

September 4, 2020

NEWS

Healthcare Looks to Telehealth to Address Physician Burnout

August 14, 2020 – Health care has a stress and burnout problem. Physicians have the highest suicide rate of any profession, losing up to four hundred of their colleagues a year. In an industry with a large shortage of health care professionals, the effect is catastrophic.

The issue of burnout has been around long before the pandemic and has been estimated to cost roughly \$4.6 billion each year, but telehealth may help alleviate the problem. Providence Health, a Washington-based health system, rolled out its Behavioral Health Concierge program in January 2020, which provides timely telehealth support to health care providers.

“We wanted to build something dedicated to caregivers,” says Josh Cutler. “Before and especially during (COVID-19), we have been at the center of an epidemic of burnout and suicide in healthcare. We needed to give (providers) something that would address that on their terms.”

<https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/mountain-plains-mhffc/news/healthcare-looks-telehealth-address-physician-burnout>

Rural First Responders Fight More Than a Pandemic

August 13, 2020 – In Marion County, West Virginia, a recent surge in emergency calls was not entirely due to COVID-19. May 2020 saw twice the number of drug overdose calls as May 2019. Emergency responders were quick to point out that substance abuse and misuse does not happen in a vacuum, and the surge in overdoses went hand in hand with the dismantling of rehabilitation centers and mental health care providers in the area.

Now, first responders face the additional risk of exposure to COVID-19, compounding the toll on their mental health. “One paramedic admitted that the constant exposure to death both in its most gruesome and tranquil forms impacts everyone who works in emergency services, and it can take a constant effort to remind themselves to remain human on the job.”

<https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/mountain-plains-mhffc/news/rural-first-responders-fight-more-pandemic>

The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population: An Urgent Issue

The current opioid crisis is one of the most widespread drug epidemics in U.S. history for all racial and ethnic groups. Recently, a demographic shift has been observed in the epidemic with dramatic increases in opioid misuse and overdose deaths among Hispanic/ Latino, African American, and American Indian/ Alaska Native populations. As Hispanic/Latinos are one of the fastest growing minority populations— expected to comprise nearly 30 percent of the U.S. population by 2060 (Colby & Oltman, 2015)—it becomes imperative to understand the unique sociocultural factors that influence drug use and access to prevention, treatment and recovery in this population. This issue brief presents data on prevalence of opioid misuse & death rates in the Hispanic/Latino population; contextual factors and challenges to prevention and treatment; innovative outreach and engagement strategies to connect people to evidence-based treatment; and the importance of community voice.

<https://attcnetwork.org/centers/mountain-plains-attc/news/opioid-crisis-and-hispaniclatino-population-urgent-issue>

CONFERENCE AND TRAININGS

Suicide Prevention in Rural Primary Care: Intervention, Follow-up, and Telehealth Tips

1:00am - September 10, 2020 | Time zone: US/Mountain

Hosted By: Mountain Plains MHTTC

This 90 minute training is part two in a two-part series on suicide prevention in rural primary care offices. This session will cover intervention including medication, safety planning, documentation, and follow-up for patients expressing suicidal ideation as well as tips for helping patients via telehealth.

People who die by suicide are more likely to have been seen by a primary care provider in the 30 days prior to their death than any other health care discipline. In rural areas especially, where behavioral health resources are fewer and stigma around seeking mental health help may be greater, it is crucial that primary care providers have the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to help prevent suicide among their clients. This webinar series will introduce a simple toolkit to help put suicide prevention protocols into place in a practice or clinic, and will walk participants through the screening, assessment, and intervention phases of suicide prevention. Tips for addressing suicidal issues via telehealth will also be included.

<https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/mountain-plains-mhttc/event/suicide-prevention-rural-primary-care-intervention-follow-and>

UPCOMING EVENTS

On-the-Spot: Videoconferencing to Deliver Treatment and Recovery Services

10:00am - September 8, 2020 | Time zone: US/Mountain

<https://attcnetwork.org/centers/mountain-plains-attc/event/spot-videoconferencing-deliver-treatment-and-recovery-services-7>

TBI and Mental Health for the Mental/Behavioral Health Community

10:00am - September 8, 2020 | Time zone: US/Mountain

<https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/mountain-plains-mhttc/event/tbi-and-mental-health-mentalbehavioral-health-community>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take the Face Coverings/Mask Survey!

This survey is part of a 3-part action research project (observational, survey, & interview) being conducted to promote public health in relation to Covid-19 in our community. The survey was already distributed to Hugo's customers in July; we are now disseminating this survey for a 1-month period via the City of GF and UND. It just takes a few minutes to take. Thank you for taking it when you have a moment, and for distributing to your networks within UND and to students as appropriate. (Ken, could you please share with Lea? Don't have an e-mail address.)

Local data is being used to help inform local policy decisions, so thank you for your help. Our community nearly had half the new cases in our state yesterday. Our days of being protected due to our relative geographic isolation are over. Thanks for your support in disseminating this in the UND community!

More Info: <http://blogs.und.edu/uletter/category/research/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Cigna's Healthier Kids for Our Future Mental Health Grant

Deadline: September 30, 2020

Our goal is to supplement existing mental health programming, and help close gaps both within and outside the school environment to address loneliness, anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention. We will fund programs that foster collaboration between stakeholders including school administrators and teachers, clinicians, and local and national nonprofits to address mental health and emotional well-being challenges for children.

Partners are encouraged to leverage one or more of the follow evidence-based programs:

- Trauma Informed Practices (TIPS)
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

https://www.cybergrants.com/cigna/healthierkidsmentalhealth/index.html?utm_campaign=fyi_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Maternal and Child Health

Deadline: Open Until Filled

The Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is pleased to announce a postdoctoral fellowship in Maternal and Child Health (MCH). This postdoctoral training program provides mentorship and support to enhance fellows' skills in research, teaching, and curriculum development and prepare fellows for excellence in MCH research and leadership positions in academic institutions. The fellowship offers opportunities for quantitative and qualitative research on domestic MCH topics and programs, such as maternal and early home visiting. We welcome applicants from varied disciplines including, but not limited to public health, social work, psychology, nursing, and medicine. Applicants must be US citizens or hold a permanent resident visa. Applicants should send a cover letter, CV, graduate transcript(s), writing sample, personal statement, and names and contact information for three references to Kristen McCormick at kmccor14@jhu.edu.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/d7a77edb001/39d08809-6bb1-4d52-ad33-a4316305b7ad.pdf>

NLM Information Resource Grants to Reduce Health Disparities (G08 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Deadline: Oct 23, 2020

Funding for projects that use computers, information technology, and health sciences libraries to bring health-related information to consumers and their healthcare providers. The program focus is on innovation and outreach in which information access can reduce health disparities and support underserved communities that bear a disproportionate burden of disease.

<https://attcnetwork.org/centers/mountain-plains-attc/event/spot-videoconferencing-deliver-treatment-and-recovery-services-7>