

04/08/2022

Hello REDC Members,

Here is this week's policy update.

REDC Virtual Advocacy Day: Postponed

- We will follow up with a new date shortly.

Parity

The REDC Consortium signed onto a letter to Department of Labor Secretary Walsh and Secretary of Health & Human Services Secretary Becerra regarding the deeply flawed federal court decision in the *Wit. v. United Behavioral Health* case.

- The letter was signed by 43 MH/SUD organizations and 40 providers
- **Given the great sensitivity around this request, please do not advertise this letter, including press, social media, distribution or promotion of this letter—including member newsletters.**

Telehealth

Doctors and Patients Push Telehealth Across State Borders

- A poll on telehealth published earlier this week finds that health care providers and patients alike support telehealth practitioners being able to operate across state lines.
- Many states have ended or are planning to end waivers they enacted during the health crisis that allowed health providers to care for patients in other states.
 - 1 in 5 practitioners polled say they have provided health care services across state lines under an emergency waiver program.
 - 8 in 10 health care providers support being able to practice telehealth across state lines.
 - More than 75% of patients support the option to seek telehealth care outside their state.

Telehealth Benefit Expansion for Workers Act (H.R. 7353) Introduced

- Led by Reps. DelBene (D-WA), Walorski (R-IN), Craig (D-MN) and Walberg (R-MI), the bill would expand Americans' access to employer-sponsored health benefits by classifying telehealth as an excepted benefit.
- The bill would amend HIPAA and the ACA to allow all employees—including part-time and seasonal workers—to receive this excepted benefit.

FAIR [5th Annual Health Report](#) Captures Impact of COVID-19 Impact on Pandemic

- Telehealth utilization grew nationally by over 7,000% from 2019 to 2020.
- Telehealth had the highest percentage of medical claim lines in 2020, with 15.41% of all medical claim lines nationally.
- The most common telehealth diagnostic category in 2020 was mental health conditions, which grew from 35% in 2019 to 44% in 2020.

ACA

ACA Family Glitch Headed for Correction

- The Biden Administration is expected to issue proposed regulations aimed at fixing the ACA's "family glitch", in a bid to eliminate the longstanding loophole that disqualified millions of people from subsidized coverage.
 - Under the ACA, people can qualify for subsidies if the cost of their employer coverage hits a certain threshold, But that cost is currently calculated only based on the premium charged to one individual—even if that person's family is also on the plan.
- The revamped policy would expand coverage to 200,000 people and lower insurance costs for nearly 1 million more, according to administration estimates.

SERVE Act

- SERVE Act Implementation Letter was sent to the Department of Defense (DOD) and Defense Health Agency (DHA) this week.
- The letter urges DOD and DHA to implement the provisions included in the Fiscal Year 2022 NDAA to expand and build infrastructure to identify, treat, and rehabilitate servicemembers and military families affected by eating disorders.
- The letter is attached.

Treatment Center visit by Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

- Thank you Center for Discovery Milwaukee, WI for hosting Senator Baldwin and her staff last Friday!
- 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.

Have a great weekend!

Best,
Center Road Solutions Team