

09/23/2022

Hello REDC Members,

Here is this week's policy update.

PARITY

The REDC participated in a U.S. Department of Labor Roundtable discussion on the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act this morning. A full summary memo of the event will be available in next week's policy update.

[Yale Law and Policy Review Publishes Research on Ghost Networks](#)

- The research article details the extensive errors in health plans' provider directories—with some studies showing that more than half of all directory entries contain errors.
- The article analyzes state level data to demonstrate the failure of existing directory accuracy policies and proposed an alternative policy framework to prevent directory errors including a framework that is:
 - Focused on regular enforcement;
 - Consistent fines for noncompliance;
 - Engaging as many actors as possible in the enforcement scheme.

State Workgroup Parity Call

- The state parity working group held their monthly call last week.
- Attached is the slide deck from the call detailing updates on federal and state legislation.
- In short, there is some great federal parity legislation in Congress; however, the biggest ticket item—civil monetary penalty authority for insurers—is partisan /and is unlikely to move forward under normal congressional procedure.

TELEHEALTH

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Release New Telehealth Data

- As reported last week, CMS released new data chronicling how telehealth use has risen and fallen amid the COVID-19 pandemic at both the state and national levels.
- The data shows trends from January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022.
 - Approximately 10 million Medicare beneficiaries used telehealth during 2021.
 - The summary of the data can be found [here](#).

REDC Joins Letter Urging Congressional Action on Telehealth

- As reported last week, the REDC joined a letter with 375 additional organizations urging the U.S. Senate to act on telehealth legislation by the end of the year.
- The letter received solid media coverage that you can find here:
- [Modern Healthcare](#), [Medical Economics](#), [American Medical Association](#), [Insider Intelligence](#), [mHealth Intelligence](#), [Healthcare Dive](#), [Politico](#), [Fierce Healthcare](#), [Healthcare Innovation](#), [Becker's Hospital Review](#), and [Healthcare Finance News](#).

Telemedicine One of Three Health Items on GOP's November Agenda

- The GOP has released an agenda entitled, "Commitment to America" outlining the Republican party's priorities in advance of the midterm elections this November, which includes expanding access to affordable telehealth.
 - This priority was previously part of the Modernization Subcommittee of the House GOP Healthy Future Taskforce, which announced a plan to continue telehealth access beyond the pandemic by adjusting Medicare originating site requirements and maximizing employer-sponsored telehealth coverage through the use of health savings accounts.
 - An overview of the agenda can be found [here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH

Senate Finance Committee Releases Bipartisan Mental Health Workforce Draft Text

- Senators Stabenow (D-MI), Daines (R-MT), Wyden (D-OR) and Crapo (R-ID) released draft text to tackle the behavioral healthcare workforce challenges.
- The draft text can be found [here](#) and a summary chart of the provisions can be viewed [here](#).
- The workforce provisions tackle Medicare and Medicaid—given that is the jurisdiction of the committee. However, the provisions will be useful in addressing the overall provider pipeline.

Senators Cornyn (R-TX) and Bennet (D-CO) Release Mental Health Care White Paper

- The plan outlines four steps to reform the standing system:
 - Pass a rapid response to the current crisis;
 - rethink how the federal government interacts with local partners for mental health care;
 - redesign funding and;
 - delivery systems and reevaluate programs into the future.
- The white paper can be viewed [here](#).
 - The CRS team plans to meet with Sens. Cornyn and Bennet this winter to learn more.

Have a great weekend!

Center Road Solutions Team