



UPDATE

April 1, 2017

- I. [Science and Service News Updates](#)
- II. [Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources](#)
- III. [Calendar of Events](#)
- IV. [Calls for Public Input](#)
- V. [Funding Information](#)

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*Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health,
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison*

DELAYED WALKING MAY SIGNAL SPONTANEOUS GENE ANOMALIES IN AUTISM; DISTINCT BEHAVIORAL PROFILES LINKED TO “HIGH CONFIDENCE” ASD RISK GENES

A team of National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) intramural and grant-supported researchers has discovered a pattern of behavioral and genetic features seen in some cases of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) that could ultimately lead to identification of subgroups and improved treatment. Children diagnosed with ASD who had spontaneous, non-inherited changes in autism-linked genes showed “muted” core autism symptoms relating to social behavior and language when compared to sex, age, and IQ-matched children with ASD without known genetic abnormalities. A key clue was that children with the spontaneous glitches—abnormal numbers of copies of genes or other mutations linked to functional impairments—tended to start walking later than usual, which is not typical of children with ASD. In fact, the odds of a child in this sample having a spontaneous abnormal gene finding increased by 17 percent for each month of delay in walking.

Science Update: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/delayed-walking-may-signal-spontaneous-gene-anomalies-in-autism.shtml>

A THIRD OF SUSPECT MUTATIONS IN ASD JUST “NOISE”; LEVERAGING NATURAL SELECTION NARROWS THE FIELD OF POTENTIAL NON-INHERITED GENETIC CAUSES

NIMH-funded researchers have narrowed suspected genetic causes of autism and related developmental disabilities by ruling out what they call the “noise of benign variation.” A third of the same spontaneous, non-inherited gene glitches found in people with ASD, intellectual disability, or developmental delay also turned up in unaffected people and didn’t confer risk for the disorders. Such de novo “synonymous variants” were detected at triple the rate previously believed. Eliminating them as possible causes boosted risk attributable to variants found only in people with the disorders. The rarer glitches were much more prevalent in people with the disorders than in their unaffected siblings, further implicating them as risk factors.

Science Update: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/a-third-of-suspect-mutations-in-asd-just-noise.shtml>

AVENEVOLI NAMED NIMH DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Shelli Avenevoli, Ph.D. has been named deputy director of NIMH. She steps into the post having served as acting deputy director during NIMH’s search for a new permanent director. Avenevoli brings to the role a background and research interest in developmental science and epidemiology and a record of leadership within the NIMH organization and in numerous cross-institute and interagency scientific collaborations.

Science Update: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/avenevoli-named-nimh-deputy-director.shtml>

NEW GUIDE HELPS TRANSITION PEOPLE WITH MENTAL OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS FROM INSTITUTIONAL CORRECTIONAL SETTINGS INTO THE COMMUNITY

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a new guide providing behavioral health, correctional, and community stakeholders with approaches for effectively transitioning people with mental or substance use disorders from institutional correctional settings into the community. The new SAMHSA guide, *Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jail and Prison: Implementation Guide*, provides actual examples of successful strategies for transitioning people with mental or substance use disorders from correctional settings into the community. The guide promotes the Assess, Plan, Identify, and Coordinate approach to identifying various successful evidenced-based strategies that work across jurisdictional systems.

Press Release: <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201703281100>

VA, DOD STUDY A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH FOR UNDERSTANDING PTSD

Researchers from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DOD) recently released findings of a new study called *Prospective Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Symptom Trajectories in Active Duty and Separated Military Personnel*, which examines post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms in Veterans compared with active-duty populations. This is the first known study comparing PTSD symptom trajectories of current service members with those of Veterans, and is the product of a collaborative effort from VA and DOD researchers analyzing data from the Millennium Cohort Study, the largest prospective health study of military service members.

Press Release: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2875>

VA SECRETARY ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH CARE TO FORMER SERVICE MEMBERS WITH OTHER-THAN-HONORABLE DISCHARGES AND IN CRISIS

VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin, while testifying in a House VA Committee hearing on March 7, 2017, announced his intention to expand provisions for urgent mental health care needs to former service members with other-than-honorable (OTH) administrative discharges. This move marks the first time a VA Secretary has implemented an initiative specifically focused on expanding access to assist former OTH service members who are in mental distress and may be at risk for suicide or other adverse behaviors.

Press Release: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2867>

NEW FROM NIMH: NIMH DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: AN EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTIC APPROACH TO PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS

In his most recent Director's Message, NIMH Director Dr. Joshua Gordon talks about NIMH's commitment to support the development and testing of psychosocial interventions in the greater context of the experimental therapeutics approach to treatment research.

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/messages/2017/an-experimental-therapeutic-approach-to-psychosocial-interventions.shtml>

NEW FROM HHS

VIDEO: THE POWER OF THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN

This new video from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Adolescent Health uses research to shine a light on adolescent brain development, functioning, and capacity and provides practical suggestions for practitioners and families with adolescents. The video can be viewed in one full-length format as well as broken out into six segments (including one on mental health). Two accompanying discussion guides — one for professionals and one for families — can be used in a variety of settings, including staff meetings, conference sessions, or trainings, and instructions for preparation and facilitation are provided. <http://youth.gov/feature-article/power-adolescent-brain-tag-talk>

WHO'S LEADING THE LEADING HEALTH INDICATORS IN MENTAL HEALTH

Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators (LHIs) are critical health issues that—if tackled appropriately—will dramatically reduce the leading causes of death and preventable illnesses. The Mental Health LHIs address suicides and adolescents who experience major depressive episodes. Learn about these health indicators, and one program which is helping youth build the strength to prevent suicide.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USOPHSODPHPHF/bulletins/1911328>

SPOTLIGHT ON OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND SERVICES

This issue of the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) *Children's Bureau Express* spotlights information on opioid and substance use and how it affects youth, families, and communities as well as support services and treatment options for overcoming the devastating consequences of addiction.

<https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewSection&issueID=184&subsectionID=74>

NIDA: NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND DRUG TREATMENT COUNSELORS

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has created several new resources for those who work within the criminal justice system and other environments where people in recovery are ready to return to their lives outside of a structured setting.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT

This toolkit includes a compilation of relevant statistics and links to federal and multimedia resources that focus on juveniles who interact with the justice system. <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week/promote-events/juvenile-justice-event-toolkit>

SCIENCE OF DRUG USE: DISCUSSION POINTS

This online resource offers specific language for counselors, judges and others who work within drug education environments, to use when talking with teens and young adults, reinforcing the idea that addiction is a brain disease that requires treatment and ongoing attention.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/criminal-justice/science-drug-use-discussion-points>

LOW LITERACY FACT SHEETS: DRUG FACTS

These brief, printable documents at lower literacy levels include information about specific drugs as well as the negative impact of drug use, the nature of addiction, and treatment and recovery.

<https://easyread.drugabuse.gov/content/print-friendly-drug-facts>

DRUGS AND THE BRAIN WALLET CARD

This is a trifold, business card-sized resource that provides a brief explanation of the risk of overdose upon relapse. It includes helpful websites and a space for counselors or individuals to add local resources or personalized information, including triggers. <https://drugpubs.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugs-brain-wallet-card>

NEW FROM NIH

BUPRENORPHINE BENEFITS WAITLISTED SEEKERS OF OPIOID TREATMENT

In two pilot clinical trials funded by NIDA, buprenorphine helped participants reduce their illicit opioid use and injection drug use while awaiting admission to a methadone or buprenorphine treatment program. Researchers minimized the risks for improper use or diversion of the study medication by giving it to trial participants in a computerized, tamper-proof device that dispenses one dose each day. Research staff monitored participants' craving, withdrawal, drug use, and medication adherence with an interactive voice response system and random callbacks. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/nida-notes/2017/03/buprenorphine-benefits-waitlisted-seekers-opioid-treatment>

COULD SNAKE VENOM HELP WITH THE OPIOID PROBLEM?

This NIDA Drugs and Health blog post describes how scientists are studying venom from snakes and spiders that might lead to safer or more effective pain relievers. This approach to developing drugs is called "toxineering." <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/could-snake-venom-help-opioid-problem>

SO YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS. WHAT NOW?

This NIDA Drugs and Health blog post addresses questions that teens may have if they think they might have a problem with drugs. <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/so-you-think-you-may-have-problem-drugs-what-now>

NIA INFOGRAPHIC: THE EMOTIONAL BENEFITS OF EXERCISE - FEEL GOOD WITH GO4LIFE

Research shows the benefits of exercise go beyond just physical well-being. Learn how physical activity helps support emotional and mental health. Share this National Institute on Aging infographic and help spread the word about the emotional benefits of exercise. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/infographics/emotional-benefits-exercise-feel-good-go4life>

NIMHD DIRECTOR: BRIDGING HEALTH GAPS THROUGH LANGUAGE ACCESS

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Director Dr. Eliseo Pérez-Stable discusses how clinicians can have an immediate impact on improving the health of disparity populations through one simple tool: better communication across language and cultural barriers. Health literacy refers to a person's ability to understand the basic health information they need to make appropriate health decisions. <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/programs/edu-training/language-access/>

NIMHD: INTRODUCING THE LANGUAGE ACCESS PORTAL

Learn how NIMHD is providing health resources from across the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in selected languages to help disseminate health information that is both relevant to health disparity populations and available in languages other than English. <http://nimhd.blogs.govdelivery.com/2017/03/14/introducing-the-language-access-portal/>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

SUICIDE PREVENTION SURVEILLANCE SUCCESS STORIES: MONTANA

SAMHSA's Suicide Prevention Resource Center released its latest Surveillance Success Story, which comes from the state of Montana. This story details how the Montana Suicide Mortality Review Team accesses and analyzes data on suicide deaths in the state, and uses that data to make recommendations about prevention efforts. http://www.sprc.org/sites/default/files/resource-program/Montana_Final.pdf

BLOG POST: MEETING THE GROWING NEED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ON CAMPUS

SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services Director Paolo del Vecchio describes the need for behavioral health services on college campuses and SAMHSA's efforts to support colleges and universities. <https://blog.samhsa.gov/2017/03/20/meeting-the-growing-need-for-behavioral-health-services-on-campus/>

ARCHIVED WEBCAST: TREATMENT AND RECOVERY: RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

This Power of Language and Portrayals webcast aimed to inspire the creative community to write stories with authentic characters in situations that address an individual or family's search for effective and appropriate treatment and recovery services. The webcast centered on the common denominators and age-specific factors that are critical when looking for treatment and recovery services to achieve the best outcome. Using SAMHSA's best practice findings, the panel addressed key elements the writers should consider when staging a treatment-related program or in script about an individual or family members seeking help. <https://www.samhsa.gov/power-language-portrayals/webcasts>

NEW FROM CDC

TRENDS IN SUICIDE BY LEVEL OF URBANIZATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a new report which describes the trends in suicide rates across counties by level of urbanization. The study highlights higher rates of suicide in areas with lower levels of urbanization. In addition the study demonstrates a growing disparity between suicide rates in less urban and more urban areas of the United States (U.S.). During 1999 to 2015, annual suicide rates increased across all levels of urbanization; and suicide rates at the beginning of the study were lowest for the more urban counties and highest for the less urban (more rural) counties, a gap that continued to widen over time. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6610a2.htm>

DIFFERENCES IN HEALTH CARE, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS AMONG CHILDREN

Mental, behavioral, and developmental disorders (MBDDs) begin in early childhood and often affect lifelong health and well-being. Persons who live in rural areas report more health-related disparities than those in urban areas, including poorer health, more health risk behaviors, and less access to health resources. This report uses data from the National Survey of Children's Health to examine sociodemographic, health care, family, and community factors among U.S. children aged two to eight years with and without MBDDs according to whether they live in urban, large rural, small rural, or isolated areas.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6608a1.htm>

CHARACTERISTICS OF INITIAL PRESCRIPTION EPISODES AND LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM OPIOID USE

This report found that in a representative sample of opioid naïve, cancer-free adults who received a prescription for opioid pain relievers, the likelihood of chronic opioid use increased with each additional day of medication supplied starting with the third day, with the sharpest increases in chronic opioid use observed after the fifth and thirty-first day on therapy, a second prescription or refill, 700 morphine milligram equivalents cumulative dose, and an initial 10- or 30-day supply. The highest probability of continued opioid use at one and three years was observed among patients who started on a long-acting opioid followed by patients who started on tramadol.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6610a1.htm>

TBI-RELATED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS, HOSPITALIZATIONS, AND DEATHS

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) has short- and long-term adverse clinical outcomes, including death and disability. TBI can be caused by a number of principal mechanisms, including motor-vehicle crashes, falls, and assaults. This report describes the estimated incidence of TBI-related emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalizations, and deaths during 2013 and makes comparisons to similar estimates from 2007.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6609a1.htm>

SELECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ADULTS

This report provides data on selected health conditions from the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander National Health Interview Survey (NHPI NHIS) and the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). NHPI adults were more likely than all U.S. adults to be in fair or poor health, to have diabetes, and to have ever had asthma, but they were less likely to have cancer. Further NHPI adults were more likely to be in fair or poor health and to have experienced serious psychological distress in the past 30 days compared with single-race Asian adults. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db277.htm>

CDC FOUNDATION'S NEW BUSINESS PULSE FOCUSES ON OPIOID OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

Business Pulse: Opioid Overdose Epidemic, launched by the CDC Foundation, explores how the CDC is working to protect individuals from the widespread opioid overdose epidemic. This issue also features an interactive infographic that provides useful facts and links to CDC programs that help employers address this public health crisis. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/a0315-business-pulse-opioids.html>

NEW FROM AHRQ

FIRST- AND SECOND-GENERATION ANTIPSYCHOTICS IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW UPDATE

The purpose of this review was to assess the effectiveness and harms of first- and second-generation antipsychotics (FGAs and SGAs) used for treating children, adolescents, and young adults. There was little information directly comparing different antipsychotics, on patient-important outcomes, including quality of life, and on outcomes for young children. FGAs probably cause less weight gain than SGAs, and (for schizophrenia) there may be little or no difference between the classes for reducing symptoms and illness severity. SGAs probably improve to some extent symptoms for which they are usually prescribed, but also cause adverse effects, including weight gain, high triglyceride levels, extrapyramidal symptoms, sedation, and somnolence. <https://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productID=2446>

IMPACT OF THE OPIOID SAFETY INITIATIVE ON OPIOID-RELATED PRESCRIBING IN VETERANS

Opioids are known to be high-risk medications and unsafe prescribing practices are common. This intervention at VA medical centers used an electronic dashboard to provide feedback to clinicians about high-risk opioid prescribing. Local champions implemented the dashboard tool and spearheaded safer opioid prescribing. Using an interrupted time series analysis, researchers determined that the intervention reduced two unsafe prescribing practices: high-dose opioid prescriptions and concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines. The authors suggest that this type of large-scale intervention could be applied in other health care systems to enhance opioid safety. <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/resources/resource/30915>

NEW FROM THE VA

BLOG POST: CAN SPIRITUAL THERAPY EASE PTSD SYMPTOMS?

This VA blog post describes the work of a VA researcher, who is exploring the potential role spirituality might play in therapy given to Veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress. https://www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2017/March/Can_Spiritual_Therapy_Ease_Your_PTSD_Symptoms.asp

PTSD AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

This issue of the *PTSD Research Quarterly* provides an update on the literature about the relationship between PTSD and cardiovascular disease. <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/newsletters/research-quarterly/V28N1.pdf>

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH 2017: BRIDGING HEALTH EQUITY ACROSS COMMUNITIES

APRIL 2017

During National Minority Health Month, the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) will join with its partners in raising awareness about efforts across health, education, justice, housing, transportation, and employment sectors to address the factors known as the *social determinants of health* – environmental, social, and economic conditions that impact health.

<https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/content.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=12&ID=10234>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

APRIL 2017

The theme of the 2017 National Child Abuse Prevention Month is “Building Community, Building Hope.” Strong, nurturing communities that are supportive of families can get involved and play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect, and promoting child and family well-being.

CDC Resources: <http://vetoviolenecdc.gov/april-national-child-abuse-prevention-month>

ACF Resources: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2017

Communities can use this month to raise awareness about alcohol abuse and take action to prevent it, both at home and in the community. <https://healthfinder.gov/NHO/AprilToolkit.aspx>

TWITTER CHAT: LATINOS AND CLINICAL TRIALS

APRIL 4, 2017, 1:00 PM ET

Join the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Office of Minority Health, Salud Today, and NIMHD to discuss the importance of clinical trials for Latinos. <https://t.co/IU96aKokXd>

VIDEOCAST LECTURE: PAIN AND OPIOID MANAGEMENT IN VETERANS: EVIDENCE, LESSONS LEARNED

APRIL 10, 2017, 10:00 AM ET: LECTURE; 2:00 PM ET: FACEBOOK LIVE Q&A SESSION

The overall goal of the Options for Pain Treatment Interventions study is to pilot test a novel collaborative care intervention to improve pain, opioid safety, and use of non-pharmacologic pain management strategies in Veterans in VA primary care. This National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) lecture will discuss this ongoing pilot randomized controlled trial among 100 Veterans in VA primary care with chronic pain and high-risk prescription opioid use. The lecture will also explore how this trial and other similar studies are laying the groundwork for a generation of new research investigating biopsychosocial, non-pharmacologic care for Veterans with chronic pain. Watch the lecture on Facebook LIVE or via NIH videocast. A question and answer session will be held with the presenter via Facebook Live after the lecture.

Facebook LIVE: <https://www.facebook.com/nih.nccih/>

NIH Videocast: <https://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?live=21950&bhcp=1>

WEBINAR: FINDING HER TRIBE: WOMEN'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS AND COMMUNITY

APRIL 11, 2017, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

This SAMHSA webinar looks at the importance of inclusion and community relationships to women's health and well-being. Topics include social inclusion, sense of community belonging and meaningful purpose, peer supports, mutual help and recovery communities, and others. <https://www.samhsa.gov/women-children-families/trainings/relationships-matter>

WEBINAR: UNDERSTANDING THE MYTHS AND FACTS OF ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

APRIL 17, 2017, 2:00 PM ET

Individuals with mental illnesses may not access primary care services for varied and complex reasons. Studies over the past decade have shown how people with mental illnesses experience significant health disparities - including higher rates of chronic medical conditions, higher use of hospital EDs, and increased rates of early death from preventable conditions. Behavioral health providers have a number of opportunities to incorporate primary care and wellness programs into their services. Join this SAMHSA-Health Resources and Services Administration webinar to hear what research tells us about best practices in increasing access to primary care, and gain practical tips from a SAMHSA Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration grantee on how to influence a variety of internal and external factors to increase engagement in health and wellness activities. <https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1140499>

WEBINAR: A PRIMER ON FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS: WHERE TO BEGIN IMPROVING PRACTICE

APRIL 19, 2017, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Many young people have their first experience with serious mental and/or substance use disorders during the ages of 16 to 25. While this period of development can be an effective launch into a solid adulthood, often transition-age youth (TAY) face increased challenges and risks, needing services and supports they may no longer be eligible to receive or know how to find. This second webinar in SAMHSA's Recovery to Practice series on recovery-oriented clinical treatment and support for TAY will: describe first episode psychosis (FEP); present an overview of current research on treatment models, such as the NIMH's Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) project; examine the different aspects of coordinated specialty care treatments and supports for young people who are experiencing FEP; and explore how practitioners can make concrete changes in services to better meet the needs of youth and their families today.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/19110a1>

WEBINAR: WHAT TO DO (AND NOT DO) WHEN CHILDREN ARE ANXIOUS

APRIL 20, 2017, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Caregivers play a vital role in helping a child manage anxiety. Sometimes it's hard to know what to say and do when a child is anxious. This NIMH webinar will offer the practical strategies to help caregivers and children break the cycle of anxiety. Participants will learn how to present important concepts about the nature and causes of anxiety, effective ways to change unhelpful thinking, how to face feared situations in a gradual, manageable way, and how to identify and change the cycle of accommodating anxiety within the family. <https://whattodowhenchildrenareanxious.eventbrite.com>

WEBINAR: NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL COMPETENCY WEBINAR SERIES: CULTURAL SENSITIVITY WHEN COLLECTING SENSITIVE DATA

APRIL 20, 2017, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM ET

Are you interested in learning more about tribal communities and how to work with their tribal governments? Upon completion of this Mountain States Regional Health Equity Council webinar, the participants will be able to list three benefits of providing culturally and linguistic appropriate services; identify and understand the holistic healing approach, cultural norms, customs, and protocols of the Great Plains tribes; discuss effective strategies when working with the Native American population that can be shared with co-workers; and enhance the relationship between health care provider and patient by building a culturally competent workforce. <http://tinyurl.com/MountainNAweb>

OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

APRIL 20-21, 2017, GREENSBORO, NC

The HHS OMH Resource Center University Vision, Design and Capacity technical grant writing workshops provide university faculty and health professionals with strategies to make grant proposals more competitive. This hands-on workshop hosted by the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is for junior faculty, staff, and college/university health professionals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities who are interested in community-based participatory research, who are committed to working with underserved populations, and who want to build their institution's capacity to compete and receive competitive grant awards.

<https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=100>

FACEBOOK LIVE Q&A SESSION: MIND AND BODY APPROACHES AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES

APRIL 25, 2017, 1:00 PM ET

In this NCCIH Facebook Q&A, experts from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Dr. Eric Schoemaker, and Dr. Chester "Trip" Buckenmaier, III, will discuss mind and body approaches such as meditation, yoga, and relaxation techniques for pain, PTSD, anxiety, and insomnia in the military population.

<https://nccih.nih.gov/news/events/livechat>

WEBINAR: EFFECTIVE FAMILY TREATMENTS FOR ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

APRIL 25, 2017, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This SAMHSA Addiction Technology Transfer Center webinar will describe the strong evidence base supporting family therapy for treating adolescent substance use disorders. It will review the evidence for and content of empirically supported manualized family therapy models, including brief strategic family therapy, functional family therapy, multidimensional family therapy, and multisystemic therapy.

<https://www3.thedatabank.com/dpg/423/pm.asp?id=61526&nav=1&aacwc=36156423936704061526199504107>

WEBINAR: VETERAN PROBLEMS WITH THE LAW: THE ROLE OF PTSD, MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA, TBI, AND PAIN

APRIL 25, 2017, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

This VA webinar will present findings from a retrospective cross-sectional health screening data sample of 1250 Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans focused on analyzing associations of demographic, service-related, and clinical characteristics with self-reported legal problems. The intended audience would include health care practitioners as well as professionals involved in the legal system.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7433324607173526531>

NIMH SPECIAL EVENT FOR AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH - AS ONE: THE AUTISM PROJECT

APRIL 25, 2017, 6:00-8:15 PM ET, BETHESDA, MD

The NIMH and Office of Autism Research Coordination are hosting this annual special event to recognize National Autism Awareness Month. The event will screen the documentary film, *As One: The Autism Project*, which was commissioned by Her Highness Sheikha Shamsa bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates to raise awareness of ASD. The event will include a discussion with the film director, Ms. Hana Makki, and Ms. Sharifa Yateem, a behavioral therapist who worked with the children and families featured in the film. The event will be available via videocast. <https://iacc.hhs.gov/meetings/non-iacc-meetings/2017/april25/as-one-movie-screening.shtml>

WEBINAR: UNDERSTANDING DEPRESSION IN TEENAGERS

APRIL 27, 2017, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Depression is a leading cause of disability worldwide, and is a major contributor to the overall global burden of disease. Depression has its origins early in life, but current treatments are inadequate. Close to a third of young people with depression do not respond to treatment and many of those who do respond eventually relapse. Join Dr. Argyris Stringaris, Chief of the NIMH Mood, Brain and Development Unit in Bethesda, MD, for this webinar on depression in teenagers. <https://understandingdepressioninteenagers.eventbrite.com>

WEBINAR: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR ACROSS MINORITY POPULATIONS

APRIL 27, 2017, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The focus of the webinar hosted by the Southeastern Health Equity Council will be responding to human trafficking victimization of marginalized, masked, and missed minority populations through a cultural competency lens. After this webinar, participants will be able to: identify human trafficking victimization and criminal behavior; describe the intersectionality of social determinants and human trafficking; explain the importance of trauma-informed care through a cultural competency lens; discuss best practices for multidisciplinary and collaborative partnerships; and identify cultural competency assessment and evaluation tools. <http://tinyurl.com/SHECHumanTraf>

2017 NIH REGIONAL SEMINAR: PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

MAY 3-5, 2017, NEW ORLEANS, LA

The NIH Office of Extramural Research is hosting this seminar, which offers attendees from around the globe a comprehensive program designed around the latest in NIH grants policies, program, and process information, presented by approximately 70 NIH and HHS program, peer review, policy, and grants management officials. <https://regionalseminars.od.nih.gov/neworleans2017/>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

MAY 4, 2017

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (Awareness Day) seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and to show that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth. Awareness Day 2017's national focus is on the importance of integrating behavioral health and primary care for children, youth, and young adults with mental and/or substance use disorders. The 2017 national theme is "Partnering for Help and Hope." Communities, national collaborating organizations, and federal programs across the country are busy planning local Awareness Day 2017 activities and events. <https://www.samhsa.gov/children/national-childrens-awareness-day-events/awareness-day-2017>

2017 NATIONAL AWARENESS DAY EVENT

MAY 4, 2017, 7:00 PM ET, WASHINGTON, DC

SAMHSA's 2017 Awareness Day event will focus on the importance of integrating behavioral health and primary care for children, youth, and young adults with mental and/or substance use disorders. Michael Phelps, the world's most decorated Olympic athlete, and Allison Schmitt, an eight-time Olympic medalist, will serve as Awareness Day 2017 Honorary Chairpersons. They each will receive a SAMHSA Special Recognition Award for speaking candidly about their experiences with behavioral health, and how they are now working to support youth and young adults with similar experiences.

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1103157461522&ca=a4defde6-0255-439b-b1b0-65adf634cd35>

WEBINAR: MOTHERHOOD: WHAT IT MEANS FOR WOMEN'S RECOVERY

MAY 9, 2017, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

Substance use and mental health problems may challenge a woman's ability to effectively parent. Many effective interventions and supports are available to support women, their children, and their families. This SAMHSA webinar will discuss those interventions and supports, along with the importance of support for women who choose not to parent. Learn more about using motherhood as a pivot point to access help in substance use and mental health, incorporating family-centered approaches for women with behavioral health disorders and their children, meeting the needs of complex families, and more.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/women-children-families/trainings/relationships-matter>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK

MAY 14-20, 2017

National Prevention Week is an annual health observance dedicated to increasing public awareness of, and action around, substance abuse and mental health issues. The 2017 Daily Health Themes include:

- Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use: Monday, May 15
- Prevention of Underage Drinking and Alcohol Misuse: Tuesday, May 16
- Prevention of Prescription and Opioid Drug Misuse: Wednesday, May 17
- Prevention of Illicit Drug Use and Youth Marijuana Use: Thursday, May 18
- Prevention of Suicide: Friday, May 19
- Promotion of Mental Health and Wellness: Saturday, May 20

<https://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week/about>

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REPORT

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Effective Health Care Program encourages the public to participate in the development of its research projects. The Program uses these comments to help focus its research and ensure that the final comparative effectiveness reviews answer the most important questions that clinicians, patients, consumers, and policymakers have about a given treatment, test, or procedure. The Program is currently seeking comments for:

MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED OPIOID OVERDOSE WITH NALOXONE BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL (COMMENTS DUE APRIL 12, 2017)

<https://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-available-for-comment/comment-draft-reports/?pageaction=displaydraftcommentform&topicid=656&productid=2447&documenttype=draftReport>

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2017 SAMHSA VOICE AWARDS FOCUSED ON AMERICA'S MILITARY AND VETERANS

SAMHSA's Voice Awards honor people in recovery and their family members who are community champions seeking to improve the lives of people with mental illnesses and addictions. The Voice Awards also recognize television and film productions that educate the public about behavioral health and showcase that recovery is real and possible. The 2017 SAMHSA Voice Awards is putting the spotlight on individuals and entertainment productions that provide hope and support to those past and present service members who have faced mental health and addiction challenges. Nominations within the following categories are due by April 24, 2017. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/1907c39>

PROPOSALS FROM THE FEDERAL INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP FOR REVISION OF THE STANDARDS FOR MAINTAINING, COLLECTING, AND PRESENTING FEDERAL DATA ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requests comments on the proposals that it has received from the Federal Interagency Working Group for Research on Race and Ethnicity (Working Group) for revisions to OMB's *Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*. The Working Group's report and proposals are the result of a two-year, focused review of the implementation of the current standards. The Working Group's report reflects an examination of current practice, public comment received in response to the Federal Register Notice posted by OMB on September 30, 2016, and empirical analyses of publicly available data. The report also notes statutory needs and feasibility considerations, including cost and public burden. Comments accepted through May 1, 2017.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/03/01/2017-03973/proposals-from-the-federal-interagency-working-group-for-revision-of-the-standards-for-maintaining>

ENHANCING PATIENT ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS ACROSS THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The FDA is soliciting input on ongoing efforts to enhance mechanisms for patient engagement at the Agency. In this tradition, FDA intends to enhance future patient engagement by providing a more transparent, accessible, and robust experience for patient communities. To achieve these goals, FDA is considering establishing a new Office of Patient Affairs. This concept was directly informed by the public feedback solicited through the prior public docket regarding FDA's stakeholder engagement responsibilities outlined by the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. The purpose of this notice is to outline FDA's proposal for the future of patient engagement at the Agency so that the perspectives of patient communities can be better captured. Comments on this proposal are accepted through June 12, 2017.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/03/14/2017-04982/enhancing-patient-engagement-efforts-across-the-food-and-drug-administration-establishment-of-a>

THE *ALL OF US* RESEARCH PROGRAM SEEKS FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

The *All of Us* Research Program (formerly known as the Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program) will create a community of one million or more people from across the U.S. to improve the future of health. Those who join the program will contribute their health, environment, and lifestyle information over an extended period of time. By gathering information from such a large group of people, researchers will be able to learn how specific factors impact an individual's health, and disease prevention and treatment. This approach to tailoring health care for each unique individual is called "precision medicine." The research program developers want to hear from everyone about their thoughts and ideas for how to make *All of Us* a success. Ideas on topics such as participant engagement and communications, health information data security, and the type of data to be collected are welcome from researchers, health care providers, patients, or anyone who wants to contribute to greater knowledge.

<https://app.hatchbuck.com/OnlineForm/62861057585>

NATIONAL RECRUITMENT: JOIN NIH DEPRESSION RESEARCH STUDIES

Does depression impede your daily life? Are you currently feeling sad and hopeless, experiencing worthlessness and guilt, and have a lack of interest in everyday activities you once enjoyed? NIH studies are investigating the brain and experimental medications (such as ketamine) to rapidly reduce depressive symptoms. Research includes: depressed adults ages 18 to 70, outpatient visits or inpatient stays of up to 12 weeks at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. Call 1-877-MIND-NIH, TTY: 1-866-411-1010, Email: moodresearch@mail.nih.gov.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/labs-at-nimh/join-a-study/trials/adult-studies/depression-evaluations-for-medication-and-brain-imaging-studies.shtml>

TWITTER: Join an NIMH Study. Depression research evaluates adults 18-70, the brain and novel medications to rapidly reduce symptoms. <http://goo.gl/Se1io5>

FDA CONSUMER UPDATE: WOULD YOUR CHILD BENEFIT FROM A CLINICAL TRIAL?

You may have heard of clinical trials, and your doctor may even have suggested your child enroll in one. This FDA Consumer Update describes clinical trials, what families can expect from a trial, and suggestions for making a decision about participating in a trial.

<https://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm048699.htm>

FUNDING INFORMATION

INTENSIVE LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF HEALTH BEHAVIORS: LEVERAGING NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO UNDERSTAND HEALTH BEHAVIORS

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-17-004.html> (U01)

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-17-005.html> (U24)

PROMOTING INTEGRATION OF PRIMARY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-17-008>

TARGETED CAPACITY EXPANSION-HIV PROGRAM: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FOR RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS AT HIGH RISK FOR HIV/AIDS

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-17-011>

RESILIENCY IN COMMUNITIES AFTER STRESS AND TRAUMA

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-17-009>

COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE SITE-BASED PROGRAM FY 2017 COMPETITIVE GRANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

<https://www.bja.gov/Funding/CARA17.pdf>

JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURTS

<https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingDetail.asp?fi=426>

CHANGING MINDS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION TO ADDRESS
CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE AND CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

<https://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/FundingDetail.asp?fi=427>



National Institute
of Mental Health

The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to increase the public's access to science-based mental health information through partnerships with national and state organizations. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/index.shtml>. To subscribe to receive the Update every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/news-and-updates-from-the-program.shtml>.

The information provided in the **Update** is intended for use by NIMH Outreach Partners, National Partners and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education and partnership programs.