

## ❖ CONFERENCE

### Leading in 2021: Hoping, Healing, Helping Conference Registration Now Open

RCPA, Community Behavioral Health of Maryland (MDCBH), and the Ability Network of Delaware (A.N.D.) are pleased to **open registration** for our virtual conference, **Leading in 2021: Hoping, Healing, Helping**, September 28 – October 1. RCPA, MDCBH, A.N.D. staff and the Conference Committee have worked tirelessly to create an exciting event that has something for everyone. With the move to virtual only, the final schedule will be posted at the end of August.



**For individual registration, please visit [here](#). If registering for a group, please visit [here](#).**

With more than 50 continuing education (CE) hours, attendees will be able to fulfill licensing cycle required education in just a few days! In addition to live sessions, there are several on-demand sessions that offer critical topics and information. You can make a payment for CE credits at the time of registration or log in and pay during the event.

Topics and guests include:

- ▶ Updates from our national partners at ANCOR and the National Council for Mental Wellbeing;
- ▶ Nic Sheff, author and son portrayed in the movie Beautiful Boy, will describe how addiction and recovery impacted his life and family;
- ▶ State of the States – policy priorities across Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania directly from each state’s human service leader;
- ▶ Learn more about the addicted brain from TV star and Dauphin County Coroner Graham Hetrick;
- ▶ Hear about the Neurodiversity movement and employment opportunities that exist for people who are neurodivergent;
- ▶ Conference favorite, human resources lawyer Mike Cohen, will talk about DEI in the workplace;
- ▶ Leadership investment in the “intangible skills” – what are they?;
- ▶ The use of technology to help people remain in their homes;
- ▶ The use of poetry to reach children; and
- ▶ Much more, including telemedicine, leadership, managed care, and value-based purchasing.

Our virtual conference can be viewed on any device. Find Connections Hall sponsors and exhibitors, hear about endeavors and innovations, and learn how they can help you. Go for the points to win one of 10 prizes!

Finally, we are creating some entertaining break and after-hour events, which offer informal networking opportunities for our attendees. There will be some fun competition with exciting prizes. Visit the [RCPA Conference website](#) for specific updates to the schedule, posted as they become finalized. ◀



## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

September 2021

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

#### **Mental Health America of Lancaster County**

245 Butler Ave, Ste 204  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Kim McDevitt, Executive Director

#### **Mission for Educating Children with Autism**

100 E Lancaster Ave  
Downingtown, PA 19335  
Gloria Satriale, Executive Director

### BUSINESS MEMBERS

#### **Lockton Companies**

751 Arbor Way  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
Tim Folk, Executive Vice President

## About RCPA:

With well over 350 members, the majority of who serve over 1 million Pennsylvanians annually, Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) is among the largest and most diverse state health and human services trade associations in the nation. RCPA advocates for those in need, works to advance effective state and federal public policies, serves as a forum for the exchange of information and experience, and provides professional support to members. RCPA provider members offer mental health, drug and alcohol, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children's, brain injury, medical rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging services, through all settings and levels of care. Contact **Tieanna Lloyd**, Membership Services Manager, with questions about membership.

[View Benefits of Membership](#)

[Join RCPA or Renew Your Membership](#)



## STAFF

### **Richard S. Edley, PhD**

*President and CEO*

### **Allison Brognia**

*Event Planner/ Accounts Payable Manager*

### **Melissa Dehoff**

*Director, Rehabilitation Services Divisions*

### **Sarah Eyster, MSW**

*Director, Mental Health Division*

### **Carol Ferenz**

*Director, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Division*

### **Cindi Hobbes**

*Director, International Pediatric Rehabilitation Collaborative*

### **Tieanna Lloyd**

*Accounts Receivable/Membership Services Manager*

### **Tina Miletic**

*Assistant to the President/CEO, Finance Manager*

### **Sharon Militello**

*Director, Communications*

### **Jack Phillips, JD**

*Director, Government Affairs*

### **Jim Sharp, MS**

*Director, Children's Division*

### **Jason Snyder**

*Director, Drug & Alcohol Division*

### **Joan Martin, XtraGlobex**

*Consultant, Physical Disabilities & Aging Policy Director*

### **Fady Sahhar, XtraGlobex**

*Consultant, RCPA Acting COO*

## ❖ SPECIAL FEATURES

### COVID-19 Healthcare ETS

By Gordon Smoko, CSP, CFPS, ARM, Senior Risk Manager | Brown & Brown of Lehigh Valley, LP

On June 10, 2021 OSHA issued a new standard (1910.502-Healthcare), effective immediately, to protect health care workers from the coronavirus. This includes employees in hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities; emergency responders; home healthcare workers; and employees in ambulatory care facilities where suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are treated. OSHA posted compliance and implementation information at their new [Emergency Temporary Standard \(ETS\) web page](#).

First off, RCPA members will need to determine if the ETS standard applies to them. The ETS standard may apply to RCPA members, depending on some exemptions noted in the standard. **For example, the standard does not apply to “Home healthcare settings where all employees are fully vaccinated, and all nonemployees are screened prior to entry and people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not present.”** OSHA has a flowchart to determine if this standard applies to you on the ETS web page; see the link [“Is your Workplace Covered by the ETS.”](#) [\[read full article\]](#) ◀



### Point of Partnership: Clinical Intervention at the Scene

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People with behavioral health conditions are disproportionately represented in courtrooms and prisons, which means law enforcement uses valuable resources addressing behavioral health crises instead of those professionals more equipped to do so. Likewise, emergency departments end up addressing behavioral health crises when there are other resources intended specifically for that purpose. Consequently, law enforcement sometimes becomes the back-up behavioral health crisis system, cycling individuals with behavioral health challenges in and out of the criminal justice system, driving up recidivism and cost – both personal and financial. However, we can improve response to behavioral health emergencies by creating community-based behavioral health crisis systems that work. Download the White Paper: [Point of Partnership: Clinical Intervention at the Scene](#). ◀

## ❖ DIVERSITY

### Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Efforts Continue

The RCPA Diversity Survey results are complete. Thank you to all who participated. For complete results, please view the report here: [RCPA Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Survey Report 2021](#).

The RCPA Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee is committed to supporting RCPA members in both their personal and organizational Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion journeys. The next step in our collective RCPA journey is to begin sharing and telling our stories. While no two organizations are identical, there is comradery in common challenges and shared successes. Community is one of the greatest benefits of belonging to an association such as RCPA, and the DEI committee hopes to leverage our strong relationships and common experiences to speed our learning and progress.

By sharing what we have tried, what we have learned, and where we continue to struggle, we allow others to benefit from our experience. Through this, we can collectively problem solve, offer support, develop partnerships, and empower others. In the coming months, the committee will feature RCPA members engaged in DEI efforts and share practical ideas and lessons learned through their implementation. Our hope is that through this, others would be inspired to follow suit and make changes in their own workplaces and communities. If you have a DEI related story or idea to share, please contact [Cindi Hobbes](#) or [Jim Sharp](#).

Read on for some [practical ideas](#) from *Harvard Business Review*. ◀

## RCPA Telehealth Position Statement

After 18 months of telehealth service implementation, the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) has conducted provider telehealth satisfaction surveys, created a provider telehealth task force, and developed policy positions regarding the future of telehealth services. As the Wolf Administration, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and the Department of Human Services seek to make telehealth services permanent, RCPA sets forth our telehealth service recommendations for implementation across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. RCPA has compiled the provider comments from these efforts and we believe the following recommendations represent a viable and successful pathway for practitioners and those in need of services. [\[read full article\]](#) ◀

## Federal Telehealth

There are more than 100 telehealth-related bills that have been introduced in this 117th Congress, and many capture the needed flexibilities that ensure best practices and access to services for practitioners and consumers. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), as well as the Office of Civil Rights and Compliance, are reviewing these standards, including the use of audio/telephonic-only telehealth delivery. RCPA continues to advocate through our State and Federal Legislators and the National Council of Wellbeing on any pending telehealth legislation. If you have questions or feedback, please contact RCPA Children's Division Director [Jim Sharp](#) or your RCPA Policy Director. ◀

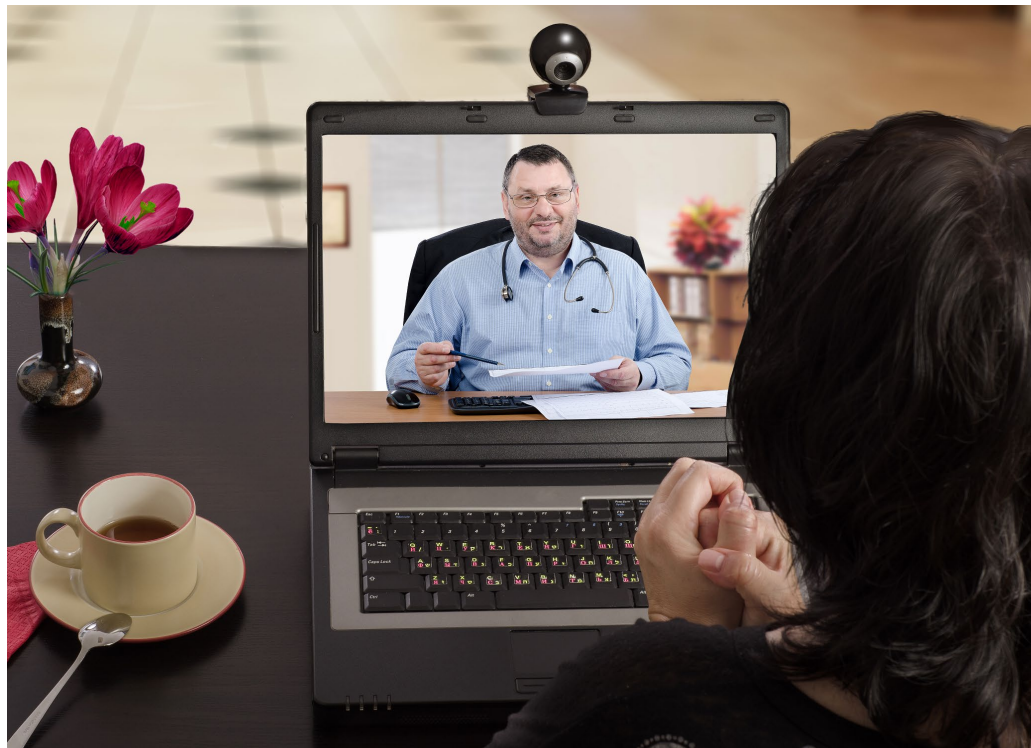
## OMHSAS PA Telehealth Bulletin Approved

The Department of Human Services' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) announces that Bulletin OMHSAS-21-09, titled **"Guidelines for the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services Through Telehealth"** has been issued and [posted on the Department's website](#). **Please read the Bulletin in its entirety.**

The purpose of this bulletin is to update the guidelines for payment of behavioral health services delivered using telehealth technology previously issued in OMHSAS-20-02 *Guidelines for the Use of Telehealth Technology in the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services*. ◀

## PA Telehealth Legislation

Currently in the PA State House and Senate, there are two compatible telehealth bills that have been drafted. RCPA has been working with legislators on the impacts of House Bill 1573 and Senate Bill 705. The bills essentially address many of the current practices of telehealth, including audio-only, but many of the current flexibilities have not been adequately addressed. RCPA continues its work with both the House and Senate on language and practices that ensure parity, equity, and access, should this legislation continue through its process. ◀





## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### 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 current Legislative Session. If you have questions on a specific bill or policy, please contact **Jack Phillips**, Director of Government Affairs. ◀

- ▶ Autism
- ▶ Brain Injury
- ▶ COVID
- ▶ Children and Youth
- ▶ Drug and Alcohol
- ▶ Human Services
- ▶ Insurance
- ▶ Intellectual/Developmental Disability
- ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ Minimum Wage
- ▶ Suicide
- ▶ Telemedicine
- ▶ Telehealth

## BRAIN INJURY

### Nancy's House Offers 9-Week Support Group this Fall

The Council on Brain Injury (CoBI) is once again sponsoring Nancy's House Support Group. The 9-week support group is for caregivers whose loved ones have experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury. The group will meet via Zoom every Tuesday from 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm, beginning September 14. The 9 weeks are dedicated to bringing support and skills to caregivers from others walking the same path. [See flyer](#) for dates and registration information. ◀

## MENTAL HEALTH

### Coalition for the Mental Health Safety Net

The Coalition Communications Work Group continues to meet bi-monthly to work on the next outreach to legislators as they return to Harrisburg later this month. The upcoming message is about the disappointment in not increasing county funding by \$28M and also that the need has not dissipated and is even greater at this time. We are urging legislators to spend the ARP funds this fall, and the group continues to request personal stories and videos to share with legislators and drive home that this crisis is getting worse. The next full group meeting of the Coalition is Thursday September 9, at 10:00 am. Please [register here](#) to participate. ◀

### Monthly Mental Health Leadership Meetings

RCPA mental health providers are encouraged to join the Mental Health Steering Committee for a monthly discussion about business operations and challenges during and post-COVID. These discussions are opportunities to discuss the workforce crisis, vaccine mandate challenges, licensing, and other operational concerns. The meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month, 1:30 pm–2:30 pm. Please join these meetings as you are able. To register for the September 21 meeting, please visit [here](#). ◀

### RCPA Working with OMHSAS to Make Psychiatric Rehabilitation an In-Plan Service

The timing seems to finally be right – psychiatric rehabilitation is being considered by OMHSAS to become an in-plan service of Behavioral HealthChoices. With updated regulations and the need to meet social determinants of health, OMHSAS is better positioned to work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) toward bringing these services in-plan. More information will be offered as it becomes available. ◀



### As Providers Plead for Help, Millions in Relief Dollars Sit Idle

Two of the most significant public health crises of our lifetime – the Covid pandemic and the opioid overdose death epidemic – have hit the addiction treatment system and the patients it serves especially hard. Add to a chronically underfunded system struggling with an alarming workforce shortage the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' (DDAP) ill-timed transition to the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria that includes unfunded mandate add-ons, and the very integrity of the system is at risk. Fortunately, the federal government has stepped in with resources to combat the epidemic and the pandemic. In fact, by this fall, DDAP will have received just this year more than \$100 million in special grant money, including \$55 million in Covid supplemental funds and \$48 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars. Now, perhaps more than ever, addiction treatment providers desperately need this money. Unfortunately, none of it has made its way to providers yet [[read full article](#)]. ◀

### The Conservatorship Issue: More Conflict For Consumers With Disabilities?

July 16, 2021 | Monica E. Oss

Like much of America, I learned about the Britney Spears conservatorship situation through the extensive news coverage of her recent court hearing. In case you missed it, on June 23, Ms. Spears made a statement to a probate judge, pleading for an end to her “abusive” conservatorship of 13 years, overseen primarily by her father. In 2008, after she purportedly struggled with mental health issues and was hospitalized, a Los Angeles court granted conservatorship, giving her father and another co-conservator power over her finances and medical decisions. Among other terms (all the details are not public knowledge), the conservatorship has resulted in the mandatory use of an intrauterine device (IUD) to prevent her from having more children. And earlier this week, Ms. Spears made a second court appearance in less than a month, declaring her intent to file formal abuse charges against her conservatorship [[read full article](#)]. ◀

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### PA Suicide Prevention Guide: *Creating Hope Through Action*

In the United States, September is acknowledged as Suicide Prevention Month, with the week of September 5–11 identified as National Suicide Prevention Week. Around the world, September 10 is recognized as World Suicide Prevention Day. The goal of annual suicide prevention observances is to provide education and encourage advocacy around this public health challenge toward which prevention efforts can and should occur every single day.

This September, the theme of Suicide Prevention Month is *Creating Hope Through Action*. As communities here in Pennsylvania, nationwide, and around the world continue to experience the social, economic, and health-related impacts and disparities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this theme offers an important opportunity to work together to promote awareness, provide support, and take action to prevent suicide.

Everyone has a role in preventing suicide. In recognizing Suicide Prevention Month, we can work to reduce the stigma around suicide, suicide attempts, and mental health challenges, and we can reinforce the message that help is available. The following guide offers a broad range of suicide prevention resources and strategies for individuals, families, organizations, and communities. The information in this [guide](#) can be used during the month of September and throughout the year. ◀

### IBHS Corner

As the implementation of Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) continues, OMHSAS has recently [updated the IBHS FAQ document](#) outlining an expansive question and answer forum to operational implementation values of the regulations under Chapter 5200. If you have any questions or feedback regarding your IBHS programming, please contact RCPA Children's Division Director [Jim Sharp](#). ◀



### RCPA Events Calendar

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