

03/25/2022

Hello REDC Members,

It was wonderful to see many of you earlier this week at the REDC all member meeting. For those that were unable to attend, attached is our policy update presentation for your reference.

REMINDER! REDC Advocacy Day Registration

- Tuesday, April 26th from 9am to 4pm EST
- Required training on Monday, April 25th from 3pm to 4pm.
- **Register here:** <https://redcadvocacyday.eventbrite.com>
 - **Registration closes in ONE WEEK on April 1st.**

Parity

- We are dismayed to learn the *Wit v. UBH* case was overturned this week by a 3-judge panel of the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Patrick Kennedy wrote a blog about why this decision is so harmful and flawed that you can view here: <https://www.thekennedyforum.org/blog/a-landmark-legal-ruling-in-the-fight-for-mental-health-equity-has-been-overturned/>
 - In 2019, the Eating Disorders Coalition released a statement applauding the initial ruling which provides additional background on the enormity of this case. You can read this release [here](#).

Telehealth

- [Office of the Inspector General Report](#) on Telehealth found telehealth was critical for providing services to Medicare beneficiaries during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Over 28M Medicare beneficiaries used telehealth during the first year of the pandemic or more than 2 in 5.
 - Less than 1% of Medicare beneficiaries used telehealth prior to the pandemic
 - Beneficiaries most commonly used telehealth for office visits, which accounted for just under half of all telehealth services (54.5M) used during the first year of the pandemic.
 - Beneficiaries also used telehealth for virtual care services (34M), behavioral health services (14.1M), nursing home visits (3.3M), and preventive services (2.4M), among others.
 - Beneficiaries used telehealth for a larger share of their behavioral health services compared to their use of telehealth for other services.
 - Specifically, beneficiaries used telehealth for 43% of behavioral health services, whereas they used

telehealth for 13% of office visits they receive during the first year of the pandemic.

• **Telehealth Expansion Act Led by Reps. Lee (D-NV) and Steel (R-CA) Gains Attention**

- The legislation would make pre-deductible coverage for telehealth services for individuals enrolled in a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) in combination with a Health Savings Account (HSA) permanent.
- This coverage was temporarily extended through January 1, 2023 in the recently passed Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.

• **RAND Corporation [Study](#) on Audio-Only Telehealth**

- Audio-only telehealth was used more often than video visits for primary care and behavioral health services at federally qualified health centers between August 2020 and August 2021.
- The PHE declaration has allowed for behavioral health care services at FQHCs to be delivered telehealth.

REDC Consortium Supports Two Letters Regarding Social Media Harms on Children

- Led by the American Psychological Association, the letter was sent to U.S. Surgeon General Murthy requesting an educational campaign on the impact of social media on children.
 - The full letter is attached.
- Led by Fairplay for Kids and the Center for Digital Democracy , 61 organizations from a wide variety of areas of concern sent a letter to House and Senate leadership to urge action related to the harms of social media platforms have on children and adolescents.
 - The full letter is attached.

Treatment Center Visit by Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12) Staff

- Thank you to the Discovery Mood & Anxiety Program for hosting Rep. Bilirakis' (R-FL-12) Community Outreach Staffer, Bob Hatfield earlier this week!
 - Bob Hatfield shared that the facility itself is very impressive, has a welcoming feel and the young people were very engaged.
 - He had a particular interest in the visit as a former teacher, coach, and elementary principal.
 - If you are interested in having a Member of Congress tour your treatment center please reach out to Emily Rosenberg at emily.rosenberg@centerroadsolutions.com.

Wishing each of you a great weekend,
Center Road Solutions Team