IPRO QIN-QIO | Healthcentric Advisors | Qlarant

QIN-QIO
Quality Innovation Network -
Quality Improvement Organizations
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
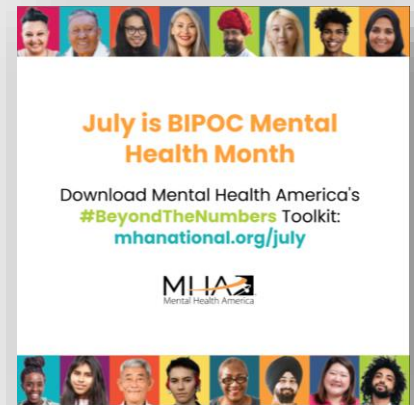iQUALITY IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION GROUP

Health Equity

HEALTH EQUITY UPDATES

July 2022

July is BIPOC Mental Health Month

BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) Mental Health Month brings awareness to the struggles faced by BIPOC in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. This observance is formally recognized as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month. According to Mental Health America, the term "minority" no longer accurately describes the many cultural groups the observance aims to represent and can be considered diminishing and problematic. Based on the lived experiences of people of color, the preferred term is BIPOC, which embodies inclusion and empowerment.

Recently, HHS has undertaken a variety of efforts to strengthen the mental health and crisis care systems in U.S. communities:

- According to HHS, over one-third of Americans live in designated mental health professional shortage areas. Several funding announcements aim to address this issue by growing the behavioral health workforce.

- SAMHSA is funding the development of a Behavioral Health Workforce Tracker, a database of over 1 million behavioral health providers that can be visualized by geography, provider type, and Medicaid acceptance status.

- CMS is distributing $15 million in planning grants for the development of mobile crisis intervention services for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

- The three-digit 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will launch on July 16, 2022.

For full details of these and other HHS efforts to improve and expand behavioral health services, read the Fact Sheet: Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month 2022.

This Month

July is BIPOC Mental Health Month

Download Mental Health America's #BeyondTheNumbers Toolkit: mhanational.org/july

MHA Mental Health America

Bebe Moore Campbell

Bebe Moore Campbell is recognized as a pioneer in inspiring a national mental health equity movement. She used storytelling to provide insights from those she felt deserved more of a voice in the mental health discussion: Black women, caregivers of those with mental health conditions, and all people of color. Ms. Moore was the mother of child with a mental illness, and shared openly the struggles her family experienced trying to get the help and support her child needed. Ms. Moore founded the Inglewood chapter of the National Alliance on Mental (NAMI) in a predominantly Black neighborhood in California. She also spoke to Congress in June 2008 to bring awareness to the unique mental health challenges that underrepresented groups face in the U.S. You can learn more about Bebe Moore Campbell and her advocacy work HERE.

In the News

Report on the Cost of Health Disparities

A report by Deloitte published last month estimates that U.S. health system inequities cost about $320 billion today and project they will surpass $1 trillion by 2040 if not addressed. The report states that disparities are a "unsustainable crisis" for the industry that have a direct impact on affordability, quality, and access. Deloitte's actuarial team analyzed several high-cost diseases and determined the proportion of spending that could be attributed to health inequities.

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests for People Who Are Blind or Low-Vision

The Biden-Harris Administration launched a new initiative to expand the availability of COVID-19 testing options to improve accessibility for those individuals who are blind or with low vision. The tests work with a compatible Bluetooth-enabled smartphone and a free app that gives audible instructions and test results. Orders are free and include two rapid-antigen tests.

On-Demand Education on Caring for the LGBTQ+ Community

Optum Health Education is offering two on-line courses targeted to a variety of health care providers on providing more inclusive care for LGBTQ+ individuals. Caring for the LGBTQ+ Community: An Introduction and Across the SOGI Spectrum: A Call To Action are no cost to participants and offer up to 2.5 educational credits. Presentation slides and resources are also available for download from the website.

The Science on Social Screening in Healthcare Settings

A report funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides insight on existing research on social screening, synthesized into five sections: prevalence of screening; psychometric and pragmatic validity of screening tools; patients' and providers' perspectives on screening; and screening implementation. An Executive Summary and Full Report are both available for download.

Nursing Homes Staring Down Triple Threat, Especially Impacting Rural Residents

According to Skilled Nursing News, the skilled nursing industry is facing the triple threat of operational, clinical, and financial challenges on the road to recovery from the pandemic. The American Health Care Association/ National Center for Assisted Living has projected 400 SNF closures in 2022, with nearly 240K job openings as the primary driver. These challenges are especially impacting facilities serving vulnerable residents in underserved and rural communities.

Disparities in Access to Newer, Better Diabetes Drugs

A Commonwealth Fund report highlights significant disparities in access to newer diabetes medications between Black and White adults. Controlling for trends by insurance status, income, and education, Black adults were 27% less likely to use the newer diabetes drugs compared to White adults. Usage rates for Latinx/ Hispanic individuals fall midway between rates for Black and White adults. Insurance coverage and outreach to providers will help address the disparities.

Visit the IPRO Resource Library: https://qi-library.ipro.org/

Upcoming Events

Health Equity Organizational Assessment (HEOA) Knowledge Builder Series

IPRO

Dates: Every Thursday
June 16th – August 4th

Time: 12:00 – 12:30 PM ET

The Aging of the Black Community: A Biopsychosocial Perspective on Stress & Resilience

MIT AgeLab

Date: July 14, 2022

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

SDOH Information Exchange Learning Forum

HHS Office of National Coordinator (ONC)

Date: July 19, 2022

Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET