

06/03/2022

Hello REDC Members,

Here is this week's policy update.

REDC Virtual Advocacy Day

- **Date:** Wednesday, June 22 from 10am to 4pm EDT
- **Where:** Virtual, through Zoom
- **Register here:** [REDC Consortium Advocacy Day Registration](#)
 - **Registration has been extended through Monday, June 6.**
 - **Training for Attendees (*mandatory for attendees to join 1 session*):**
 - **Tuesday, June 21 from 2pm to 3pm ET**
 - **Wednesday, June 22 from 9am to 10am ET**
- This advocacy day, you will meet with Congressional staff to discuss:
 - Maintaining telehealth flexibilities that have been expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Ensuring telehealth as a service modality for MH/SUD is at parity with telehealth offerings for medical/surgical services.
- **We need your support and experience with patients to convince Members of Congress that telehealth needs to stay!**
- **We need additional registrants for the following states:**
 - CA, CO, NC, NY, NM, IL

Telehealth

Connecting Rural Telehealth to the Future Act ([H.R. 7876](#)):

- Reps. O'Halleran (D-AZ) and Armstrong (R-ND) introduced the bill this week that would extend certain telehealth flexibilities for two years, giving patients and providers certainty while Congress works to make them permanent including:
 - Extend all temporary telehealth provisions included in the FY22 omnibus through December 31, 2024;
 - Permanently allow the use of audio-only technologies when providers are evaluating or managing patient health or providing behavioral health services;
 - Restore Rural Health Clinic and Federally Qualified Health Clinic reimbursements for telehealth services to their normal reimbursement methods; and
 - Extend allowance for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) to directly bill for telehealth services.

CVS Health Unveils Telehealth Solution for Aetna, Caremark Members

- This will provide plan members with various services, including primary care and mental healthcare, in their chosen setting.
 - Called CVS Health Virtual Primary Care, the digital care platform will provide healthcare consumers with an array of care services including primary care, on-demand care, chronic condition management, and mental health services.
 - Consumers will be able to choose their healthcare setting from various retail, community-based, virtual, and at-home care options.
- The launch of this product will be effective for eligible Aetna members starting January 1, 2023, and eligible CVS Caremark members during the second quarter of 2023.

ABHW Letter to Tri-Departments Regarding 2022 MHPAEA Report to Congress

- Attached is a letter the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) sent to the DOL, HHS, and Department of Treasury responding to the 2022 Mental Healthy Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) Report to Congress.

Parity

- Congressional Parity Maneuverings:
 - [H.R. 7666](#) (see [section 321](#)...version with grants to states not up on Congress.gov yet)
 - [S. 4170](#) (see sections 7 and 8)
 - [H.R. 7780](#) (see [section 602](#))
 - Insurance industry pushing for amendment that would force rulemaking from DOL.
- Washington Post Article and Wit Appeal
 - This week, an [article](#) was written in Washington Post on mental health insurance parity and barriers to coverage. The article highlights the *Wit* decision and the recent developments around its appeal as well as recent action by the DOL.
 - You can view the Kennedy Forum's tweets on the article [here](#).
 - **Given the [critical moment](#) the *Wit* decision finds itself in, please share the Washington Post article widely and on your socials to keep up the parity fight.**

Have a great weekend!

Center Road Solutions Team