OCTOBER 2020 COVID-19 EDITION

Due to the ongoing pandemic this issue continues to primarily contain COVID-19 related policies and resources. *However, there are non-COVID related items included at the beginning and end.* Additionally, the March 2020, April 2020, May 2020, June 2020, July 2020, August 2020, and September 2020 editions are available for historic references and resources.

The Ohio Council's 2020 Virtual PAC Campaign

Our advocacy and communication efforts with lawmakers remain critical to advancing and protecting the interests of community behavioral health providers now more than ever. The Ohio Council maintains and uses a political action committee (PAC) to support and enhance our direct communication and engagement with members of the Ohio General Assembly. The Ohio Council PAC (OC-PAC) compliments our traditional policy and regulatory advocacy. While PAC contributions are not necessary to participate in the legislative and policy making process, they are a helpful tool in building and strengthening relationships with lawmakers who share our policy interests and priorities.

The OC-PAC is funded by the personal donations (***personal* credit card or Paypal**) of individuals who are associated with or employed by members of the Ohio Council. This year, we have set our OC-PAC contribution campaign goal at $8,000. ***We are counting on you to help us reach our goal!***

Make your virtual personal contribution through the OC-PAC weblink

FUN Prize Drawing For OC-PAC Contributors!

Virtual Event Contribution of $100 or More
If you contribute $100 or more by 12:00PM on December 10th, you will be entered in a drawing for a $250 VISA gift card.

We appreciate your support of the Ohio Council - Political Action Committee!

Medicare Open Enrollment Underway

Medicare's annual Open Enrollment period began Oct. 15 and ends on Dec. 7, 2020. During this time, all Medicare beneficiaries are encouraged to review their coverage options and ensure they are choosing the best plan to meet their needs and their budgets. Beneficiaries can elect to stay on original Medicare and shop for a stand-alone Part D prescription drug plan. Or they can select a Medicare Advantage Plan (managed care), which provides comprehensive health benefits, typically including prescription drug coverage. To support

consumers, CMS has developed a [web-based Medicare tool](#) that will allow beneficiaries to enter information about their health care and prescription needs and see which plans might be the best fit.

Additionally, the [Ohio Department of Insurance's Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program](#) (OSHIIP) is hosting Medicare Check-Up webinars to help consumers objectively compare plans and learn about their options and available assistance. Click [HERE](#) for registration for all future webinar dates for Medicare Check-Up events. Those unable to attend a Medicare Check-Up webinar can contact OSHIIP at 1-800-686-1578 or call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.

Ohio Medicaid Managed Care Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for Ohio Medicaid Managed Care enrollees is only available during the month of November. Open enrollment offers Medicaid eligible individuals the opportunity to review their current managed care plan benefits and change plans for calendar year 2021. ODM has a [webpage](#) that allows consumers to access information about each of the Medicaid MCOs. Additionally, ODM annually publishes a [Managed Care Plan Report Card](#) providing additional information how plans stack up against each other.

To change plans in November, a Medicaid eligible individual must contact the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline to initiate a "Change Enrollment" request. This may be done through the [online Consumer Hotline](#) or by calling 1-800-324-8680.

COVID-19 Federal Policy and Resources

HHS Extends COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

HHS Secretary Alex Azar announced he is extending the [federal public health emergency](#) (PHE) for another 90 days. The PHE was originally declared on January 27, 2020 and was previously renewed on April 26 and July 23. The PHE declaration is effective for 90 days unless the emergency is declared to have ended by the Secretary before then or renewed for another 90 days before it expires. The latest renewal, which occurred on Oct. 2, 2020 (but became effective on Oct. 23) now extends the PHE until Jan. 21, 2021. This important announcement will allow the existing HHS, CMS, DEA, and HIPAA waivers to remain in effect to support telehealth and access to services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

HHS Announces Another $20 Billion for Phase 3 Provider Relief Funding

On 10/1/2020, HHS announced another [$20 Billion for Phase 3 Provider Relief Funding](#) (PRF). The press release emphasized the importance of mental health and substance use service providers, and their critical role addressing the COVID-19 crisis, "HHS has worked to ensure that all American healthcare providers receive support from the Provider Relief Fund in a fast and fair way, and this new round helps ensure that we are reaching America's essential behavioral health providers and takes into account losses and expenses relating to coronavirus," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "We've worked with all of the resources we have across HHS to ensure that America's heroic healthcare providers know they can apply for support."

HHS is making a large number of providers eligible for Phase 3 PRF funding, including:

- Providers who previously received, rejected or accepted a General Distribution Provider Relief Fund payment. Providers that have already received payments of approximately 2% of annual revenue from patient care may submit more information to become eligible for an additional payment.
- Behavioral Health providers, including those that previously received funding and new providers.
- Healthcare providers that began practicing January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020. This includes Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, dentists, assisted living facilities and behavioral health providers.

Under the Phase 3 (PRF), all provider submissions will be reviewed to confirm they have received a PRF payment equal to approximately 2 percent of patient care revenue from prior general distributions. Applicants that have not yet received Relief Fund payments of 2 percent of patient revenue will receive a payment that, when combined with prior payments (if any), equals 2 percent of patient care revenue. **ADDITIONALLY, HRSA will also calculate an equitable add-on payment that considers the following:**

- A provider's change in operating revenues from patient care
- A provider's change in operating expenses from patient care, including expenses incurred related to coronavirus
- Payments already received through prior Provider Relief Fund distributions.

The portal for Phase 3 PRF applications will remain open through Friday November 6th. *Providers are encouraged to apply!*

We expect these funds will follow the same guidance as the other HHS provider relief funds. HHS Provider Relief Funds must be expended by 7/31/2021, as long as they are expended, they will not have to be paid back. If for some reason your organization cannot expend the funds by 7/31/2021, HHS will provide directions in the future about how to return unused funds. HHS reserves the right to audit Provider Relief Fund recipients in the future and collect any Relief Fund amounts that were used inappropriately. All payment recipients must attest to the Terms and Conditions, which require the submission of documentation to substantiate that these funds were used for increased healthcare related expenses or lost revenue attributable to coronavirus.

Federal CARES Act Phase 3 Provider Relief Funds - BH Specific Webinar and Resources

On October 16, 2020, HRSA hosted the *HHS' Provider Relief Fund and the Behavioral Health Community* webinar. As a result, the following resources are now available to support providers interested in applying for Phase 3 funding.

- Replay of the October 15 Webcast; Introduces Phase 3 and demos the PRF Application and Attestation Portal.
- Review the Phase 3 Fact-Sheet, Phase 3 Application Instructions, and Step-by-Step Guide
- Share with your network using the Stakeholder Toolkit
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

If you plan to apply for Phase 3 Funding, you can submit your application through the Provider Relief Fund [Application and Attestation Portal](). Remember to apply early and by November 6, 2020! Additional information is available on the HHS CARES Provider Relief Fund [Webpage](). Questions or concerns about applying for this funding can be directed to the HHS Provider Support Line (866) 569-3522.

HHS Releases Provider Relief Fund Reporting Requirements

In September, HHS published final reporting guidance to set expectations for Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payment recipients. In providing this guidance, HHS also updated its Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to clarify that for purposes of relief payments for lost revenues attributable to COVID-19, recipients must submit information showing a negative change in year-over-year net patient care operating income. This definition sought to balance fairness and establish guardrails to restrict some providers from receiving distributions that would make them more profitable than they were before the pandemic.

As providers, provider organizations, and members of Congress familiarized themselves with the reporting requirements, HHS received feedback from many voicing concerns regarding that approach to permissible uses of PRF money. In response to concerns raised, HHS amended the reporting instructions on October 22nd to increase flexibility around how providers can apply PRF money toward lost revenues attributable to coronavirus. After reimbursing healthcare related expenses attributable to coronavirus that were unreimbursed by other sources, providers may use remaining PRF funds to cover any lost revenue, measured as a negative change in year-over-year actual revenue from patient care related sources.

A policy memorandum on the reporting requirement decision can be found [here](). The amended reporting requirements guidance can be found [here]().

SBA and US Treasury Release Updated PPP Guidance

The Small Business Administration and US Treasury released updated interim final rules, loan forgiveness guidance, and FAQs for lenders and borrowers. Key changes included in the updates:

1. Recipients of Paycheck Protection Program loans of $50,000 or less will be able to apply for forgiveness using a [simplified application]() with updated [instructions for Form 3508S](). The new [interim final rule]() add guidance that PPP borrowers of $50,000 or less are exempted from any reductions in forgiveness based on reductions in full-time-equivalent employees and employee salary or wages. This is expected to expedite the loan forgiveness process for small loans.
2. The [FAQ for Lenders and Borrowers]() was updated 10/7/2020 and clarifies the 10-month extension of the deferral period provided under the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act applies to all PPP loans. See question 52 for the details.
3. The [FAQ about PPP Loan Forgiveness]() was updated 10/13/2020 to clarify institution's interest accrual method. Unless SBA is notified otherwise, the interest rate for Loan Forgiveness payments is a simple interest at 1% using the "Bank Method" - 360/365; clarified loans issued prior to June 5 have a maturity of 2 years and those issued after June 5 have a maturity of 5 years; and gave further advice to lenders on checking institutional settings on PPP Loan Forgiveness Platforms to reduce errors and improve efficiency.

These updates will support lenders in moving forward with the loan forgiveness process and may not be the last changes. As we have previously shared, we recommend staying in close contact with your lender.

SAMHSA: Self-care for Healthcare Professionals and Responders to COVID-19

SAMHSA released self-care resources targeted toward healthcare and mental health professionals, first responders, and others on the frontlines of COVID-19. The resources include information about stress management and self-care for responders to COVID-19. Several come from the SAMHSA Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Network, which works to build nationwide capacity to provide evidence-based mental illness prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. The MHTTCs have produced a wealth of materials on responding to COVID-19. In an unprecedented crisis, responders may be at particular risk, and it is even more important to take steps to ensure physical and mental health.

COVID-19 State Policy and Resources

ODH Coronavirus Website – Primary Source for All Ohio Information

Ohio COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and Vaccine Distribution Program - Provider Enrollment

ODH posted the interim COVID-19 Vaccination Plan that was submitted to the CDC. This framework identifies early planning assumptions that identify the initial thinking regarding Critical population; Allocation; Distribution and shipment; Metrics; and Data reporting. Subsequently, ODH is building a single web-based platform to identify healthcare providers, including behavioral health medical providers to support efforts to rapidly begin distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine once approved by the FDA. The Vaccination Plan makes an assumption that at least one FDA-approved vaccine may be available mid-November, may have requirements for cold storage, and will most likely require 2 doses to achieve effectiveness. The CDC does not know when or how many vaccines will be available initially and expects a limited supply at the beginning of distribution. Distribution will use a phased approach prioritizing healthcare workers and first responders, followed by individuals residing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and then those with high risk co-morbidities. The CDC is partnering with CVS and Walgreens to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccinations for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, which will be helpful, but insufficient to get critical populations fully vaccinated.

ODH has launched a voluntary COVID-19 Vaccine Program Provider Enrollment System. All health care providers, including community behavioral health providers, interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine that have medical personnel available to order/administer the vaccine and a physical location to do so are encouraged to apply. Providers will need to submit demographic information on site/location, storage, responsible employees, provider type, patient population, highest # of flu vaccine during previous flu season, cold storage capacity, and a TDDD number.   After the agreement is submitted, the healthcare provider will get confirmation by email, and will have to agree to participation in training and cold storage requirements. All updates and information will be shared via e-mail.

If your organization in interested in providing COVID-19 vaccinations, please follow the steps outlined below to enroll. ODH has released an Ohio COVID-19 Vaccination Program FAQ to answer detailed questions about provider enrollment. *You are encouraged to review these FAQs PRIOR to beginning the enrollment process.*

- Visit the OHID webpage: https://ohid.ohio.gov
- Log-in using your OHID or create a new account.
- Request access to the Vaccination Program (COVID-19) application.
- Complete, sign, and submit all required forms electronically through the application.

Additional enrollment questions should be directed to: covidvaccine@odh.ohio.gov.

Responsible Restart

On 10/8/2020, Governor announced the ODH Directors Order Amending the Order to Limit Access to Ohio's Nursing Homes and Similar Facilities, with Exemptions has been posted. Beginning, October 12, 2020, nursing homes will be permitted to allow inside visitation when following this order.

On Oct. 16, 2020, Ohio Department of Health Interim Director Lance Himes signed the Amended Director's Order on the Opening of Adult Day Services and Senior Centers. Adult day services and senior centers were permitted to reopen Sept. 21, 2020. This order was effective Oct. 17, 2020. Click to See what changed and read frequently asked questions. Additional information for the Ohio Department of Aging at Adult Day Centers and Senior Centers COVID-19 resources page.

Governor DeWine announced a new Lab Capacity Dashboard to help those administering COVID-19 tests find a lab to run their samples. This resource will help connect groups that are testing with available labs in order to ease turnaround times and inform Ohioans of their COVID-19 status. The new dashboard provides self-reported information about labs that can run tests, including hours of operation, types of tests they accept, estimated turn-around time, and locations. Labs with available capacity can sign up on the website to be included in this dashboard.

Testing locations, including pop-up sites, continue to be updated on the ODH Coronavirus ODH Coronavirus Testing webpage. Individuals are encouraged to call their healthcare provider or these testing sites to seek instructions for obtaining a test.   Updated testing information and locations, including pop-up sites, can be found on the site which identifies many community sites (CVS, Kroger, Rite Aid, and Walmart) and health centers where testing is provided with links to access these sites and information about scheduling. Additionally, if your organization is interested in hosting a Pop-up Test Site staffed by the National Guard, please reach out to your local ADAMH Board to let them know of your interest.

Governor Signs Legislation Releasing CARES Act Funding for Local Communities

Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 614 into law. Sponsored by Representatives Mark Fraizer and Tracy Richardson, this legislation originally addresses Ohio's unemployment compensation program, and picked up language to distribute $650 million Coronavirus Relief Funds to local governments across the state. These funds will be distributed to counties, municipalities, and townships throughout Ohio based on a formula included in the bill. Providers are encouraged to reach out to county commissioners, mayors, and other local governmental entities to see how you may partner to use these funds. These funds must be expended by December 31, 2020.

Controlling Board Approves $10M in CARES Funding for OhioMHAS COVID-19 Response

The Ohio Controlling Board recently approved $10 million of funding made available from the CARES Act to help respond to the behavioral health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is in addition to the CARES Act funding made available through the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) and Ohio Medicaid to support revenue loss and increased costs associated with responding to COVID-19. OhioMHAS will use the $10 million CARES funding to strengthen the continuum of care and support COVID-19 response efforts in three primary areas: 1) visibility and access to services, 2) psychiatric inpatient and crisis care, and 3) support for those in recovery. Click HERE for more information on how this money will be allocated. As a reminder, these funds must be expended by December 31, 2020.

CARES Act Funding for Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Ohioans Impacted by COVID-19

On 10/26/2020, the Controlling Board approved another CARES Act funding package of more than $419.5 million developed by Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted in collaboration with the Ohio General Assembly. This funding package includes $125 million for small businesses, $37.5 million for restaurants and bars, $62 million for rural and critical access hospitals, $100 million for higher education, $20 million for the arts; and $25 million for non-profits. Additional information can be found at businesshelp.ohio.gov.

To support low-income individuals and families financially impacted by the pandemic, the package also includes $50 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to create the Home Relief Grant that will allocate funds to 47 Community Action Agencies to provide rent, mortgage, and water and/or sewer assistance to Ohioans in need. This assistance will help Ohioans pay outstanding balances back to April 1, 2020.

Ohio households behind on their bills with an annual income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines will be eligible for assistance. For a family of four, that is an annual income up to $52,400. Starting November 2, 2020, Ohioans will be able to apply for assistance through their local Community Action Agency. A list of agencies can be found at businesshelp.ohio.gov.

OBM September Financial Reports

OBM released its monthly financial report detailing the economy in Ohio during the month of September. Moody's Analytics and CNN created the "Back-to-Normal" Index to track the economic recovery. Index values range from zero, representing no economic activity, to 100 percent, indicating full economic recovery to pre-pandemic levels. As of October 7, 2020, the national index was at 81.2 and had increased 2.1 points in September. Ohio's index was at 87.0 and increased 1.4 points during September. Ohio is currently ranked 10th among states on this index.

GRF non-auto sales and use tax collections in September totaled $738.4 million and were $13.7 million (1.8%) below the estimate, coming in below the budgeted estimate for the first time this fiscal year. Non-auto collections remain $9.4 million (1.3%) above the prior year, boosted by strong revenues in July and August as purchasing shifted towards taxable goods. September auto sales tax revenues were $148.3 million and were $14.7 million (11.0%) above estimate. This September's receipts were $20.2 million (15.8%) higher than last September. This marks four successive months in which auto sales tax has substantially exceeded estimate.

This growth is likely caused by a combination of federal fiscal stimulus policies, pent-up demand, and a preference for personal vehicles over public transportation during the pandemic.

Cigarette excise tax revenue was $16.1 million (21.8%) above estimate in September and $23.5 (13.6%) above estimate for the first quarter of the fiscal year. The substantial overage is likely related to heightened consumption during the continuing pandemic. Revenues from this source have demonstrated growth as the pandemic wears on and the personal and economic impacts are felt by the public.

Telehealth & Billing

Medicaid Telehealth Rules Made Permanent After JCARR Approval

A formerly temporary expansion of telemedicine options in Ohio's Medicaid program spurred by the pandemic became permanent after rules cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) on 10/19/2020. ODM and MHAS released a [BH MITS Bits on Medicaid Billing Requirements for Telehealth Services](#) with information for providers on the rule changes. This updated rule affirms the current billing requirement that claims for telehealth services must include the "GT" modifier to indicate the service was delivered via telehealth. While ODM previously allowed flexibility with implementation of billing system changes during the emergency updates to telehealth beginning in March 2020, **all providers must include the "GT" modifier for telehealth services by the effective date of this new rule, which is anticipated to be November 15, 2020**. Additionally, the rule continues the current requirement for place of service codes to be reported as described in the ODM billing guidelines for behavioral health services.

The [permanent rule](#) outlines the specific billing guidance in paragraph E(9), but indicates "unless stated otherwise in billing guidelines" prior to listing the requirements. This rule covers all Medicaid providers and several provider types, including behavioral health providers, have specific billing guidance that will still be followed. BH providers will still use the place of service for the practitioner OR the client and do not need to add the modifiers in appendix B to reflect patient location because BH providers have billing guidelines that do not require this. No additional modifiers are needed on BH claims to reflect patient location. However, the addition of the GT modifier does apply to BH providers.

Questions about the Medicaid coverage, billing, and reimbursement can be submitted to: BHEnroll@medicaid.ohio.gov.

Accessing Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment

As COVID-19 cases continue across the country, access to PPE remains difficult in some areas, and the long terms costs for PPE supplies are challenging budgets. MHAS shared that ODH and the state emergency management agency (EMA) have been stockpiling PPE supplies. BH Providers, as essential health care providers, needing access to PPE are encouraged to reach out to your local EMA to seek access to supplies via the stockpiles. You should also connect with your local ADAMH Board, who may be able to support your request to the local EMA.   Additionally, the following is the best guidance and creative problem solving available currently for obtaining supplies from reputable sources.

- Contact your local health department(s) or emergency management agency (EMA). To request access to cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment. Here's the list of [Ohio County Emergency Management Directory](#).

- Reach out to local schools (K-12, colleges/universities, cosmetology), restaurants, bars, salons, specialty medicine (dentists, veterinarians, etc.), and through your organization's social media account(s) to inquire about availability of supplies for purchase or donation.
- The State of Ohio is asking residents and businesses who can donate PPE, or any other essential service or resource, to email together@governor.ohio.gov. Please share on your websites and via social media.
- Ohio Manufacturers Retooling and Repurposing to Create PPE - alternative sources for some PPE items. Items available here include face shields, hand sanitizer, cotton (reusable) face masks, gowns, non-cotton face masks, gloves, and other items.
- JobsOhio has created a PPE Database (scroll down the page) which includes information on manufacturers, distributors, and potential contract manufacturers to connect with PPE resources.
- #GetUsPPE is a grassroots movement founded by physicians and medical researchers on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are working to ensure healthcare facilities have access to supplies they need. Several members have had success with this site. https://getusppe.org/request/
- A local company, Aunt Flow, is currently leveraging their network and resources to help provide PPE.   Right now, they have available FDA Approved Masks. You can learn more and order HERE. Order limits are currently 2,000. If you have questions or need larger orders, please contact Claire Coder at claire@auntflow.org.
- An Ohio-based company members can contact for N95 masks is Accord Medical Staffing at (440) 205-1930 or www.accordmedstaffing.com. Please contact Ashley with questions at: ashleyg@accordmedstaffing.com.
- WB Mason. This company appears they have hand sanitizer, thermometers, and surgical masks. Shipments appear to be 2-3 weeks.
- Thermometers: Through our discussions with MHAS and OPS, they have provided us with a source to purchase no-touch thermometers. https://ihealthlabs.com/. They currently have stock and can ship supplies quickly. It is recommended to order through their website. Questions can be sent to Jeff Li at Jeff@ihealthlabs.com
- A grassroots effort is underway to assist medical facilities, health care providers (including behavioral health care settings, ACFs, etc.), and first responders who do not have face masks available. Operation Face Mask, launched by Air Force veteran and nurse Jenn Andrade and local partners, is recruiting individuals with sewing skills to donate homemade masks to be distributed. The group encourages donors to follow the recommended guidance from the CDC for sewing a homemade face mask. The group cannot pay for material, sewing supplies, shipping, or time, but welcomes any contributions. Masks may be mailed to Jennifer Andrade, P.O. Box 141415, Columbus, OH 43214. Click HERE to request masks.
- The National Council partnered with Panacea Life to deliver the items you need at reduced rates – explore their online store today! Questions? Contact NC.
- Report any unscrupulous vendors or price gouging to the Attorney General.

COVID-19 State Orders and Guidance

- [All COVID-19 Public Health Orders](#)

Non-COVID Resources

Federal Policy & Resources – Non-COVID

New Law Creates National 9-8-8 Hotline for Mental Health Emergencies

The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act was signed into law on Saturday, October 17, 2020. This legislation will create a new 9-8-8 dialing code for suicide prevention, helping Americans who are seeking services for mental health emergencies. The success of 9-8-8 comes at a critical time for behavioral health services, as COVID-19 has contributed to increased isolation and unemployment, among other difficulties. The existing [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) is a 10-digit number — 1-800-273-TALK — and it has seen a rise in call volume in recent years. Still, the number isn't easy to remember or dial in times of crisis. Implementation of 9-8-8 now moves to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which recently set a deadline of July 2022 for the full, national implementation of the hotline.

New App Will Help People Who Have Serious Mental Illness Develop a Crisis Plan

SAMHSA released a new mobile app, [My Mental Health Crisis Plan](#), which allows individuals who have serious mental illness (SMI) to create a plan to guide their treatment during a mental health crisis. The app was developed through SMI Adviser, a project funded by SAMHSA and administered by the American Psychiatric Association. The app provides an easy, step-by-step process for individuals to create and share a psychiatric advance directive (PAD). A PAD is a legal document that includes a list of instructions and preferences that the individual wishes to be followed in case of a mental health crisis, should they not be able to make their own decisions. The [SMI Adviser website](#) also includes resources for clinicians and individuals and families.

State Policy & Resource – Non COVID Related

Ohio Medicaid Managed Care RFA

The [Medicaid Managed Care RFA](#) was released for review along with the [ODM press release](#) announcing procurement and a "[What you Need to know Timeline](#)" document. The RFA will be open through November 20th and the award announcements are expected January 25, 2021. The targeted "go-live" to implement the new managed care contract is January 5, 2022.

Our team has read through the full 374-page document and pulled out key requirements that are relevant to our members. It is very clear that ODM listened to the feedback of consumers, families, and providers as they crafted the re-imagined managed care model. When combined with centralized credentialing, the fiscal intermediary, and other planned administrative simplification strategies, this procurement is likely to improve both providers and consumers experience with managed care while simultaneously creating increased transparency, data analytics, accountability for improved patient care. Some highlights include:

- New requirement to consider social determinants of health, collaborate with social service agencies, coverage for ICD-10 "z-codes" and MCO community reinvestment strategies.
- Clarified utilization management requirements, standardizing authorizations (i.e. 12 months for ACT), continues and expands requirements for using ASAM for SUD services.
- Expressing discussed Behavioral Health Care Coordination (BHCC) as an ODM designated Care Management Entity.
- Provides additional insight into the OhioRISE benefit and relationship with the Medicaid Managed Care Plan. Specifically, adding Mobile Crisis Stabilization Services (MRSS), Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF), and use of the CANS to determine eligibility for OhioRISE.
- Establishes updated standards for prompt payment and requires MCOs to adhere to 365-day claims submission.
- Substantially increases MHPAEA (parity) reporting requirements and attestations.
- Increased accountability through compliance monitoring, quality outcome measurement, reporting requirements, and sanctions.

The Ohio Council Medicaid MCO Synopsis will cover all this and more. The structure follows the order of the full Medicaid Managed Care RFA.

Ohio Medicaid Releases OhioRISE RFA to Support Youth with Serious Behavioral Health Conditions

On October 28, 2020, ODM released the OhioRISE (Ohio Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) RFA seeking bidders to offer a single, specialized managed care program serving Ohio's kids with the most complex behavioral health and multisystem needs. According to the ODM press release, OhioRISE will introduce a child- and family-centric plan covering targeted behavioral health services. The model will consist of a network of behavior health providers and care management entities that work together to deliver intensive, coordinated services and reach more children and families statewide.

OhioRISE will fill a void that leaves many children and families without access to the care they need. OhioRISE seeks to create a seamless delivery system for children, families, and system partners, and drive toward improving cross-system outcomes, improving the availability of in-home and community-based services, reducing the use of out-of-home care, and leveraging the state's resources across all agencies to support this unique population of kids. The OhioRISE plan will be responsible for assisting the state with developing service capacity and improving cross-system outcomes. OhioRISE's governance will be shared by Ohio Medicaid and Governor DeWine's Family and Children First Cabinet Council, though ODM will hold the program contract. The Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives, Ohio Family and Children First, and the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Job and Family Services, Developmental Disabilities, Youth Services, Rehabilitation and Corrections, Education, and Health have been deeply involved in developing OhioRISE. ODM and the Governor's Family and Children First Cabinet Council are committed to immediately convening stakeholders to support program and service design and implementation strategies that will be supported by OhioRISE.

Managed care plans interested in serving as the OhioRISE vendor have until December 16, 2020 to submit their applications. ODM anticipates announcing the selected OhioRISE plan by February 19, 2021, executing final contacts by March 8, 2021. The OhioRISE program is tentatively scheduled to launch January 2022.
As we have a chance to digest the 412-page OhioRISE RFA, we will provide a comprehensive summary of the program and look forward to continued collaboration with ODM on is component of the re-imagined Ohio Medicaid managed care program.

Ohio Medicaid Work Requirements Delayed

Ohio Medicaid will not be moving forward with implementing Medicaid work requirements at this time. In March 2019, CMS approved the state plan to implement work requirements in Ohio as required by legislation passed by the General Assembly. Subsequently, Ohio was required to submit an implementation plan that outlines the specifics of how the work requirements will be applied. CMS has not yet approved the implementation plan. And CMS will also need to approve an evaluation plan prior to Ohio moving forward with work requirements. Given the close proximity to the general election, federal reviews tend to slow down at the end of a presidential term given the possibility of transitions. Additionally, under the CARES Act, state Medicaid agencies are required to maintain program eligibility and cannot make changes that reduce eligibility. The proposed 20-hour per week work requirements would likely violate that provision.

Ohio SOR 2.0 Funding Update

As part of Ohio's State Opioid Response project, OhioMHAS released a request for applications (RFA) for Integrated Behavioral Health Care (MHA-FY21-SOR-IBHS-CommPln-20) with the intent of awarding up to $50,000,000 per year to Boards, which will in turn support substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery programs in their communities. County boards are encouraged to fund services and supports incorporated in their annual community plans addressing the boards' vision to establish a culturally competent system of care and the boards' work to achieve that vision. Boards are encouraged to demonstrate that they are addressing a Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) meeting the following criteria: "The central focus of a ROSC is to create an infrastructure or "system of care" with the resources to effectively address the full range of substance use problems within communities. The specialty substance use disorder field provides the full continuum of care (prevention, early intervention, treatment, continuing care and recovery) in partnership with other disciplines, such as mental health and primary care, in a ROSC." Questions must be submitted to SORTreatment@mha.ohio.gov **by Nov. 6 at 11:59 p.m.** Responses to questions will be posted to the OhioMHAS Funding Opportunities web page, where an informational webinar will be scheduled and announced. Applications must be submitted to SORTreatment@mha.ohio.gov **by Nov. 20 at 11:59 p.m.** View RFA (MHA-FY21-SOR-IHBS-CommPln-20) and RFA Cover.

Providers are strongly encouraged to reach out to your local ADAMH Board(s) to connect and participate in planning for these SOR 2.0 funds!

Additionally, OhioMHAS held a bidder's conference with the ADAMH Boards to review the plan for distributing the SOR No Cost Extension and SOR 2.0 funds. The MHAS PPT is available. It was stressed during the discussion that Boards should consider the full continuum of care when planning for expenditure of these funds. Additionally, direct funded programs (i.e. MOMS programs) will continue to be funded outside of the ADAMH Board SOR RFP process.

ODE Launches Ohio's Whole Child Framework

Ohio's strategic plan for education, *Each Child, Our Future*, calls for a whole child approach to education that goes beyond academics to ensure students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Ohio's Whole Child Framework is a blueprint to meet students' social-emotional, physical and safety needs, which are foundational to a child's intellectual and social development and necessary for students to fully engage in learning and school. The framework gives school leaders, educators and community partners a collaborative model to deliver wraparound services and supports that reach all students and include processes that enhance coordination of existing policy and practice, cultural competency, equity and inclusion, and

continuous improvement. Parents, families and caregivers are recognized as a child's first teacher and the education community's most trusted partners. Together, schools, families and communities can utilize Ohio's Whole Child Framework to transform education and fulfill Ohio's vision for all students to be challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become resilient, lifelong learners who contribute to society.

Other Resources – Non COVID Related

Trainings and Conferences

Ohio Council 2020 Fall Virtual Learning Schedule

- Friday 11/6/2020 9am-12pm Cultural Humility and Implicit Bias – click HERE to register
- Tuesday 11/17/2020 10am-11:30am 2021 E/M Coding Changes – click HERE to register

Prior to registering, please contact Brenna Whiteside (whiteside@theohiocouncil.org) to receive the member discount code.

Ohio Crisis Academy, Children's Crisis Response Registration

Join the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) for a virtual Crisis Academy on November 18th. This 3-hour Zoom webinar will focus on connecting children in crisis to assessment and services.

Presenters:
Cheryl Hilvert, Program Treatment Coordinator, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Kimberly Bach, Operations Supervisor, Akron Children's Hospital Psychiatric Intake Response Center (PIRC)
Dr. David Axelson, Chief, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Nationwide Children's Hospital
Ericka Bruns, Director, Acute Services, Nationwide Children's Hospital

When: November 18th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n3aZwtOsRuyngc_m6Dzcsg

The training PowerPoints and recordings from past Ohio Crisis Academy trainings are available on the OhioMHAS' Crisis Services webpage.

Financial Wellness Fundamentals Roundtable - Nov. 2

OhioMHAS, in partnership with Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery, will host a virtual Financial Wellness Fundamentals Roundtable on Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. The free roundtable will include an individual in recovery, a clinical perspective, and a financial expert. The discussion will focus on pitfalls and struggles that lead to financial hardships; money in recovery; and skills crucial to recovery and financial wellness. Click HERE to register.

Registration Open: Ohio Trauma-Informed Schools Conference – 11/7

The Ohio Department of Education will host the 2020 (Virtual) Ohio Trauma-Informed Schools Conference on Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Conference sessions will provide information and tools that help school personnel and community partners better understand the impact of trauma and how to apply trauma-informed practices at the district, building and classroom levels to best support the whole child. Virtual sessions will be led by educators, school personnel, mental health providers, community partners, medical professionals and others with competence and experience to train trauma-informed practices in schools ensuring that *Every School* is *Trauma Informed*. More information is available on the conference web page. Click HERE to register. Questions? Contact ODE's Office of Integrated Student Supports at WholeChild@education.ohio.gov or call 614.466.2945.

Building Resiliency in Children of Addicted Parents – Nov. 6

The Collaborative for Children of Addicted Parents will host Building Resiliency in Children of Addicted Parents on Nov. 6 from 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m. This training will explore: substance use effects on parenting abilities and school success; creating protective factors and resiliency; how to obtain an accurate parental substance use history; early Interventions/infant mental health; and preventing future substance abuse. Cost is $50 for physicians; $25 for non-physicians. Click HERE for more information and to register.

The 7th Annual Current Concepts in Integrated Health Care – Nov. 7

Summa Health System will host its virtual 7th Annual Concepts in Integrated Health Care on Nov. 7 from 8 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Topics will include: analyzing the impact of COVID-19 on addiction medicine; determining how to individualize a patient's suicide risk; reviewing updated information and best practices in medication-assisted treatment; summarizing updated information regarding medical marijuana, CBD products and hemp; defining toxicology updates relevant to substance abuse; discussing local and national updates in human trafficking; and explaining Northeast Ohio Medical University's Project ECHO.

Fall Fridays Training Series Focuses on Youth with Co-Occurring Needs

OhioMHAS is collaborating with the Case Western Reserve University Center for Innovative Practice to host a series of trainings for providers who serve adolescents with co-occurring mental health and substance use needs. The "Fall Fridays" series will feature free, Zoom-based presentations on different areas of focus.

Remaining training dates and topics include:

Nov. 6 – 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Adolescents: Differential Considerations
Nov. 13 – 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Youth and Family Engagement
Dec. 11 -- 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Motivational Interviewing Refresher

Emotional, Physical Challenges Experienced by First Responders – Nov. 17

The First Responders Network is hosting a "Conversation with the Experts" on Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. to examine the emotional and physical health challenges experienced by first responders. The session will be moderated by Dr. Bob Lynn and feature remarks from Scott Allen, retired police chief. Click HERE for more information and to register.

SAMHSA: Creating a Better Workplace Environment to Support our Service Members, Veterans and their Families

This webinar will provide resources, tools and recommendations that will help participants to understand the important role they play in creating a healthy and inclusive environment for their Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF) colleagues and employees.

Date: November 18, 2020
Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. (ET)
Register: https://thenationalcouncil-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gIWmtX-2T9KftFj2aLDdCQ

Recovery Housing Webinars

Ohio Recovery Housing is sponsoring several trainings to support owners/operators and residents of recovery housing. Upcoming training opportunities include:

Best Practices for Supporting Residents on MAT in Recovery Housing
Nov. 16 | Jan. 28 | March 10

Social Model of Recovery in Recovery Housing
Dec. 2 (Level III) | Dec. 16 (Level I)

Best Practices for LGTBQ+ Inclusion in Recovery Housing
Dec. 8

Using Your Data Dashboard
Dec. 10

Outcomes Tools Training
Nov. 11 | Dec. 15 | Jan. 12

ORH Outcomes Tools: What County Boards Should Know
Dec. 16

Online Peer Recovery Support Training for Appalachian/Southern Ohio Counties

In an effort to address the opioid crisis and expand the certified Peer Recovery Supporter workforce in Southern Ohio, the Gallia-Jackson-Meigs Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board and Appalachia Unite have partnered to offer a 40-hour online Peer Recovery Supporter Training to residents of the following counties: Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, Pike, Scioto. To be eligible to attend, participants must be in recovery from a mental health and/or substance use issue. Trainings will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the following dates in 2021: Jan. 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31 and Feb. 6-7. For information and to register, please e-mail: appalachiaunite@gmail.com.

Ohio Council Staff Contact Information

The Ohio Council Staff are continuing to work remotely, but we want to make sure you can reach us. If you need help - have questions - or ideas to share, use the below emails to contact us:

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