



NRI NEWSLETTER

The NRI Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication that brings together news and events relevant to our stakeholders of the public behavioral health system.

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SPOTLIGHT

Integrated Behavioral Health Symposium Examines the Way Mental Health Services are Delivered

This week, NRI Board member Dr. Joseph Parks was the keynote speaker at the [Integrated Behavioral Health Symposium](#) spearheaded by the University of South Carolina College of Social Work. During his talk, his message focused on how medical professionals must work together in more seamless ways to further the coordination and results of integrated care. [Read more.](#)

Register Now for Free Webinar: Partnering with the Justice System to Improve Outcomes in Coordinated Specialty Care

On March 5, 2018 at 2 p.m. ET, join us for the free webinar, **Partnering with the Justice System to Improve Outcomes in Coordinated Specialty Care**. This webinar is sponsored by NRI and NASMHPD as part of our SAMHSA State TA contract to support states in providing evidence based services using the MHBG set-aside. The webinar will build on an [Information Brief on FEP and CJ systems](#) that the NRI/NASMHPD Team commissioned from the Vera Institute of Justice last year. [Register for the webinar.](#)

STATE & FEDERAL NEWS

New York Announces \$60 Million in Awards to Mental Health and Addiction Healthcare Providers

New York will issue \$60 million in awards over three years to mental health and addiction services providers as part of the transformation of the State's Medicaid system. The awards will aid behavioral health providers transform to a business model of Value-Based Payment, which rewards quality of care and better health outcomes, rather than the volume of services they provide. [Read more.](#)

New York State Launches Statewide Suicide Prevention Task Force

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the creation of a New York State Suicide Prevention Task Force during his 2017 State of the State Address. The task force is comprised of 36 members representing state and local agencies, nonprofit organizations, and recognized experts in the suicide prevention field. [Read more.](#)

Dallas Public Safety Agencies Launch Mental Health Program

Dallas Police and fire-rescue departments are partnering with Meadows Mental Policy Institute and Parkland Health & Hospital System to improve emergency mental health response. The goal of the collaboration is to create a response program for 911 calls for behavioral health. [Read more.](#)

Texas Awards Millions For Mental Health

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced it is awarding up to \$27.5 million in grant funds through two programs that support mental health services and projects for Texas. Up to \$12.5 million will be awarded through the Mental Health Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals, and up to \$15 million is being awarded for the Community Mental Health Grant Program. [Read more.](#)

Georgia Forensic Peer Mentor Program Provides A Lifeline To Ex-Inmates With Mental Health, Drug Issues

The state-funded program matches volunteer inmates who have an upcoming expected release date with peer mentors who can help link them with logistical re-entry planning, emotional support and long-term recovery tools to facilitate their transition away from prison life. [Read more.](#)

Summit County Court Adopts New Process to Assess Whether Treatment Best for Defendants with Drug Abuse/Mental Health Issues

After the number of criminal defendants being evaluated for Summit County's intervention program for substance abuse or mental health issues more than tripled in the past seven years — from 200 to more than 700, the Ohio county adopted a new process aimed at improving the turnaround time for assessments for the Intervention in Lieu of Conviction (IILC) program. [Read more.](#)

RESEARCH

Young People With Psychotic Disorder at Highest Risk of Death in Year Following Diagnosis

Young patients newly diagnosed with a psychotic disorder are at higher risk for mortality, mostly due to injuries and poisoning, particularly for the first year or two after diagnosis, according to a study published in JAMA Psychiatry. [Read more.](#)

FREE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 21: Expanding Options for the Transportation of Adults with Mental Illness

This webinar will provide an overview of promising practices and strategies being tested around transporting people in crisis or showing symptom of mental illness. [Register now.](#)

FEBRUARY 26: Criminal Justice, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and People with Mental Illnesses

This webinar will discuss how mental health, criminal justice, and correctional programs can work together to meet ADA obligations and ensure an array of services that reduce the likelihood that people with mental illnesses will enter the criminal justice system. [Register Now.](#)

FEBRUARY 27: Self-Direction through Personalized Budgeting

Developed by the National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery, this webinar will start with an introduction to Self-Directed Care (SDC), including a brief history and the places that are testing it out. [Register now.](#)

MARCH 26: Suicide Prevention in Later Life: Connecting and Contributing

This presentation will highlight the importance of suicide prevention in later life, with an emphasis on increasing social connectedness as a means for prevention. The webinar will cover basic epidemiology of late-life suicide and how a contemporary theory of suicide (the Interpersonal Theory of Suicide) can inform prevention efforts by highlighting potential mechanisms. [Register now.](#)

FUNDING & AWARDS

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Partnerships for Early Diversion

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2018 Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Partnerships for Early Diversion grants. The purpose of this program is to establish or expand programs that divert adults with a serious mental illness (SMI) or a co-occurring disorder (COD) from the criminal justice system to community-based services prior to arrest and booking. Special consideration will be given to applicants proposing to use grant funding to support early diversion services for veterans. [Learn more.](#)

SAMHSA Grants to Support People with Mental Illness, Substance Use Disorders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) posted grant funding opportunities to support counties working to help people with mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders. Several grants are available to support efforts such as law enforcement diversion and homelessness initiatives. Grant applications are due in March. [Learn more.](#)

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Treatment for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness, Serious Emotional Disturbance or Co-Occurring Disorders Experiencing Homelessness

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), is accepting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 –Treatment for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness, Serious Emotional Disturbance or Co-Occurring Disorders Experiencing Homelessness. The purpose of this program is to support the development and/or expansion of the local implementation of an infrastructure that integrates behavioral health treatment and recovery support services for individuals, youth, and families with a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance or co-occurring disorder (i.e., a serious mental illness [SMI] and substance use disorder [SUD] or a serious emotional disturbance [SED] and SUD who are experiencing homelessness. [Learn more.](#)

HELPFUL RESOURCES & LINKS OF INTEREST

[Sustaining Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care: A Step-by-Step Guide](#)

Mental Illnesses by the Numbers The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has launched a [redesigned Statistics section](#) on its website that features interactive data visualization tools and sharing capabilities.

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