



Special Feature

Sponsor, Exhibit, Advertise at the 2020 RCPA Annual Conference, “Vision: 2020”

Join RCPA as we host the 2020 Conference, September 22–25 at the Hershey Lodge. RCPA staff and the Conference Committee are excited to release



this year’s [Sponsors, Exhibitors, and Advertisers brochure](#), with new opportunities to get in on the action. Booth self-selection will continue this year for the exhibitors who submit their contracts with payment by March 31. And sponsors who would also like to exhibit will be given first choice through March 31. In order to be considered for self-selection, a completed contract with

payment must be submitted. Please read through this alert as it highlights changes and opportunities.

Don’t miss your chance to be seen and to support the work of this dynamic organization! The event is a highlight for the Pennsylvania mental health, drug and alcohol, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children’s, brain injury, medical rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging provider communities. Complete information about exhibiting, sponsoring, and advertising options are available from the link above.

Sponsor, Exhibit, and Advertise

Exhibit activities take place September 23 –24 and a draft schedule is included

Register Now for 2020 RCPA Capitol Day

On **Tuesday, March 24**, RCPA will be holding its annual Capitol Day in Harrisburg. Members may register on our Capitol Day [website](#). This website has important information and the site will be updated closer to the day of event with an agenda and handouts for members’ legislative visits.



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©2020. This monthly newsletter is written by the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) for the health and human services communities. Deadline for publication is the 20th of every month or the Friday before.

The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of RCPA.

Members in the News

- ▶ Step By Step Names Michael Bernatovich Interim CEO as Long-Time Executive Jim Bobeck Retires
- ▶ New CEO Hooked on Goodwill's Mission to Create Jobs and Change Lives (RCPA Member Goodwill Keystone Area)
- ▶ 'You Don't Need To Lock Kids Up': Harrisburg-Based Youth Advocate Programs Provides Alternatives To Prison (RCPA Member)



Capitol Day continued from page 1

For members' convenience, RCPA has secured a block of 10 rooms at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Harrisburg. Members can visit the Crowne Plaza's [website](#) and enter code **RCP** to book their rooms at a rate of \$129 for the night. The room rate includes one breakfast.

As a reminder, RCPA recommends that members make appointments with their legislators and once an appointment is made, please inform [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs, with the name of the legislator(s) and the time of the appointment.

RCPA strongly encourages members, staff, and clients to attend, and get your voice heard on the Hill. Questions, please contact [Jack Phillips](#). ◀



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



RCPA Membership: Strength in Numbers

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. ◀

MEMBERSHIP



Sponsor, Exhibit, Advertise continued from page 1

in the brochure. Based on your feedback last year, we have increased the number of activities offered throughout the event. RCPA encourages all interested parties to complete the contract now! During exhibit hours, coffee breaks will be extended and occur in Connections Hall, formerly Exhibit Hall. Events within Connections Hall include an opening reception with open beer/wine, breakfast, coffee breaks, lunch, and prize giveaways. Exhibit hours occur during the two busiest days of the conference, increasing the likelihood that exhibitors – an integral component to conference success – have the opportunity to interact with attendees. A “Best of Show” competition provides even more prospects to engage guests. Winners receive a discount on 2021 exhibit rates.

RCPA hopes to offer some type of “speed marketing” and will be reaching out to exhibitors as they sign on.

Interaction with conference guests outside of Connections Hall is just as important! Participating in other conference events such as receptions, meals, and educational offerings provide exhibitors greater potential and flexibility to establish opportunities for business. RCPA includes two exhibitor registrations with the exhibit fee; because exhibitors can attend the entire conference, RCPA encourages organizations to use those registrations fully.

Exciting New Sponsorship Opportunities

The association is privileged to have the backing of the finest organizations in the field for its conference. Through the use of sponsorship circles, RCPA is able to honor all supporting organizations. New this year:

- ▶ Connections Hall can be named for your organization.
- ▶ Pet Relaxation Area and informal networking for day only attendees.
- ▶ Head Shot Lounge – when was the last time you got your head shot updated?
- ▶ Escalator graphics – be seen every time attendees move between hotel and convention center.
- ▶ Speaker support – with an increased number of specialty sessions, there are many opportunities for support.

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.

Sign Up Now

The deadline for inclusion in all digital material is **August 7**. 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. If questions remain, please contact [Sarah Eyster](#), Conference Coordinator. ◀

Government Affairs

RCPA PAC Needs Your Support

The RCPA PAC raises money and supports campaigns of state legislators and representatives who advance our interests on Health & Human Services issues. The funds raised through RCPA PAC can make a difference. 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.

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. ◀

Elected Officials Not Running for Re-Election or Running for Different Seats

Over the past few weeks and months, several elected officials announced that they will not be seeking another term in office or they will be running for a new office. The list is highlighted by the announcement from Senate Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati and Speaker Mike Turzai that they will not be running for re-election.

The current list of elected officials who have announced their intention not to seek re-election is as follows:

- ▶ Sen. Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester)
- ▶ Sen. Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson)
- ▶ Rep. Stephen Barrar (R-Delaware)
- ▶ Rep. Thomas Caltagirone (D-Berks)
- ▶ Rep. Garth Everett (R-Lycoming)
- ▶ Rep. Matt Gabler (R-Clearfield)
- ▶ Rep. Neal Goodman (D-Schuylkill)
- ▶ Rep. Marcia Hahn (R-Northampton)
- ▶ Rep. Mark Keller (R-Perry)
- ▶ Rep. Bill Kortz (D-Allegheny)

- ▶ Rep. Steve McCarter (D-Montgomery)
- ▶ Rep. Thomas Murt (R-Montgomery)
- ▶ Rep. Harry Readshaw (D-Allegheny)
- ▶ Rep. Justin Simmons (R-Northampton)
- ▶ Rep. Mike Tobash (R-Schuylkill)
- ▶ Rep. Marcy Toepel (R-Montgomery)
- ▶ Rep. Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny)
- ▶ Rep. Rosita Youngblood (D-Philadelphia)

Elected officials running for a different seat:

- ▶ Auditor General Eugene DePasquale – running for US House of Representatives (2020)
- ▶ Rep. Cris Dush (R-Jefferson) – running for PA Senate

Elected official running for two different seats:

- ▶ Rep. Scott Conklin (D-Centre) – running for current House seat and PA Auditor General ◀

RCPA's Legislative Tracking Reports

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, which is broken down into specific policy areas. You can review these tracking reports below 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.

Adult Mental Health

Autism

Brain Injury

Budget

Children and Youth

Children's

Criminal Justice

Drug and Alcohol

Insurance

Intellectual Disabilities

Labor

Medical Rehabilitation

Minimum Wage

Miscellaneous

Regulatory

Social Programs

Suicide



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. ◀

CMS Finalizes Decision to Cover Acupuncture for Chronic Low Back Pain

After conducting many reviews and examining the coverage policies of private payers, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a [decision](#) to cover acupuncture for Medicare patients that suffer from chronic low back pain. The increased reliance on opioids and the current opioid public health crisis were large contributors to this decision. Studies have shown that patients who have suffered from chronic low back pain, and were treated by acupuncture, showed significant improvements in both function and pain. Hence, a better alternative than prescription opioids. This expansion of options for pain treatment is a large piece of the Trump Administrations' strategy for defeating the country's opioid crisis.

Acupuncture is a treatment performed by practitioners who stimulate specific points on the body by inserting small thin needles through the skin. For the purpose of this decision, chronic low back pain is defined as:

- ▶ Lasting 12 weeks or longer;
- ▶ Nonspecific, in that it has no identifiable systemic cause (i.e., not associated with metastatic, inflammatory, infectious, etc. disease);
- ▶ Not associated with surgery; and
- ▶ Not associated with pregnancy.

Medicare will cover up to 12 sessions in 90 days, with an additional 8 sessions for those patients with chronic low back pain who demonstrate improvement. No more than 20 acupuncture treatments may be administered annually. Treatment must be discontinued if the patient is not improving or is regressing. ◀

CMS Expands Coverage of NGS for Patients With Inherited Ovarian or Breast Cancer

On January 27, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) their intent to cover U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved or cleared laboratory diagnostic tests using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) for patients with inherited ovarian or breast cancer. Using genetic tests will provide patients with a more complete profile of their cancer cells and help identify targeted treatments, while also increasing their chances to be candidates for clinical trials. For additional information that was shared with the Medicare Administrative Contractors, refer to the CMS [decision memo](#). ◀

OIG Report on CMS Improperly Paying Practitioners for Telehealth Services

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report, [CMS Paid Practitioners for Telehealth Services That Did Not Meet Medicare Requirements](#), that highlighted how the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) improperly paid for some Telehealth claims, as described in the title of the document. As a result, a number of resources were created and released by CMS to ensure these services are billed correctly. These resources include a Medicare Telehealth Services [video](#); a Telehealth Services Medicare Learning Network [Booklet](#); a [Medicare Telehealth Payment Eligibility Analyzer](#); and a List of Covered Telehealth Services [web page](#). ◀

ICD-10 Code Established for Vaping Related Disorder

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a new *MLN Matters* article, [MM 11623](#), an Update to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) for Vaping Related Disorder. ◀



Community Forums About Person-Directed Services Planned for Spring 2020

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University recently announced some upcoming community forums that are scheduled in the Commonwealth. The forum dates and locations include:

- ▶ Wednesday, March 4, 2020 in Altoona, PA (Altoona Center for Independent Living) from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm;
- ▶ Wednesday, March 18, 2020 in Harrisburg, PA (Temple University Harrisburg) from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm;
- ▶ Monday, March 30, 2020 in Kingston, PA (Hoyt Library) from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm; and
- ▶ Tuesday, April 28, 2020 in Philadelphia, PA (Intellectual disAbility Services) from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

[Register here](#) to participate. If you have any questions about this event, please contact [Jamie Ray-Leonetti](#). ◀

Medical Rehabilitation

House of Representatives Sends Letter to CMS on Proposed Cut to Therapy Services

On February 5, 2020, ninety-nine members of the House of Representatives signed and sent a [letter](#) to Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), that questions the proposed eight percent cut to therapy services. The proposed cut was included in the calendar year (CY) 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) [final rule](#) that was published on November 15, 2019. The letter contained two questions asked of CMS, including the methodology and data that were used in this decision making. The responses to these questions were requested by February 21, 2020. Contact RCPA Rehabilitation Services Division Director [Melissa Dehoff](#) with questions. ◀



CMS Adds Prior Authorization Requirement for Several Lower Limb Prosthetics

Included in the February 11, 2020 [Federal Register](#), Update to the Required Prior Authorization List of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Items That Require Authorization as a Condition of Payment, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin requiring prior authorization as a condition of payment for several types of lower limb prosthetics (LLPs). Prior authorization of these LLPs will occur in two phases: Phase I begins on May 11, 2020 in California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Phase II begins on October 8, 2020 for all remaining states. The following HCPCS codes were added to the DMEPOS [Required Authorization List](#): L5856, L5857, L5858, L5973, L5980, and L5987. ◀

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

Brain Injury Awareness Month is recognized every March. This provides an opportunity to draw attention to the prevention of a traumatic brain injury (TBI), and also to promote ways to improve the quality of life to those living with a TBI, as well as family members and loved ones that help care for them. RCPA has initiated the process to obtain Proclamations from the House and Senate recognizing March as Brain Injury Awareness month. The Proclamations are expected to be voted on and passed in mid-March. ◀

BIAA Announces Upcoming Webinars

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has [posted](#) their upcoming live webinars, including Functional Outcome Trajectories Following Inpatient Rehabilitation for TBI; Contracting and Payor Relations; Recreation Therapy Following Brain Injury; Symptom Attribution in Service Members with Mild TBI and PTSD; Getting Your Life Back After Brain Injury: Five Ways to Rehab Your Mind and Life; and Managing Emotions After Brain Injury. ◀

Webinar: Functional Outcome Trajectories Following Inpatient Rehabilitation for TBI

Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD, Director of the Brain Injury Research Center of Mount Sinai will conduct a one-hour [webinar](#) on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 3:00 pm EST that will use data to discuss factors associated with unfavorable trajectories after a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Population-weighted data is used from the TBI Model Systems National Database to show the large variability in TBI outcomes over time. The results from these investigations can assist in determining what kinds of preventative interventions will maximize independence for individuals with TBI. ◀

Funding Opportunity for Chronic Disease Management for Individuals With TBI

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) recently announced a project on chronic disease management for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The objective of the project is to improve long-term health outcomes of individuals with TBI. The grantee will conduct research at the intervention – development stage, to directly inform and shape the development of chronic disease management approaches for meeting the complex and varied health care needs of individuals who have a TBI. The funding agency is the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the award amount is \$500,000. For additional information, please [use this link](#). The closing date for interested parties is April 10, 2020. ◀



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.

CHC Corner

Community HealthChoices (CHC) became a statewide program as of January 1, 2020, serving Pennsylvanians aged 21 and over who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid (who did not enroll in the LIFE program instead) and for those eligible for Medicaid who meet the nursing facility level of care, regardless of setting. Across the five CHC Regions over 450,000 participants have been transitioned into the program since January 1, 2018. The three participating managed care plans are UPMC Community HealthChoices, AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania/ Keystone First, and PA Health & Wellness. The Department has included a large number of quality measures in the design of CHC with monitoring reports that compare data over time, between the plans, over and under 60, by setting, and by eligibility status. Data points include enrollment, service plan changes, service denials, grievances and appeals, incident reporting, nursing facility transitions, and use of home modifications and transportation. Future metrics will include use of employment services. General information about CHC is available [here](#). ◀

Governor's Proposed Budget for the Commonwealth for Fiscal Year 2020–21

(provided by Policy Information Exchange)

Initiatives

The Governor is again calling on the General Assembly to raise the minimum wage to \$15.00/hour by July 1, 2026. His proposal assumes the first step of \$12.00/hour would take effect on July 1, 2020 and is projected to generate \$133.3 million in tax revenue, plus some offsets in health care eligibility. Several programs where wages may not be at or above \$12.00 are projected to receive additional funding for a net cost of \$10.7 million to DHS. The Department of Human Services (DHS) would receive \$5.1 million for additional staff to inspect facilities and monitor corrective action plans of providers.

Federal Financial Participation

The Governor's budget includes funds to provide additional state money for Medicaid programs due to the small decrease in Federal matching funds to Pennsylvania from 52.25% to 52.18%. Department-wide, this will require \$18.6 million in FY 20–21.

Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) would receive an increase of \$17,389,000 (27%) that includes increased utilization and replacing Tobacco Settlement Funds. A supplemental appropriation of \$12,156,000 is needed for the increased costs in FY 2019–2020.

The Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) would receive an increase of \$294,000 (.5%) that includes increased utilization and adjustments for changes in federal matching rates. A supplemental appropriation of \$6 million less is reflected in the revised costs in FY 2019–2020. The proposed budget does not reflect movement to a state-wide broker for MATP.

Medical Assistance Community HealthChoices would receive an increase of \$910,101,000 (35.7%) including funds to annualize the third phase that began 1/1/20 and replacement of Tobacco Settlement Funds. Initiatives include \$25.5 million to provide an increase in the minimum wage to \$12.00/hour, \$1.2 million to provide training to direct care workers of individuals who use the participant-directed program, and \$1.4 million to expand access to services for individuals who are ventilator dependent. The program would receive \$14,953,000 in Lottery Funds to serve older Pennsylvanians. A supplemental appropriation of \$208 million is needed for the increased costs in FY 2019–2020.

Medical Assistance Long-Term Living (formerly named Long-Term Care) would receive a funding decrease of \$413,554,000 (76.9%) that reflects the addition of the OBRA waiver and Attendant Care Act 150 into the line item and the transfer out of nursing facility costs for individuals transitioned to Community HealthChoices. The line item

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includes costs for individuals who receive fee-for-service Medicaid in nursing facilities. A supplemental appropriation of \$46.4 million is needed for the increased costs in FY 2019–2020.

Home and Community-Based Services (the Aging Waiver), Services to Persons with Disabilities, and Attendant Care are reduced 100% and the costs to serve the remaining individuals in the OBRA and Act 150 programs are merged into Medical Assistance Long-Term Living. The three line items are projected to receive supplemental appropriations for FY 2019–2020 of \$32 million more, \$12.75 million more, and \$5.79 million less, respectively.

Long-Term Care Managed Care (LIFE program) would receive an increase of \$9.6 million that includes services to an additional 430 individuals age 55 and over. A supplemental appropriation of \$47.9 million is needed for the increased costs in FY 2019–2020.

Department of Aging

The Lottery funded PENNCARE program reflects an initiative of \$8.1 million to serve an additional 1,700 seniors on the OPTIONS waiting list. This Aging Network program serves individuals 60 and over who are not CHC waiver-eligible and who live in the community. ◀

Mental Health

Collaborative Documentation Final Guidance Issued

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) issued final guidance on the use of collaborative documentation (CD) during the delivery of services. While not reimbursed through a code, it is considered included in existing service rates. OMHSAS supports the use and reimbursement of CD in the delivery of behavioral health services as an approach to further the transparency, engagement, and active participation in person-centered treatment and recovery. Please see more information below and contact [Sarah Eyster](#) with questions.

- ▶ [Collaborative Documentation Memo from OMHSAS Acting Deputy Secretary Valerie Vicari](#)
- ▶ [Collaborative Documentation Attachment A](#)
- ▶ [Collaborative Documentation Attachment B](#) ◀

Guidelines for the Use of Telehealth Technology in the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services Issued

On February 20, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) issued bulletin [OMHSAS 20-02](#), regarding the use of Telehealth in behavioral health services. The purpose of this bulletin is to update the guidelines for delivering behavioral health services using telehealth technology previously issued in OMHSAS Bulletin 14-01, “OMHSAS Guidelines for the Approval of Telepsych Services in HealthChoices.”

These updated guidelines include the following key changes from OMHSAS Bulletin 14-01:

- 1) Expands the use of Telehealth to behavioral health practitioners who provide services in the Medical Assistance (MA) Fee for Service (FFS) delivery system.
- 2) Expands the use of Telehealth to include treatment provided by Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) certified in mental health; Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs); Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs); and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs).

In the FFS delivery system, psychiatrists, psychologists, CRNPs, PAs certified in mental health, LCSWs, LPCs, and LMFTs can provide services using Telehealth in Psychiatric Outpatient Clinics, Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Programs, and Drug & Alcohol Outpatient Clinics. BH-MCOs may allow additional provider settings to utilize Telehealth.

Comments and questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to: Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Policy, Planning & Program Development, PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105. General Office Number: 717-772-7900. ◀

2020 Mental Health Steering Committee Priorities

The RCPA Mental Health Steering Committee has determined that the following are its 2020 priorities:

- ▶ Workforce recruitment and retention;
- ▶ Financial sustainability, including Value-Based Payments (VBP), regardless of payor;
- ▶ Outpatient redesign, inclusive of regulatory reform; and
- ▶ Advances in technology to support our work.

To make these items actionable, the MH Steering Committee will become a working committee, with reports back to the full Mental Health Committee. The committee will determine strategies to:

- ▶ Expand areas for stakeholder (external) partnership opportunities;
- ▶ Seek to inform technology efforts in the industry and legislature; and
- ▶ Take the lead on necessary regulatory changes. ◀

Integrated Community Wellness Clinics (ICWC – Formerly CCBHC)

The ICWC program details continue to be unveiled. Each former CCBHC has been given rates and asked to let OMHSAS know if they will be participating in the new program by April 1. Additionally, the billing code has been shared, which will need to be added to all systems.

As noted in previous material, while the ICWC providers can bill the BH-MCOs for the services that they are approved to deliver, they will be unable to pull down the per member per month capitation rate until August. This remains a huge concern for the ICWC providers. The providers will also have to work with their electronic health records to ensure that the required reporting data elements are built in.

OMHSAS will be holding technical assistance calls with the ICWCs soon. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact [Sarah Eyster](#). ◀



Free SUD Staff Training Available on Opioids and Brain Injury

Did you know?

- ▶ Oxygen is essential to the human brain, and a lack of oxygen to the brain causes damage
- ▶ The opioid epidemic has led to a whole new phenomenon – those who are overdosing but not dying, called “toxic brain injury”
- ▶ This type of brain injury occurs from prolonged substance misuse and nonfatal overdose
- ▶ Hypoxic brain injury occurs when the brain does not receive enough oxygen, while anoxic brain injury occurs when the brain does not receive any oxygen
- ▶ In these situations, the amount of time the brain is without adequate oxygen dictates the severity of injury
- ▶ Opioids cause brain injury by decreasing or temporarily suspending oxygen to the brain
- ▶ Cognitive impairment from brain injury can prevent successful outcomes in substance abuse treatment programs
- ▶ Cognitive rehabilitation strategies can be integrated into substance use disorder (SUD) programs to help people with brain injury achieve improved outcomes

The training course, sponsored by the PA Department of Health (DOH) and offered by the Brain Injury Association of PA (BIAPA), is titled **Brain Injury and Opioids**, and will assist those working with opioids and those working with brain injury to better understand what cognitive deficits are, and how these cognitive impairments interact with treatment for brain injury and for opioids. This high level course is geared towards psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, and addictions counselors. Course topics include:

- ▶ **Brain Basics and the Toxic Brain:** Topics include brain anatomy and function, the biological basis of behavior, mechanisms of injury, and the impact of opioids on neurochemistry and brain structure.
- ▶ **Understanding the Effects of Pathology:** Topics will include screening tools for clinicians, neurocognitive assessments, and how to use this information to develop customized interventions for managing challenging emotional and cognitive issues. Additionally, developing environmental supports and cues, and methods for implementing productive daily activity patterns will be addressed.
- ▶ **Cognitive, Emotional, and Behavioral Techniques for Treating Persons with Co-Occurring Opioid**

Misuse and Brain Injury: Topics will focus on substance misuse and how to pair cognitive interventions with substance misuse interventions in order to increase treatment success.

- ▶ **The Integration of Client Needs, Resources, and Funding:** This part of the course will focus on co-occurring brain injury and substance misuse resources, including community-based treatment options and supports.

The course is designed to be provided at the service provider’s location as a series of four, 2-hour trainings for small groups of 25 staff at a time. Upon completion of a knowledge check, participants will receive a course certificate, indicating their achievement on this topic. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be made available for Psychology, Social Work, and other disciplines as applicable.

For more information or to schedule a training, contact:

[Monica Vaccaro](#), BIAPA Director of Programs
215-718-5052

2020 Drug & Alcohol Committee Rate Setting Work Group Convenes

The Rate Setting Work Group had their first meeting at RCPA on February 20, 2020 and had robust discussion about the current rates of reimbursement for drug and alcohol treatment services in Pennsylvania. The group is particularly focused on the XYZ package, as rates do not ever completely cover the costs of care, and MCOs often utilize the same rates. Additionally, the XYZ package does not align with ASAM criteria, and 3.7 level of care (Medically Monitored High-Intensity Inpatient Services) is not reimbursed at all.

The work group intends to work with DDAP to address the reimbursement formulas for the XYZ package, attempt to gain clarity and transparency on the different reimbursement rates between counties for both inpatient and outpatient care, and advocate for Value-Based Purchasing models that are not based on a withhold model and which establish measures of effectiveness that are reflective of the recurrent and persistent nature of substance dependency. ◀

Meth is Flooding the Streets – and It’s Uglier Than Ever

USA Today, February 17, 2020 / by Terry DeMio, Cincinnati Enquirer

The floor seemed filthy, and she could not get rid of the grime. Amie Detzel frantically scrubbed that nursing home floor with cleaning supplies she’d found. On hands and knees, dragging her IV pole with her, the gravely sick woman incessantly scrubbed. Meth had found its way into the nursing home.

The psychotic episode happened after Detzel spent days (and nights) pushing the drug into the intravenous catheter her caregivers used to infuse antibiotics into her heart, which had become infected by a contaminated needle.

Methamphetamine, the primary drug flooding the streets of Cincinnati and other communities across the country, is a psychostimulant. It can induce psychosis. That explains the scrubbing... [\[read full article\]](#). ◀



They Fell in Love Helping Drug Users But Fear Kept Him From Helping Himself

NPR, February 24, 2020

She was in medical school. He was just out of prison. Sarah Ziegenhorn and Andy Beeler’s romance grew out of a shared passion to do more about the country’s drug overdose crisis...

People close to Beeler describe him as a “blue-collar guy” who liked motorcycles and home carpentry, someone who was gentle and endlessly curious. Those qualities could sometimes hide his own struggle with anxiety and depression. Over the next year, Beeler’s other struggle, with opioid addiction, would flicker around the edges of their life together. Eventually, it killed him.

People on parole and under supervision can face barriers to receiving appropriate treatment for opioid addiction. Ziegenhorn says she believes Beeler’s death is linked to the many obstacles to medical care that he experienced while on parole.

About 4.5 million people are on parole or probation in the U.S., and [research shows](#) that those under community supervision are much more likely to have a history of substance use disorder than the general population. Yet rules and practices guiding these agencies can preclude parolees and people who are on probation from getting evidence-based treatment for their addiction... [\[read full article\]](#). ◀

March is IDD Awareness Month

Governor Tom Wolf has signed a [proclamation](#) highlighting Pennsylvania's accomplishments towards the goal of full inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Additionally, each March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities ([NACDD](#)) partners with the Association for University Centers on Disabilities ([AUCD](#)) and the National Disabilities Rights Network ([NDRN](#)), to create a social media campaign that highlights the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities.

The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) 2020 Images and Artwork:

If you have resources that you would like to submit or would like your artwork to be featured, please send them to [Bob McWilliams](#). ◀

People Like Us: Who Wins When Personal Choice for People With a Disability Clashes With the Inclusion Agenda?

By Phil Hayes-Brown, CEO, Wallara Australia
January 23, 2020



Trace and Mary are great American friends. A few weeks ago, our 2 families shared a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday in Arizona. On the drive back to California, I mentioned to my wife how wonderful it was to have been able to spend time with 'People Like Us'.

I put that phrase in inverted commas because we use it frequently in my family. We even shortened it to 'PLUs'.

As we moved around the world together – we spent 9 years outside Australia with stops in Singapore, Paris, London and Europe - we always loved learning about different cultures and meeting new people. But most often lately we find ourselves seeking out PLU's.

Feeling more comfortable, safer or accepted with PLU's is a very human thing. You might say we are hard wired to do it. The implicit or unconscious lean towards preferring PLU's is called an affinity bias and it's just one of several inherent biases that social scientists are learning more about all the time... [\[read full article\]](#). ◀

Provider Partnership PreETS Survey

The provider partnership is conducting a study in order to determine where services are available throughout PA for students who would like Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS). If your agency provides these services, or had provided them in the past but discontinued your services, please complete this [online survey](#). ◀



National Expansion Opportunities Network Initiative

In partnership with ANCOR, RCPA will be working with subject matter expert Jeannine Pavlak to provide training and supports to our members, in order to promote Competitive Integrated Employment. Over the next five months, we will be receiving 40 hours of technical assistance to the development and implementation of individual capacity building strategic plans designed to advance competitive integrated employment. ◀

#DisabilityCounts2020

#DisabilityCounts2020 is an online campaign to spread awareness as to the importance of being counted in the [2020 United States Census](#). For people with disabilities, services provided by state and federal government can mean the difference between receiving needed supports and not. Federal programs such as Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are among some of the services affected by Census data.

Census data determines how much federal aid is distributed to each community segment and for what purpose. Services and supports can be more specifically tailored to each individual community and group based on the Census data that is gathered. Not being counted can result in the loss of services and supports that allow individuals to live an everyday life. Disability Rights Pennsylvania is working to assist disabled Pennsylvanians in making sure they respond to the census questions accurately so that an accurate count can be determined and the services and supports they need are not negatively impacted.

Providers of service to individuals with disabilities should complete the census for each home they operate, as well as assuring individuals they serve who live independently participate in the survey.

Census Day is April 1, 2020. Ninety-Five percent of people will receive their Census invitations through the mail between March 10 – March 20, 2020. The Census questionnaire may be completed [by mail](#), [by phone](#), or [online](#). If the Census form has not been submitted by the dates of the last reminder period (April 20–April 27), the Census Bureau will follow up in person. ◀

ODP Communications Since Last RCPA News

- ▶ ODP Bulletin 00-20-01 Release of Chapter 6400 Regulatory Guide
- ▶ Regulatory Compliance Guide Chapter 6400 2/3/20 Edition
- ▶ ODP Bulletin 00-20-02 Individual Support Plans for Individuals Receiving Targeted Support Management, Base-Funded Services, Consolidated, Community Living or P/FDS Waiver Services, or Who Reside in an ICF/ID
- ▶ Attachment #1 ISP Manual
- ▶ Attachment #2 ISP Timeline
- ▶ Attachment #3 ISP Signature Form
- ▶ Attachment #4 Annotated ISP
- ▶ Attachment #5 Lifecourse Framework and Principles to Guide the Development of the ISP
- ▶ Attachment #6 Questions to Help Facilitate the Development of the ISP
- ▶ Attachment #7 DP 1022 Waiver Service Request Form
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-007 Provider Qualification Process
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-008 What the Vocational Rehabilitation's Announcement Regarding the Order of Selection Waiting List Means for Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) Services
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-009 Provider Closure Notification Form (DP 1061)
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-010 The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Provides Written Notice of Provider Requalification Requirements
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-011 Revision to the Enhanced Communication Rate for Services
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-012 Broadening Provider Qualifications for the Benefits Counseling Service
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-013 Quality Management Recertification for 2016 and 2018 QM Certificate Holders
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-014 New ODP Regulation Update Clarification Regarding Medication Administration Requirements
- ▶ Attachment #1 Medication Administration Question and Answer Document Version !
- ▶ Attachment #2 Medication Administration Training Requirements by Service
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-015 Using the Correct Medication Administration Website and Spring 2020 Face-to Face training Information
- ▶ ODP Announcement 20-016 Open for Public Comment: Electronic Visit Verification for Personal Care Services
- ▶ ODP Licensing Chapters Updated With New Requirements
- ▶ Office of Inspector General Report January 2020
- ▶ ODP Letter regarding Provider Risk Screening 2/13/20
- ▶ OVR Contact Information for ID/A Coordinators – Updated 1/3/20
- ▶ Supporting Transgender Clients Training Series:
 - Harrisburg dates – Friday, April 3 (two sessions offered) & Thursday, May 21 (two sessions offered)
 - Pittsburgh dates – Thursday, April 16 (two sessions offered) & Friday, April 17 (one session offered)
 - Scranton dates – Tuesday, March 17 (two sessions offered)
- ▶ Everyday Lives: Values in Action – ISAC Recommendations, Strategies and Performance Measures
- ▶ Registration is now Open for Initial Certified Investigator Course Sessions through August 2020

OCYF Revises Bulletin for Notification Process of Licensing Actions and Incidents

On October 21, 2019, the Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF) convened a meeting to bring together representatives from entities covered within the scope of OCYF Bulletin #00-19-02, to discuss the intent of the notification protocol, and to develop recommendations for improvements to the process.

- ▶ A new bulletin will be issued promptly to remove the issuance of a notification regarding removal of staff under an approved plan of supervision. These notifications are no longer being sent. This bulletin will also remove any notifications listed that are duplicative of one another, specifically those that would equate to a citation and issuance of a licensing inspection summary (LIS), as those already trigger a notification.
- ▶ Pending the implementation of CPSL amendments, another bulletin will be issued to include a quarterly report that will be provided to county agencies and dependency and delinquency judges, providing aggregate child abuse and substantiation data for child residential or day treatment facilities, approved foster or pre-adoptive homes, and youth development centers and youth forestry camps. If/when the CPSL is amended to permit the release of specific aggregate data, a new bulletin will be issued that will provide for county agencies and dependency and delinquency judges to receive substantiation information at the conclusion of an investigation, regardless of whether they are the placing county for the child or youth for these same placement settings. ◀

RELIAS Corner

As an RCPA member, you have unique and discounted access to the RELIAS Training Academy, which offers a full line of training curriculums, including the OMHSAS-approved Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) training for your Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) program staff. Check out your [RELIAS member benefits](#). ◀

RELIAS Leading Practices Training Plan Tips & Tricks

Implement these training plan best practices on your Relias Platform site to set up your organization's Relias users for success in 2020.

- ▶ Unapprove old training plans that won't be used this year. This cleans up your training plan list but maintains your site's ability to report on these training plan completions.
- ▶ Make sure training plans display courses to learners in order by due date, then alphabetically. Stagger due dates in your non-recurring training plans so that users view and complete courses in your preferred order.
- ▶ Use training plans to assign courses with monthly due dates, instead of a single end-of-year due date, to promote knowledge retention and encourage users to avoid procrastination. ◀

IBHS Codes and MA FFS Rate Schedule

As part of ongoing Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) implementation, OMHSAS has released the IBHS Codes and Medical Assistance (MA) Fee for Services Rate Schedule Bulletin that can be seen [here](#).

The Bulletin provides an enhanced overview and greater detail into the procedures and processes, including the use of evidence-based practices, assessments, and guidance on service provision and billing for IBHS as a current BHRS provider. Additionally, the rate schedule outlines service limits and enhanced service descriptions definitions. ◀

How to Attract Highly Skilled Behavioral Health Professionals

By Jeanine D'Alusio, RELIAS | January 22, 2020

Behavioral health care organizations [are] struggling to find and keep skilled staff members. The combined strain of the national health care staff shortage and soaring turnover rates is not only affecting employers, but also the clients they serve. And it may only get worse in the coming years... To maintain a steady footing in the future of health care, you need to become a magnet for the types of health care professionals you seek, which may include having to reimagine the way you hire and retain substance use counselors, psychiatrists, social workers, PMHNS, and other behavioral health staff workers. How do you do this? The first step begins with knowing how to make your organization stand out among the sea of other organizations scrambling to fill the same roles... [\[read full article\]](#). ◀



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

RCPA Regional Meetings

Monday, March 16	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Northeast Regional Meeting <i>Allied Services Charles Luger Building (Community Room)</i> 475 Morgan Highway, Scranton, PA 18508
Tuesday, March 17	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Southeast Regional Meeting <i>Inglis Innovation Center</i> 2560 Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131
Monday, March 30	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Southwest Regional Meeting <i>RLA Learning & Conference Center</i> 850 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Tuesday, March 31	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Northwest Regional Meeting <i>Courtyard by Marriott, Erie Ambassador Conference Center</i> 7792 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509
Wednesday, April 1	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Central Regional Meeting <i>RCPA Conference Center - Penn Grant Centre</i> 777 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111

MARCH

Tuesday, March 10	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Children's Steering Committee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Tuesday, March 10	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Thursday, March 12	1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	OPEN MINDS Presentation <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Tuesday, March 17	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Med Rehab Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, March 17	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Wednesday, March 18	9:30 am – 11:30 am	IDD Employment Subcommittee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Wednesday, March 18	9:15 am – 11:30 am	SCO Subcommittee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Wednesday, March 18	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	IDD Committee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Thursday, March 19	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Government Affairs Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Thursday, March 19	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Physical Disabilities & Aging Division <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Tuesday, March 24	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	RCPA Capitol Day <i>Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg, PA</i>



MARCH

Tuesday, March 24	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Annual Membership Meeting <i>Webcast</i>
Thursday, March 26	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	MITC Training – Software Training at RCPA: EVV & MORE <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>

APRIL

Thursday, April 2	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Brain Injury Committee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Thursday, April 2	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	IPRC Webinar – Vocal Cord Dysfunction: Understanding Pathophysiology
Tuesday, April 7	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Tuesday, April 14	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Wednesday, April 15	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Residential Subcommittee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Thursday, April 16	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Government Affairs Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Thursday, April 16	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Human Resources Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Thursday, April 16	9:00 am – 12:15 pm	Recruitment & Retention Workshop Session 1 <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Thursday, April 16	1:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Recruitment & Retention Workshop Session 2 <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Tuesday, April 21	9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Drug & Alcohol Committee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Tuesday, April 21	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Criminal Justice Committee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Wednesday, April 22	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Mental Health Committee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>
Wednesday, April 22	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Children's Committee <i>RCPA Conference Center</i>