

02/12/2021

Good Morning REDC Consortium Members,

Thank you to everyone who participated in REDC's virtual advocacy day on Wednesday--either by meeting with congressional staff or on social media! We had around 10-12 treatment facilities participate this year and it was a success.

A couple reminders before we kick off the update:

### **SERVE Act Congressional Briefing, Thursday, February 25**

- The REDC Consortium is partnering with the Eating Disorders Coalition and the National Military Family Association for a Congressional briefing related to the SERVE Act and military mental health.
- The briefing will take place on Thursday, 2/25 from 12:30-1:30 pm on Zoom.
- Invitation is attached and you can register [here](#).

### **REDC Member Telehealth Utilization Survey, Closes TODAY!**

- Friendly reminder to fill out a brief survey on telehealth utilization to assist in our federal policy efforts on the importance of telehealth.
- The survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TYPQKCB>

### **I. Parity & California's Parity Law, SB 855**

1. As of January 1, 2021 California's parity law, SB 855 went into effect.
  - The law requires insurers to follow ASAM, LOCUS, CALOCUS-CASII and not other criteria is allowed.
  - **The Kennedy Forum has requested that if any of you see anything fishy from CA-regulated commercial plans, to notify them immediately.**
    - For example, Anthem sent out a provider notice indicating they could still use MCG criteria for non-CA providers (in CA-regulated insurance plans)--that is illegal. Any denials like these should be reprocessed.
    - Please let me or Katrina know if one of your centers is experiencing this.
2. **Monthly State Parity Call**
  - Please see the attached slide deck from the Kennedy Forum for the most up-to-date information on state parity bills.

### **II. COVID Relief**

1. If the next COVID-19 relief package passes into law, ACA subsidies will double for the first time in over a decade.

- Part of the proposal would expand the population eligible for subsidies including:
  - Fully subsidize ACA coverage for people earning 150% of the federal poverty level, as well as those on unemployment insurance, for two year;
  - End the "fiscal-cliff" for individuals who earn 400% of the federal poverty line will be eligible for subsidies for the first time, for two years;
  - Cover 85% of the cost of private health insurance for those laid off during the pandemic, through September 21, 2021.

### **III. Telehealth**

#### **1. Telehealth Caucus Member Calls**

- This week, the Telehealth Working Group (which REDC is part of) had calls with Reps. Balderson (R-OH), Schweikert (R-AZ), and Thompson (D-CA).
  - The purpose of these calls is to ensure key congressional members know about the priorities of the telehealth working group, which include:
    - Ensuring continued telehealth coverage for MH/SUD services for a minimum of 1 year after the PHE ends;
    - Maintain payment parity for telehealth services at the in-person rates;
    - Maintain audio-only as a modality for service delivery
- Farrington Specialty Consulting and our team set up a meeting with Rep. Banks (R-IN) to discuss issues with Anthem telehealth coverage in the state

### **IV. ACA**

#### **1. Biden Administration Withdraws from ACA Lawsuit**

- The Justice Department has withdrawn the federal government's support for a challenge of the ACA, telling the Supreme Court that the law should remain on the books.
- The majority of SCOTUS justices seemed inclined to preserve much of the law during oral arguments held on November 10, 2020.
- The justices are expected to rule on the law's constitutionality in the coming weeks or months.

Wishing all of you a great weekend,  
Allison & the Center Road Solutions team