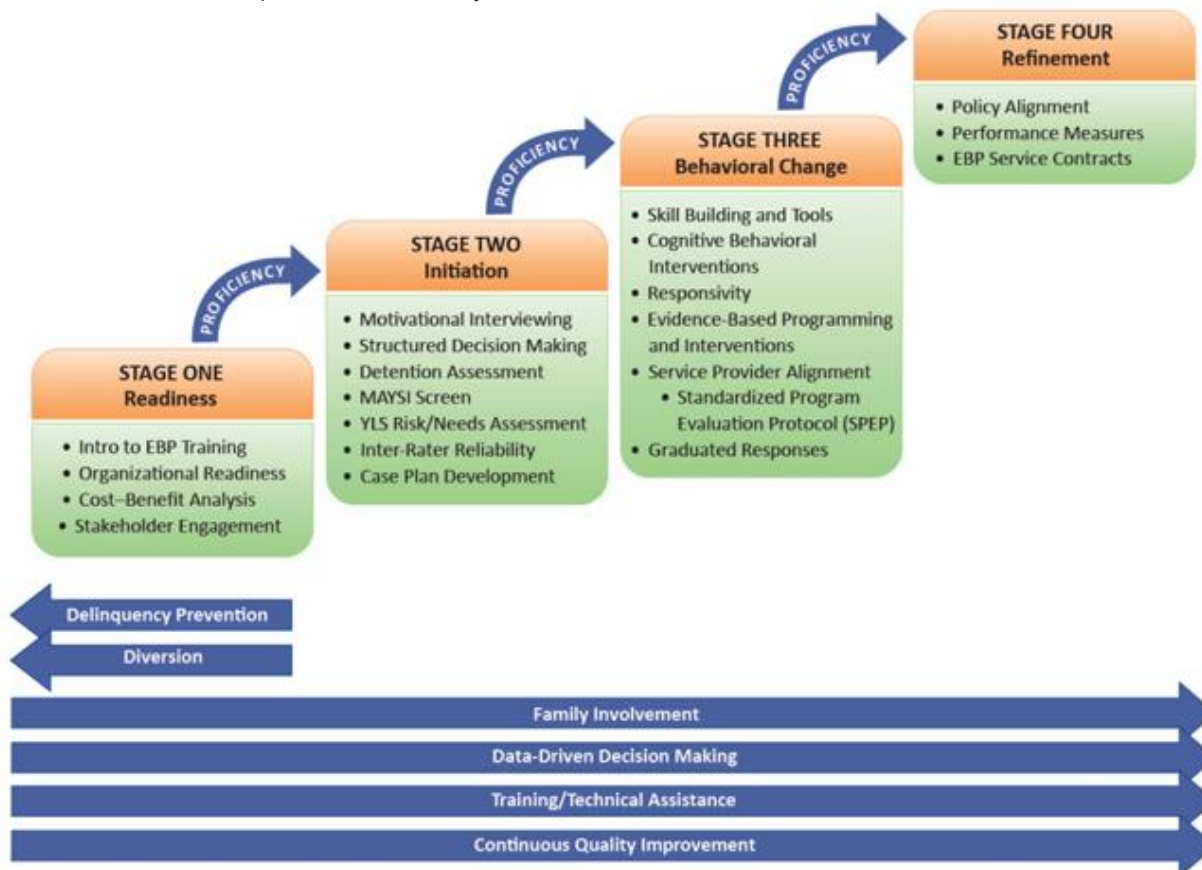
In the spring of 2012, the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System kicked off a major reform effort led by the Juvenile Court Judges Commission (JCJC), the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), and Chief Juvenile Probation Officers. The purpose of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) is "to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by employing evidence-based practices with fidelity at every stage of the juvenile justice process; collecting and analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge, striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services, and programs."

The project, currently in stage three, continues to develop and hone the assessment and case planning stage, as well as statewide implementation of evidence-based practices, at the County Probation level and within the service provider community. ◀

DHS-OCYF Successfully Negotiate End to Partial Title IV-E Deferred Payments

After nearly a decade-long partial Title IV-E reimbursement deferral, the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) is providing notice that advises counties that there is a successful negotiated conclusion of the partial Title IV-E deferral effective July 1, 2019! Through the efforts of OCYF and the Rate Methodology Task Force, the changes made to the budget documentation review process for FY 2019/20 were reviewed in April and determined to accurately demonstrate the allocation of costs into allowable maintenance and allowable administration categories. Additionally, the pending changes made to the web-based application to support accurate claiming of these expenses in the appropriate categories has been approved.

Please review [this bulletin](#) for next steps, including the update to the Title IV-E Validation System on July 13, 2019. For further information please contact [Jim Sharp](#), RCPA Children's Services Director. ◀



PA Prepares for Family First Prevention Services Act – Implementation Update

As Pennsylvania prepares for the implementation of the Federal Family First Prevention Act, statewide work groups are busy reviewing the strategies that best meet the needs of children and families across the Commonwealth. The Casey Family Programs has recently formed a Pennsylvania work team composed of leaders and stakeholders currently involved in statewide planning efforts.

The 2018 landmark bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act includes long-overdue historic reforms to help keep children safely with their families and avoid the traumatic experience of entering foster care. It also emphasizes the importance of children growing up in families, and helps ensure that children are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their special needs when foster care is needed.

A foundational element to service delivery will be the utilization of evidence-based programs, as well as newly developed programs by agencies, to tackle the specific needs of families. These areas include PA prevention services, target populations, evidence-based program selection, and detailed data systems for reporting requirements. All programs will be reviewed by the Federal Prevention Clearinghouse to determine the eligibility of approved treatment programs. Pennsylvania planning groups will work concurrently with the Casey Family Programs project as leaders develop the most effective implementation strategies for Pennsylvania. ◀



July is Social Wellness Month

There are many different elements that contribute to a healthy lifestyle, but do you consider social interactions and connections as part of that equation?

We all tend to get busy in our lives and lose contact with our friends and families. July is a perfect time to build stronger social ties and reach out to others. Social wellness encourages us to develop better communications with our friends and families, and to spend time nurturing our relationships and ourselves.

Respect yourself and others and develop a solid social support system. Grow your social network. Consider your interests and hobbies and you are bound to meet new people that share the same passions.

Here are some reasons why social wellness is important, including:

- ▶ People who have strong social networks live longer;
- ▶ People with healthy relationships respond better to stress and have healthier cardiovascular systems; and
- ▶ Healthy social networks improve the immune system's ability to fight off infectious disease.

Reconnect this month with your friends and family to strengthen your bonds and improve your social wellness. Be Well! ◀

Partners For Quality Seeking CEO

Since 1975, Partners for Quality (PFQ) has been committed to providing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and behavioral health challenges. Now in its 44th year of service, PFQ is recognized as an integral part of the service delivery system in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, serving more than 7,000 people annually and employing more than 1,100 people.



PFQ seeks a proven, effective, visionary CEO servant leader with the ability to garner broad community support, utilize sound business and management acumen, increase the visibility of the organization, and carry forward major new projects and programs.

The organization seeks a charismatic, relational, collaborative, and inspiring leader who is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the individuals it serves.

For more information and to apply, please send a current resume and letter of introduction to Kittleman & Associates, LLC to <http://ww2.kittlemansearch.com/Jobs>. For more information about PFQ, please visit <https://pfq.org/>.

Threshold Rehabilitation Services, Inc. Mental Health Program Expansion

Threshold is seeking mental health professionals to assist with the implementation of a Residential Treatment Facility for young adults in Berks County. The program will provide a comprehensive, collaborative, continuum-of-care service model that addresses the needs of the population from a person-centered perspective and is strength-based, recovery-oriented, and focused on positive practices.

Master's degree positions available include Program Manager and Therapist.

Psychiatric Nurse must possess LPN, RN preferred.

Residential Mental Health Worker positions require a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Full and part time positions available on 2nd and 3rd shifts including weekends.

Threshold offers a comprehensive benefit package that includes a 401(k) plan, paid vacations, and competitive salaries.

Please send your resume or apply in person Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4 pm.

Threshold
Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

1000 Lancaster Avenue
Reading, PA 19607
or at hr@trsinc.org
or by fax to (610) 777-1295

EOE M/F/D/V



Events subject to change; members will be notified of any developments

JULY

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|---------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Tuesday, July 9 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i> |
| Wednesday, July 10 | 10:30 am – 11:30 am | Retention Strategies for Direct Support Professional Staff <i>Webinar Only</i> |
| Thursday, July 11 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm | IDD Residential Subcommittee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i> |
| Tuesday, July 16 | 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm | IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i> |
| Wednesday, July 17 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm | Children's Steering Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i> |
| Wednesday, July 17 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Physical Disabilities & Aging Division <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> |
| Thursday, July 18 | 9:00 am – 11:30 am | Employment Subcommittee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> |
| Thursday, July 18 | 9:15 am – 11:30 am | SCO Subcommittee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i> |
| Thursday, July 18 | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm | IDD Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> |
| Tuesday, July 30 | 9:30 am – 3:00 pm | Compliance Boot Camp <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> |

AUGUST

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Tuesday, August 13 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i> |
| Thursday, August 15 | 9:00 am – 10:00 am | Government Affairs Committee <i>Conference Call</i> |
| Thursday, August 15 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | IPRC Webinar: From Volume to Value: Ethics & Guidelines for Frequency and Episodes of Care in Pediatric Rehabilitation |
| Tuesday, August 20 | 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm | IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i> |
| Wednesday, August 21 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | Human Resources Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> |
| Wednesday, August 21 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm | Human Resources Training: Federal and State HR-Related Regulations <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> |
| Wednesday, August 21 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm | Brain Injury Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i> |
| Thursday, August 22 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | Outpatient Rehab Committee – Webcast Only <i>RCPA Conference Room</i> |