

10/01/2021

Hello REDC Members,

Here is your weekly policy update.

Virtual Congressional Briefing—Wednesday, October 6

- Join the Eating Disorders Coalition, Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness and Be Real USA for a virtual congressional briefing in conjunction with the Congressional Mental Health Caucus.
 - The briefing will discuss two EDC-led initiatives the Nutrition CARE Act and the Improving Mental Health and Wellness in Schools Act.
- The invitation is attached and to register you can visit: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- Please share with your networks!

Telehealth

- **Meeting w/ Center for Consumer Information and Coverage Oversight (CCIOO)**
 - Earlier today, Jillian Lampert and our team met with several officials from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Center for Consumer Information and Coverage Oversight.
 - This is the center that manages ACA plans, consumer information around plans, data and analytics, etc.
 - The meeting was to brief officials on the recurring issues with telehealth in the commercial space, specifically:
 - Arbitrary telehealth coverage termination dates with little notice of extension
 - Allowing only one prior authorization for either in-person or telehealth treatment/inability to switch from in-person care to telehealth care and vice versa for the same patient
 - The meeting attendees were very interested in the information and wanted further studies on the efficacy of telehealth treatment for eating disorders, which we will provide.
 - They stated they're looking heavily at what can be done with telehealth and will be interested to see how benefit packages are designed to include telehealth or how these will be adapted in 2022
 - Now that we have these officials in our rolodex, we can continue to work with them on strategies and solutions for telehealth permanency in some way, shape or form.
- **[J.D. Power's 2021 Telehealth Survey](#)**
 - 36% of patients said they used telehealth in the past year, up from 9% in 2020's survey.

- Satisfaction declined from the previous year, with some barriers including “limited service,” confusion over tech and “lack of awareness of costs.”
 - Satisfaction was also lower among those with the lowest report health stats than those in “excellent” health.
- Teledoc got the highest marks in terms of satisfaction for “direct-to-consumer” brands, and UHC had the highest satisfaction among payers of plan-provided telehealth.

COVID-19 Relief

• Next Phase of Provider Funding Opens

- The application portal for \$25.5 billion is now available through the Provider Relief Fund.
- This is the fourth installment of cash after it was established in the CARES Act and includes money from the American Rescue Plan.
- The application can be available [here](#).

• Build Back Better Letter to House/Senate Democratic Leadership

- The REDC joined a letter on behalf of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) outlining our support for key mental health and substance use disorder provisions to be incorporated into the reconciliation package.
- Priorities include: Funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, CHIP stabilization, Medicaid for previously incarcerated individuals, parity protections and oversight, home- and community-based services.
- The full letter is attached.

ACA

• Health Care Groups Lobby for End of Short-Term Plans

- Keep US Covered, AIDS United, and the American Nurses Association are urging the Administration to reverse Trump-era rules that opened the door for short-term insurance.
- They specifically urge the Administration to reverse regulations on short-term, limited duration plans and individual coverage HRAs.

NDA Status

- The NDAA passed the House last week with the Meng Amendment and SERVE language within!
- We’re hearing that the NDAA will be up for a vote on the Senate floor sometime this month (October). This means we have just a few weeks to get our two amendments introduced (SERVE Amendment and “Meng Amendment” for health professionals’ training) and rally 60 votes.

- Senators Shaheen and Tillis are ready to introduce the SERVE amendment and we are in the process of meeting with offices to garner support.
- In addition, we've been working to identify amendment leads for a Senate version of Meng's language that passed the House. We successfully heard from Sen. Amy Klobuchar's office yesterday that they are happy to lead this amendment for the NDAA!
- We are working hard to get a Republican co-lead as well
- Next Steps:
 - **Senate Floor Amendment & Passage:** Senators Shaheen & Tillis will submit the SERVE amendment language and Senator Klobuchar will submit military health ED training language ahead of the Senate Floor vote this month.
 - **Conference Negotiations:** Then both the House & Senate NDAA will need to be negotiated (called conferenced) for differences, and have one more vote in both Chambers.
- Federal News Network reported on our win in the House! [Military eating disorder advocates see win in 2022 NDAA | Federal News Network](#)

Have a great weekend!

Best,
Center Road Solutions Team