

11/12/2022

Good Morning REDC Members,

Below is your policy update for the week.

TELEHEALTH

MHLG Telehealth Working Group Monthly Meeting Guest Speaker

- **Roger Smith, Director of Government and Corporate Affairs & General Counsel, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy** spoke at the Mental Health Liaison Group Telehealth Working Group monthly meeting to share what was discussed at last month's HHS ASPE expert panel discussion regarding policy options for interstate licensure reciprocity that would be multidisciplinary for the delivery of behavioral health care.
 - Diverse group—heavily on the provider side
 - 4 hour event
 - Discussion on existing licensure compacts
 - Many of the orgs at the table have their own compact or developing their own
 - That could have swayed the conversation as many folks had their compacts vs. universal licensure portability
 - Discussion how compacts have been going for nursing, psychology, counseling, social work, etc.
 - Discussion of having a universal licensure portability just to practice telehealth.
 - Idea of a multidisciplinary compact and the idea was met with negativity.
 - Cons: How would you treat existing compacts if this came into existence
 - Pros: cost-savings
 - California and New York are two states that have not joined any compacts
 - Need for federal support as the provider associations are usually the ones picking up the cost to implement this. State government's don't pick up the tab.
 - Expenses to manage that large data set.
 - Unclear next steps from the federal government. Largely silent during the discussion.

Republican Seek to Pass Permanent Telehealth Legislation Next Year

- House Republicans will seek to pass permanent telehealth legislation next year if they take control of the lower chamber in the November midterm elections.
- If they win the House, Republicans will focus on passing broad-based permanent telehealth legislation next year instead of during the lame duck session as some telehealth stakeholders previously expected. But Republicans will push to pass a narrower tele-mental health bill during this year's lame duck session.

PARITY

The State Parity Workgroup Monthly call was held this week, which included a presentation from the Legal Action Center on the cost estimates and savings associated with closing SUD coverage gaps in Medicare.

- The slide deck from the call, which includes federal parity updates is attached.
- Legal Action Center's slide deck is also attached.

COVID

[JAMA Pediatrics](#) released a case series on the increase of eating disorders admissions in youth.

- Researchers looked at volume changes in inpatient and outpatient eating disorder-related care across 14 "geographically diverse hospital-based adolescent medicine programs," and one non-hospital treatment program, from January 2018 to December 2021.
- Inpatient admissions for eating disorders increased significantly in the first year of the pandemic, the findings showed. In the two years before the pandemic, inpatient admissions among teens and young adults increased by a mean of 0.7 percent per month. That figure rose to 7.2 percent during the first year of the pandemic.
- For outpatient eating disorder care, researchers found volumes declined immediately after the pandemic's onset, and then significantly increased over time by a mean of 8.1 percent per month through April 2021.

Center Road Solutions Team