



## [February 2020 Behavioral Health Update](#)

### **AHA Behavioral Health Council names 2020 chair, chair-elect**

**Raymond Waller**, director/administrator at Ascension Brighton (Mich.) Center for Recovery, now chairs the AHA's Behavioral Health Council for 2020, and **Robert Trestman, M.D.**, chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, Va., will serve as chair-elect. Joining the council in 2020 are: **Craig Aasved**, CEO of Shodair Children's Hospital, Helena, Mont.; **Victor Armstrong**, vice president of behavioral health, Atrium Health, Charlotte, N.C.; **Jill Howard**, senior director of behavioral health, LifePoint Health, Nashville, Tenn.; **Louis Josephson**, president and CEO of Brattleboro (Vt.) Retreat; **Jess Shatkin, M.D.**, professor of child and adolescent psychiatry and pediatrics in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, NYU Langone Health, New York; and **Helen Strike**, president of Allina Health's River Falls (Wis.) Area Hospital and Regina Hospital, Hastings, Minn. The council advises AHA on policy and advocacy and provides a forum for strategic discussion of issues important to behavioral health providers and the field.

### **Advocacy and Regulatory Updates**

#### **AHA releases 2020 Public Policy Advocacy Agenda**

The AHA has released its [2020 Public Policy Advocacy Agenda](#). The document lays out many priorities including: *Ensuring patients can access all of the services necessary to get and stay healthy by protecting access to a minimum set of essential health benefits and enforcing existing federal parity laws to ensure coverage for physical and behavioral health benefits, including substance use disorder treatment.*

#### **AHA urges CMS to withdraw Medicaid fiscal accountability rule**

AHA [urged](#) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to withdraw a proposed rule on Medicaid program financing and supplemental payments because it would "severely curtail the availability of health care services to millions of individuals" and "many of its provisions are not legally permissible." Medicaid is the nation's largest payer of mental health services, providing health coverage to 27% of adults with a serious mental illness.

#### **CMS to streamline survey process for psychiatric hospitals**

Beginning in March, CMS will [implement](#) a streamlined survey and certification process for psychiatric hospitals. Under the new [process](#), state survey agencies will perform one comprehensive survey to review compliance with both hospital and psychiatric hospital participation requirements instead of two, allowing inspectors to take a broader view of a psychiatric hospital's operations and better identify systemic quality issues. AHA regularly meets with the CMS Survey & Certification group. Contact Caitlin Gillooley at [cgillooley@aha.org](mailto:cgillooley@aha.org) with any ideas to further improve the survey process.

### **Upcoming Events and Webinars, and new Resources**

#### **AHA Innovation Challenge: Behavioral Health**

The 2020 [AHA Innovation Challenge](#) is an opportunity to help people with behavioral health disorders live a more balanced, productive life. Submissions are now open and must be submitted electronically by Friday, May 15. The top three proposals receive funding to help bring their ideas to life — \$100,000, \$25,000 and \$15,000.

## Understanding the biopsychosocial aspects of violence involving firearms

AHA's Hospitals Against Violence initiative Feb. 19 at 12 p.m. ET will host a webinar framing gun violence as a complex biopsychosocial disease. It seeks to advance the biopsychosocial model, apply it to gun violence, and identify opportunities for prevention and care that informs a health system's approach to reduce these deaths and injuries and make the communities we serve healthier and safer. [View more information and register.](#)

## March 22-25 ASHE Summit

The American Society for Health Care Engineering offers: 2020 PDC Summit: [Shape the Future of Health Care Summit](#) in San Antonio for health care planning, design and construction professionals. Experience great education, including sessions on: [Using Choice-Based Design to Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes](#); [Competitors Combining Strengths to Deliver Adolescent Behavioral Care](#); and, [Model Behavior: Building a Better Behavioral Health Experience.](#)

## Health system focuses on well-being to prevent physician suicide

Statistics on physician suicide and burnout served as the impetus for Heather Farley, M.D., and her colleagues at ChristianaCare in Newark, Del., to create the Center for Worklife Wellbeing, which builds support systems to enable physicians to reconnect with the joy and meaning in medicine. [Read more.](#)

## ASHRM whitepaper on behavioral health care in ambulatory, outpatient setting

Patients with behavioral health disorders are treated in every segment of health care, including on an outpatient basis. This [whitepaper](#) included both tools, such as a checklist, and resources for treating behavioral health patients within the primary care and ambulatory care settings.

## Updates

### SAMHSA announces grants to implement Zero Suicide model

Hospital emergency departments, primary care and behavioral health care organizations, public health agencies and tribal organizations may [apply](#) through March 30 for fiscal year 2020 grants to implement the Zero Suicide in Health Systems model. The [Zero Suicide](#) model is a multi-setting approach to suicide prevention in health systems, designed to raise awareness, establish referral processes, and improve care and outcomes for adults. SAMHSA plans to award up to 17 grants of up to \$700,000 per year for up to five years.

### CDC to implement ICD-10-CM code for vaping-related disorder

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will [implement](#) a new ICD-10-CM diagnosis code for reporting vaping-related disorders starting April 1. CMS has updated the software it uses to classify inpatient prospective payment system claims into Medicare-Severity DRGs for payment to accommodate the new ICD-10-CM code.

### HRSA announces funding to expand SUD services in rural communities

Public and private entities can apply for \$1 million grants for a three-year period to enhance or expand opioid and other substance use disorder services in high-risk rural communities, the Health Resources and Services Administration recently [announced](#). HRSA will host a Feb. 25 webinar with more information for applicants.

### Joint AHA/NABH February behavioral health communication

This month's [edition](#) includes information on: A recent [report](#) from the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission to Congress on the oversight of institutions for mental diseases; a CMS fact [sheet](#) about Medicare billing and payment for opioid treatment programs; a [report](#) from *Psychiatric Services* finding that community care and inpatient psychiatric services are complements, not substitutes, in behavioral healthcare; and more. To access past *Behavioral Health Updates*, click [here](#).

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