



NATIONAL
COUNCIL
for Mental
Wellbeing

National Council Update

National Council for Mental Wellbeing



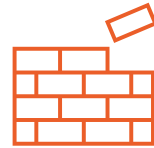


Public Policy Mission Statement

National Council advocates for assertive public policies that:



Ensure equitable access to high-quality services;



Build the capacity of mental health and substance use treatment organizations; and



Promote a greater understanding of mental wellbeing as a core component of comprehensive health and health care.





The Joy of Victory



Major progress on multiple priorities ...

Hill Day 2022 Asks	2022 Legislative Wins
Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act	Bipartisan Safer Communities Act expanded CCBHCs nationwide FY23 Omnibus included CCBHC crisis care
Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act	Included in the FY23 Omnibus
Medication Access and Training Expansion Act	Included in the FY23 Omnibus
Mental Health Access Improvement Act	Included in the FY23 Omnibus (as amended)
Robust Funding for 988 and Crisis Services	Bipartisan Safer Communities Act included additional funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline FY23 Omnibus included \$502 M for 988 (a \$390 M increase)

The agony of Defeat!



Or



Even in a bad year, good things happen ...

- Congress passes “skinny” healthcare package
 - Makes permanent option to cover residential substance use treatment in Medicaid
 - Mandates that all State Medicaid program must cover all medications for opioid use disorder
 - Mandates that states suspend, rather than terminate, Medicaid eligibility
 - **Adds CCBHC definition to Medicaid as an optional benefit.**

What else are we pushing for this year?

- Continue to press for reauthorization of the SUPPORT Act
- Introduce legislation to provide easier access through Medicaid for people experiencing First Episode Psychosis (FEP)
- Make CCBHC a part of Medicare

Current Legislative Efforts: Substance Use Disorder

Residential Recovery for Seniors Act ([S. 4860](#)/[H.R. 9232](#))

- 1 Shortly before the August recess, Sen. Bob Casey and Rep. Lauren Underwood introduced legislation that would create a new Medicare Part A benefit for non-hospital-based residential addiction treatment programs (i.e., ASAM Level 3).
- 2 Specifically, the new benefit would cover the following adult patient programs: Level 3.1: Clinically Managed Low-intensity Residential Treatment; Level 3.5: Clinically Managed High-intensity Residential Treatment, and Level 3.7: Medically Managed Residential Treatment.
- 3 Additionally, the legislation establishes a new PPS, ensuring that reimbursement for covered residential addiction treatment services is based on a predetermined, fixed amount. National Council worked with ASAM and Legal Action Center on the legislation and convened a congressional briefing earlier this year on addressing gaps for substance use care among Medicare beneficiaries.



Current Legislative Efforts: Substance Use Disorder

Rep. Leger-Fernandez recently reintroduced the **Campus Prevention and Recovery Services Act** ([H.R. 9214](#)). National Council was an early endorser of this legislation and included a quote from Chuck in the sponsor's press release upon introduction.

The legislation would:

- Support programs meant to eliminate illegal substance use, decrease substance misuse, improve public health, and improve campus safety.
- Implement a requirement that campus-based substance misuse prevention programs be “evidence-based” and “evidence-informed”.
- Require an interagency agreement between DOE and HHS to identify and promote successful programs.
- Authorize \$15 million for FY2025 and each of the five succeeding years for a grant program to help institutions of higher education implement successful programs. The funding would support a range of initiatives, including early screening education, recovery support services, peer support services, and counseling for students with a substance use disorder, along with re-entry assistance.

Upcoming Legislative Efforts: Substance Use Disorder

Rep. Andrea Salinas reached out to National Council to lead endorsement of upcoming legislation related to the STAR-LRP program, titled the **STAR Plus Scholarship Act**. The bill will likely be introduced shortly after the August recess.

- The STAR Plus Scholarship Act would create a scholarship program for students pursuing a degree to provide substance use disorder treatment and mental health services.
- Students would be eligible for non-taxable scholarships to cover the costs of their programs.
- The bill would require students to fulfill their obligations in a mental health shortage area or an area where the mean drug overdose rate exceeds the national average (same criteria as STAR-LRP). The bill also includes provisions to recuperate funds from students who do not fulfill their obligations.
- It would also prioritize students from populations that are underrepresented in the behavioral health workforce.
- This program would be created in addition to the STAR-LRP program, and funding for this program would not impact or be withdrawn from STAR-LRP.

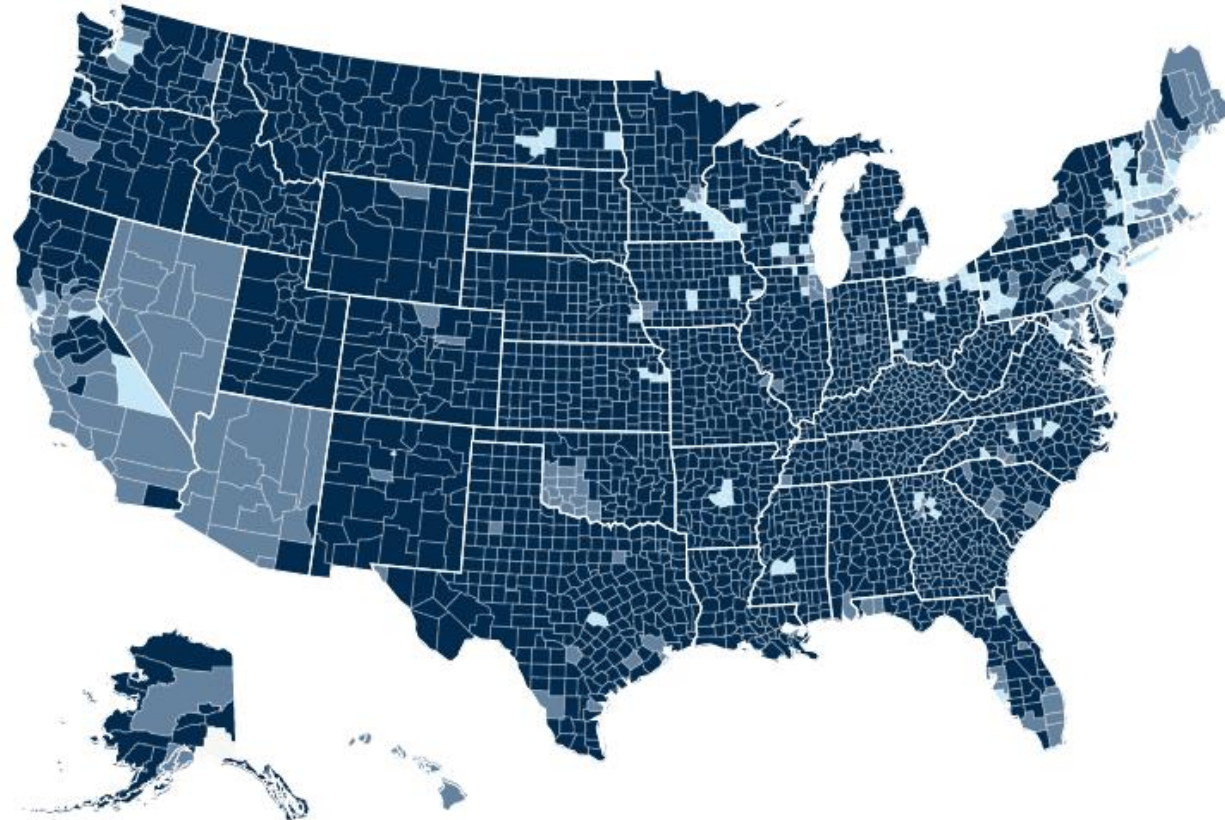


Enhancing Access to Substance Use Treatment

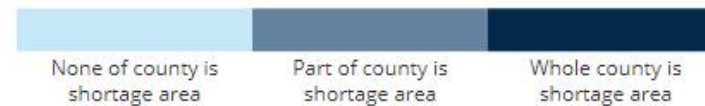
- Contingency Management Safe Harbor possibility
- Extension of Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) flexibilities to make methadone more accessible (final rule)
- Making ASAM criteria meaningful
- Access to buprenorphine in all settings
- Alignment of 42 CFR Part 2 with HIPAA (final rule)

Supporting the Workforce

Workforce Crisis and Access to Care



Source: data.HRSA.gov, July 2022.



Legislative Efforts to Address the Crisis

- Increase the Workforce and Build the Pipeline:
 - Increase funding and eligibility re: mental health/substance use provider loan repayment programs.
- Retain the Existing Workforce:
 - Senate Finance Committee in 2022 released draft legislation that would:
 - Create a demonstration project to increase mental health and substance use disorder care provider capacity under the Medicaid program.
 - Expands Medicare's Health Professional Shortage Area bonus program to practitioners furnishing mental health and substance use disorder services
- Support the Mental Wellbeing of the Workforce
 - The National Council is working with offices and national partner organizations to develop legislation related to wellbeing, including grants and other funding to prioritize and improve mental wellbeing among providers.

Other Workforce Ideas

- Apprenticeships and Apprenticeship degrees
- Task Sharing
- Supporting entry level staff (Kaiser project)

The Center for Workforce Solutions

A collective impact initiative to revolutionize the mental health and substance use treatment workforce.

Mission: The Center for Workforce Solutions (CWS) brings together cross-sector partners to identify, elevate, and scale innovative solutions for persistent behavioral health workforce challenges. Through an equity-grounded shared strategy, advocacy, and training and technical assistance, we amplify effective solutions and drive systemic change.

Vision: A behavioral health system where timely, high-quality services are provided by an inclusive, accessible, sustainable, and thriving workforce.

CWS Core Activities



**Addressing the Workforce
Crisis ECHO Series**



**CWS Website / Resource
Hub**



Workforce Solutions Jam



Advocacy



**Steering Committee/
Workgroups**



Stay Engaged

- Email us at workforce@thenationalcouncil.org
- Attend the monthly Workforce Solutions Jam: Tue, September 17/ 1:00 pm ET - *Organizational Culture and Employee Wellness*
- [Subscribe](#) to our newsletter for webinars and future CWS engagement opportunities.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT

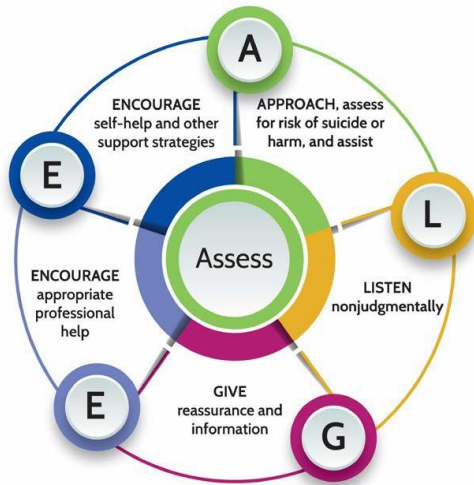
In a time of Contracting Margins in Healthcare

- Increase Clinical Productivity
- Administrative Simplification
- Care Delivery Transformation
- Technology Enablement



Mental Health FIRST AID

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
MENTAL WELLBEING



Mental Health First Aid® is the help offered to a person experiencing a mental health challenge, mental disorder or a mental health crisis. The first aid is given until appropriate help is received or until the crisis resolves.

Mental Health First Aid® does not teach people to diagnose or to provide treatment.

What does MHFA teach?

- Risk factors and warning signs of mental health and substance use problems.
- Information about anxiety, depression, trauma, substance use (including opioids), non-suicidal self injury, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders and eating disorders.
- A 5-step Action Plan (ALGEE) to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or is in crisis.
- Available evidence-based professional, peer and self-help resources.



Community-focused MHFA Programs



Adult MHFA

Purpose: Trains adults to support other adults in their community

Audiences: Colleges and Universities, First Responders, Rural Communities, Older Adult Care Facilities, etc.



Youth MHFA

Purpose: Trains adults to support adolescents in their community

Audiences: Teachers, Parents, Coaches, Community Center Staff, Mentors, etc.



teen MHFA

Purpose: Trains teens in grades 10-12 (ages 15-18) to support their peers

Audiences: Students, Chapter-based organizations, etc.



MHFA for the Workplace

Purpose: Trains individuals to support colleagues in the workplace

Audiences: HR Staff, Senior Leaders, Front-line Managers, Clinical and Wellness Staff, etc.

*Designing, Implementing and Sustaining
Physical Health-Behavioral Health Integration*

THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK



April 2022

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The Comprehensive Healthcare Integration Framework

The paper introduces the Comprehensive Healthcare Integration (CHI) Framework, a new framework for guiding the integration of physical health, mental health and substance use treatment and care.



Download the Report

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TheNationalCouncil.org

To

recovery from
substance use challenges, a reality for everyone.

*Toward A National Standard For
Service Intensity Assessment And
Planning For Mental Health Care*



**THE LEVEL OF CARE UTILIZATION SYSTEM (LOCUS)
FAMILY OF TOOLS**

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NOVEMBER 2023

Toward A National Standard for Service Intensity Assessment and Planning for Mental Health Care

A new paper recommending the Level of Care Utilization System Family of Tools (LOCUS FT) as the national standardized set of tools to determine the correct service intensity for clients in a consistent equitable manner.



Download the Report



HEALTH RELATED SOCIAL NEEDS

An Emerging Opportunity
for Behavioral Health



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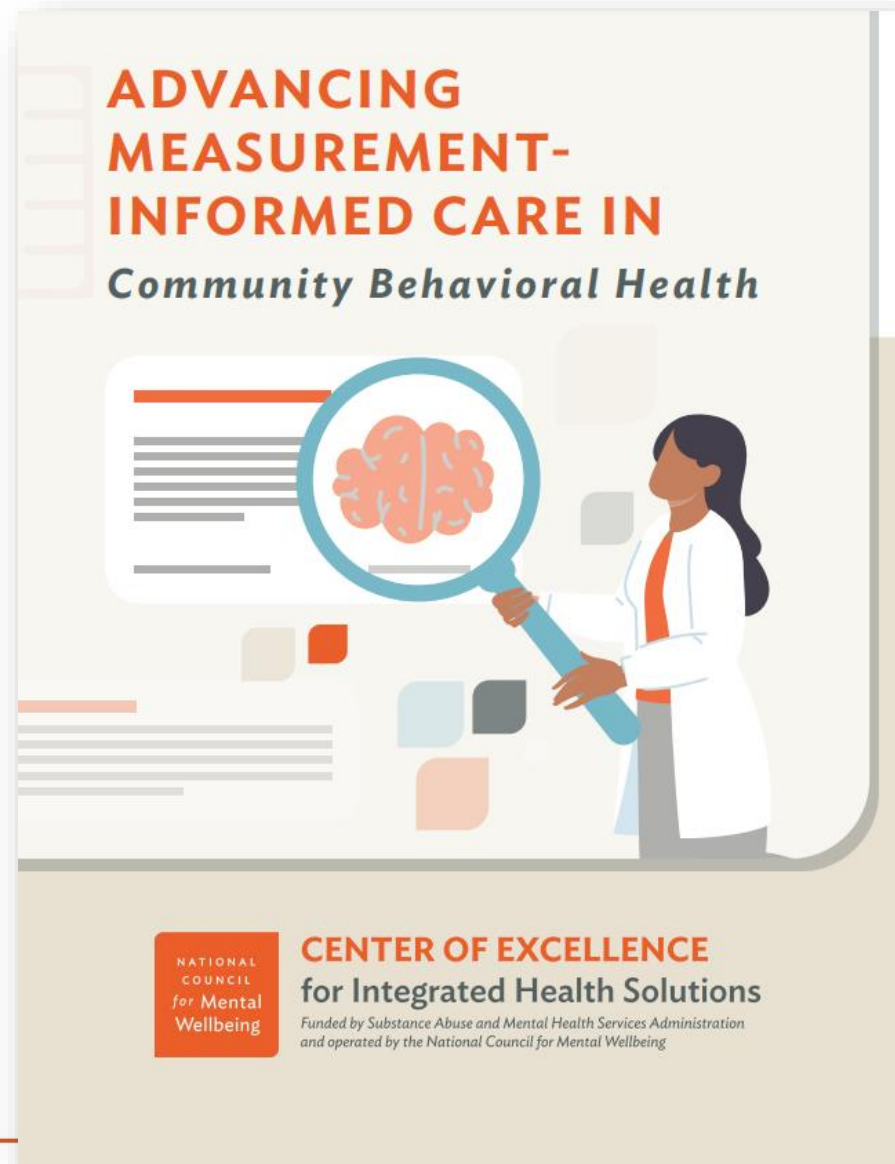
Health Related Social Needs: An Emerging Opportunity for Behavioral Health

A new report outlining ways to leverage Medicaid funding to expand services addressing health related social needs (HRSN) — such as food insecurity, housing instability, unemployment and lack of reliable transportation.



Download the Report

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Advancing Measurement-informed Care in Community Behavioral Health

A new report introducing the concept of measurement-informed care (MIC) and proposing candidate measures to meet organizations' clinical care and reporting needs.



[Download the Report](#)



TheNationalCouncil.org

recovery from
for everyone.

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Questions

Reach out to me anytime:

Chucki@thenationalcouncil.org

Or

- National Council's policy team at policy@thenationalcouncil.org

