



# UPDATE

August 1, 2017

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<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/news-and-updates-from-the-program.shtml>

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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*

## GUIDELINES PUBLISHED FOR TREATING PANS/PANDAS

An expert panel has published guidelines for treatment of Pediatric Acute Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and a subset of patients diagnosed with PAN Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infection (PANDAS). The syndrome of sudden onset obsessive compulsive disorder and/or severe eating restrictions, and associated characteristic cognitive, behavioral, or neurological symptoms, was first identified in the 1990s by Susan Swedo, M.D., now chief of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) intramural Pediatrics and Developmental Neuroscience Branch. In an introduction to a three-part series of articles published in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology*, July 20, 2017, Swedo, and colleagues, provide an overview of recommended treatment options, including psychiatric medications, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatory and immunological therapies.

**Science Update:** <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/guidelines-published-for-treating-pans-pandas.shtml>

## IMAGING PINPOINTS BRAIN CIRCUITS CHANGED BY PTSD THERAPY; FINDINGS CAN HELP TARGET TREATMENT, PREDICT OUTCOMES

Using brain imaging to track the effects of treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), NIMH-funded scientists have identified a brain circuit on which a frequently used and effective psychotherapy (prolonged exposure) acts to quell symptoms. The findings help explain why the neural circuit identified is a promising target for additional treatment development, including brain stimulation therapies. In an accompanying paper, the authors also report that they have identified hallmarks in brain activity of people with PTSD that predict who will benefit from treatment. Both papers appear online July 18 in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

**Science Update:** <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/imaging-pinpoints-brain-circuits-changed-by-ptsd-therapy.shtml>

## SCIENTISTS REPLAY MOVIE ENCODED IN DNA; “MOLECULAR RECORDER” WOULD REVEAL SECRETS OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

For the first time, a primitive movie has been encoded in – and then played back from – DNA in living cells. Scientists funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) say it is a major step toward a “molecular recorder” that may someday make it possible to get read-outs, for example, of the changing internal states of neurons as they develop.

**Press Release:** <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/scientists-replay-movie-encoded-in-dna.shtml>

## **OUR BRAINS HARBOR “RESIDUAL ECHO” OF NEANDERTHAL GENES; FIRST DIRECT EVIDENCE MAY HOLD CLUES TO DEFICITS SEEN IN MENTAL DISORDERS**

NIMH researchers have produced the first direct evidence that parts of our brains implicated in mental disorders may be shaped by a “residual echo” from our ancient past. The more a person’s genome carries genetic vestiges of Neanderthals, the more certain parts of his or her brain and skull resemble those of humans’ evolutionary cousins that went extinct 40,000 years ago, says NIMH’s Karen Berman, M.D. In particular, the parts of our brains that enable us to use tools and visualize and locate objects owe some of their lineage to Neanderthal-derived gene variants that are part of our genomes and affect the shape of those structures – to the extent that an individual harbors the ancient variants. But this may involve trade-offs with our social brain. The evidence from MRI scans suggests that such Neanderthal-derived genetic variation may affect the way our brains work today – and may hold clues to understanding deficits seen in schizophrenia and autism-related disorders, say the researchers.

**Science Update:** <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/our-brains-harbor-residual-echo-of-neanderthal-genes.shtml>

## **CHILDREN’S VISUAL ENGAGEMENT IS HERITABLE AND ALTERED IN AUTISM; ATTENTION TO MOUTH AND EYES IS INFLUENCED BY GENETIC FACTORS**

How children visually engage with others in social situations is a heritable behavior that is altered in children with autism, according to an NIH-funded study. Autism spectrum disorder affects how a person acts, communicates, and learns. Reduced attention to other people’s eyes and faces is a behavior associated with autism, and it is often used to screen for and help diagnose the disorder. In the current study, NIH-funded researchers explored the potential genetic foundation of this behavior, which can appear by the first six months of age and persist as children grow older.

**Press Release:** <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/childrens-visual-engagement-heritable-altered-autism>

## **DISCOVERY DOCUMENTARY *FIRST IN HUMAN* GIVES AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT HOW ADVANCES IN MEDICINE ARE MADE AT THE NIH CLINICAL CENTER**

On August 10, Discovery will premiere *First in Human*, a three-part documentary about the NIH Clinical Center, providing an unprecedented, first-hand look at the successes and setbacks that are a part of developing brand-new medicines that may ultimately benefit millions worldwide. Over a period of a year, film crews embedded within the hospital follow four patients who volunteered to participate in experimental treatments in the hopes they will help them, or others in the future. The series also follows the dedicated doctors and nurses who carry out the research while caring for the patients.

**Press Release:** <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/discovery-documentary-first-human-gives-close-look-how-advances-medicine-are-made-nih-clinical-center>

## **NIH-FUNDED MOUSE STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON NEURAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PRENATAL ALCOHOL EXPOSURE**

Prenatal exposure to even low doses of alcohol may lead to severe and highly variable deficits in the brain of a fetus, according to a new study conducted in mice. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism-supported researchers report that the unpredictable nature of the deficits may be due to inconsistencies in how fetal brain cells activate a protective response to alcohol and other harmful compounds. The new findings may help explain the range of behavioral and learning deficits and other symptoms observed in individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and other congenital brain disorders.

**Press Release:** <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-funded-mouse-study-sheds-light-neural-risks-associated-prenatal>

## **NEW REPORT SHOWS THAT OPIOID MISUSE INCREASES AMONG OLDER ADULTS**

A new spotlight report by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) indicates that opioid misuse among adults aged 50 or older in 2014 was higher than 2002. The misuse of opioids includes either the use of heroin, or the nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers.

**Press Release:** <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201707260800>

## **SAMHSA REPORT SHOWS THE USAGE OF NON-MEDICAL PAIN RELIEVERS ACROSS THE NATION; PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE IS STILL ONE OF THE MOST PREVALENT ILLICIT DRUG PROBLEMS IN THE NATION**

A new SAMHSA report indicates that 4.31 percent of people aged 12 or older in the U.S. used prescription pain relievers non-medically in the past year. When taken without a physician's direction, prescription opioid pain relievers can lead to a higher risk of serious adverse consequences such as substance use disorder, overdose, or death.

**Press Release:** <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201707130900>

## **HHS AWARDS 16 GRANTS TO PREVENT OPIOID MISUSE AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS**

As part of the Administration's efforts to combat drug addiction and the opioid epidemic, the HHS Office on Women's Health (OWH) announced 16 awards to public and private nonprofit entities across the nation. Sixteen projects covering 16 cities in 12 states were selected to address the primary and/or secondary prevention of prescription and illegal opioid misuse by women across the lifespan. Funds will be used to reach girls aged 10-17 years, women of reproductive age, and women aged 50 years and older in underserved populations.

**Press Release:** <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/07/25/hhs-awards-16-grants-prevent-opioid-misuse-among-women-and-girls.html>

## **CDC AWARDS \$12 MILLION TO HELP STATES FIGHT OPIOID OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC; SUPPORT WILL STRENGTHEN STATE EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND TRACK OPIOID OVERDOSES**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded more than \$12 million to 23 states and the District of Columbia to support their responses to the opioid overdose epidemic. The funds will be used to strengthen prevention efforts and better track opioid-related overdoses. CDC expects to announce additional funding awards for state opioid overdose prevention programs later in the summer.

**Press Release:** <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/p0717-opioid-funding.html>

## **ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM LAUNCHES WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ENROLLMENT**

This month the *All of Us* Research Program established a new working group of its advisory panel to help inform the program's plans for enrollment of children. This is the first of two working groups dedicated to this effort. This initial working group will focus on the kinds of research projects that would be enabled by having children of diverse backgrounds included in the *All of Us* Research Program. A second working group to follow will examine the practical considerations of child enrollment and data collection involving children. The Child Enrollment Scientific Vision Working Group includes advisory panel members, representatives from *All of Us* health care provider organizations, NIH staff, and other outside experts. During the course of their work, which is expected to last approximately three months, the group will announce opportunities for the public to provide input.

**Press Release:** <https://allofus.nih.gov/news-events-and-media/announcements/all-us-research-program-launches-working-group-child-enrollment>

## **THE ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM ANNOUNCES FIRST COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDS; FOUR ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT OF DIVERSE COMMUNITIES IN AMBITIOUS RESEARCH EFFORT**

The NIH announced its first four community partner awards to begin building a national network of trusted leaders to inform diverse communities about the opportunity to join the *All of Us* Research Program, part of the Precision Medicine Initiative. This initial group of awardees will receive a combined \$1.7 million this fiscal year, with future support planned pending the availability of funds. These awardees will raise awareness about the program among seniors, Hispanics and Latinos, African Americans, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community, to complement other outreach efforts of the program. NIH anticipates making additional funding awards for community partners in the future, drawing on the lessons learned from this initial set of awardees.

**Press Release:** <https://allofus.nih.gov/news-events-and-media/announcements/all-us-research-program-announces-first-community-partner-awards>

## NEW FROM NIMH

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### WEBINAR: RDOC - FEAR AND ANXIETY: FROM MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENTATION

Watch the most recent webinar from the NIMH Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) Unit, Delaware Project, and Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies to see the role of fear and anxiety in disorders such as phobias and depression. Presenters discussed these topics from different perspectives, including basic laboratory research, treatment in clinics, and graduate school instruction for clinicians.

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/webinar-rdoc-fear-amp-anxiety-from-mechanisms-to-implementation.shtml>

## NEW FROM NIH

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### TWITTER CHAT DISCUSSION: ADDRESSING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF ADULTS IN MINORITY GROUPS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

On July 12, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) hosted a Twitter chat with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH), and SAMHSA on addressing minority mental health at the community level. Check out the full discussion on Storify.

<https://storify.com/NIMHD/minority-mentalhealth-month-2017>

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### MINORITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH: MOVING BEYOND STIGMA

This NIMHD blog post reviews the research needed to address mental health disparities.

<https://nimhd.blogs.govdelivery.com/2017/07/13/minorities-and-mental-health-moving-beyond-stigma/>

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### NHBLI: HEART DISEASE AND DEPRESSION: A TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP

This National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute spotlight reviews what research is discovering about the relationships between depression and heart disease.

<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/news/spotlight/success/heart-disease-and-depression-two-way-relationship>

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### SLEEP AND AGING TIPS

This National Institute of Aging resource offers tips for getting a good night's sleep. Follow a regular sleep schedule. Go to sleep and get up at the same time each day, even on weekends. Develop a bedtime routine. Take time to relax before bedtime each night. Exercise at regular times each day, but not within three hours of bedtime. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/good-nights-sleep>

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#### NIDA DIRECTOR'S BLOG: CONCERNING LINK BETWEEN INADEQUATE SLEEP AND ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Nora Volkow blogs about the link researchers have found between insufficient sleep and a range of adverse outcomes in adolescents, including obesity, poor school performance, and behavioral problems, including substance use. Dr. Volkow suggests that parents should be aware of how important it is for their teenage children to get a full night's sleep every night, as a protective factor against substance use as well as other adverse impacts on their health and success.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2017/07/concerning-link-between-inadequate-sleep-adolescent-substance-use>

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#### NIDA: INTENSIVE INTERVENTION INCREASES CLINICAL ADHERENCE TO OPIOID PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES IN CHRONIC CARE

While the CDC has issued clinical guidelines for chronic opioid therapy, these guidelines are not followed by many medical practices. A NIDA-funded, randomized controlled trial that compared two organizational strategies to improve adherence to guidelines suggests that a multi-component approach is more effective than electronic decision tools alone. The more intensive intervention included a nurse care manager, a suite of online tools, and advice and assistance from an expert in opiate prescribing. While the multi-component intervention improved adherence to the guideline-recommended monitoring of patients with chronic pain, it did not decrease early opioid refills. Further research is needed to determine whether guideline adherence reduces opioid-related risks. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2017/07/intensive-intervention-increases-clinical-adherence-to-opioid-prescribing-guidelines-in-chronic-care>

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#### NICHD DIRECTOR'S CORNER: HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS: THERAPEUTIC AND SURPRISING

NICHD Director Diana Bianchi describes research in the Institute's portfolio studying how human-animal interactions influence child health and behavior, and impact overall quality of life.

[https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/overview/directors\\_corner/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/overview/directors_corner/Pages/default.aspx)

### NEW FROM SAMHSA

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#### HOW DISASTERS AFFECT PEOPLE OF LOW SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

This research bulletin explores how people living in poverty, with low incomes, and of low socioeconomic status (SES) experience disasters, and aims to help disaster behavioral health officials include and account for these individuals in disaster planning and preparedness, response, and recovery. The issue also features recommendations for policy changes to foster increased resilience for low SES individuals and communities.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/disaster-behavioral-health-resources/supplemental-research-bulletin>

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## TRENDS IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AMONG ADULTS AGED 18 OR OLDER

This report highlights the number of American adults with substance use disorders in the past year and trends in substance use disorders between 2002 and 2014.

[https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/report\\_2790/ShortReport-2790.html](https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/report_2790/ShortReport-2790.html)

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## BLOG POST: BRINGING GREATER AWARENESS TO AANHPI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) often are the least likely of racial and ethnic groups to seek mental health care. Research indicates that they do not seek mental health services due to risk factors like lack of insurance, not knowing where to find appropriate services, cultural norms, language barriers, and negative attitudes towards seeking help. In recognition of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, SAMHSA has developed two briefs on the behavioral health of AANHPI boys and young men: *A Snapshot of Behavioral Health Issues for Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Boys and Men* and *Advancing Best Practices in Behavioral Health for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Boys and Men*. <https://blog.samhsa.gov/2017/07/20/bringing-greater-awareness-to-aanhpi-behavioral-health/#.WXxzWITyt0w>

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## FIRST RESPONDER: USING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH APPROACHES TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOR ALL

SAMHSA has developed a training course for first responders to provide the knowledge necessary to support individuals in crisis while maintaining safety. *Creating Safe Scenes* is a free online training course featuring interactive elements to train first responders to achieve five goals: understand the basics of behavioral health crises, including factors that may lead to crises; make a safe connection with an individual experiencing a crisis; use de-escalation strategies as needed when working with an individual in crisis; develop community networks and share referral resources; and increase the safety of everyone on scene, including themselves and individuals in crisis. <https://blog.samhsa.gov/2017/07/13/first-responders-using-behavioral-health-approaches-to-improve-safety-for-all/>

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## FACTSHEET: INTERVENTION FOR FAMILIES IMPACTED BY TRAUMA

SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network offers this new factsheet on *Strengthening Family Coping Resources* (SFCR) which provides accepted, empirically-supported trauma treatment for families living in traumatic contexts with the goal of reducing the symptoms of PTSD and other trauma-related disorders in children and adult caregivers. Since most families living in traumatic contexts contend with on-going stresses and threats, SFCR is also designed to increase coping resources in children, adult caregivers, and in the family system to prevent relapse and re-exposure.

[http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/sfcr\\_general.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/sfcr_general.pdf)

## NEW FROM CDC

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### FREE CONTINUING EDUCATION ON PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS

CDC presents a free continuing education activity on opioid prescribing in partnership with Medscape. Continuing Medical Education, American Board of Internal Medicine Maintenance of Certification, and Continuing Education credits (CEC) are all available for this activity. This activity is intended for primary care clinicians, nurses, and other clinicians prescribing opioids for chronic pain outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/index.html>

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### OPIOID PRESCRIBING: WHERE YOU LIVE MATTERS

The amount of opioids prescribed in the U.S. peaked in 2010 and then decreased each year through 2015; however, prescribing remains high and varies widely from county to county. In 2015, six times more opioids per resident were dispensed in the highest-prescribing counties than in the lowest-prescribing counties. County-level characteristics such as rural versus urban, income level, and demographics, only explained about a third of the differences. This suggests that people receive different care depending on where they live. <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/opioids/index.html>

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### MAKING THE CASE: ENGAGING BUSINESSES IN CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION EFFORTS

Learn how public health professionals can communicate the important role businesses have in helping stop child abuse and neglect before they start. Topics include how to talk about child abuse and neglect, ways businesses can help prevent this problem, benefits to partnering with businesses, skills for developing business partnerships, and roles businesses play in public health. <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/child-abuse-neglect-biz/>

### GAO: MEDICAID EXPANSION: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT USE IN SELECTED STATES IN 2014

Behavioral health conditions disproportionately affect low-income people. Some states expanded Medicaid to cover low-income adults, as authorized by the Affordable Care Act, so the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined how many people in this expansion group received behavioral health treatment. In four states—Iowa, New York, Washington, and West Virginia—the GAO found that in 2014 that up to one in three Medicaid expansion enrollees received behavioral health treatment; psychotherapy visits and antidepressant medications were most commonly used; and in three states, enrollment in Medicaid likely increased access to this treatment (most enrollees in the 4th state already had access to it).

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-529>

## NEW FROM HHS

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### OPIOID USE, MISUSE, AND OVERDOSE IN WOMEN

The HHS OWH released this new report that examines the prevention, treatment, and recovery issues for women who misuse or overdose on opioids. The report also presents findings and takeaways from the Office's national and regional opioid meetings held in 2016.

<https://www.womenshealth.gov/files/documents/final-report-opioid-508.pdf>

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### BLOG POST: CAN KINDNESS OVERCOME BULLYING?

Being kind means that you think about the needs and concerns of others. Kind people volunteer, help others, and think about bigger issues that affect their communities. Unfortunately, many schools respond to negative behaviors such as bullying with punishment, which is thought to reduce or eliminate such behaviors, however, it may make better sense to focus on teaching and modeling pro-social behavior, like teaching kindness. This StopBullying.gov blog post describes key elements in teaching kindness, ways to teach kindness, and the impact of teaching kindness. <https://www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2017/07/26/can-kindness-overcome-bullying.html>

## NEW FROM THE VA

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### PTSD RESEARCH QUARTERLY: PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN PTSD TREATMENT

This issue of the *PTSD Research Quarterly* reviews the important emerging research on factors affecting patient engagement and interventions designed to improve retention of patients who begin PTSD treatment. <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/newsletters/research-quarterly/V28N3.pdf>

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### NEW GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING PTSD

A panel of experts from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense developed the latest guideline for managing PTSD and acute stress disorder. The *2017 Clinical Practice Guideline* includes the most effective treatments for PTSD, rated both for the quality of the clinical studies and the strength of the recommendations.

<https://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/MH/ptsd/VADoDPTSDCPGPatientSummaryFinal.pdf>

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## WEBINAR: ASSESSING AND REDUCING VIOLENCE IN MILITARY VETERANS

AUGUST 2, 2017, 11:00AM-12:00 PM ET

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This VA webinar will review the risk factors shown to relate to violence in Veteran populations and discuss the complex relationships between PTSD, alcohol misuse, and violent behavior. It will also cover the protective factors associated with lower odds of aggression in Veterans, which can point to psychosocial rehabilitation interventions for risk management. Finally, the presenter will outline a recovery-oriented and empirically-structured process for assessing and reducing violence risk in clinical practice.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7254228459052777985>

## WEBINAR: THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SUPPORTS IN HELPING PEOPLE IMPROVE THEIR COMPLEX HEALTH CONDITIONS

AUGUST 2, 2017, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

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This SAMHSA Recovery to Practice webinar will draw from the practical experience of the presenters to explore the importance of the intentional family - those who support our wellness; discuss how community membership and natural supports impact health outcomes and the process of recovery; identify innovative ways to integrate social, family, and community resources to support the needs of both the person and the family; and discuss the whole family approach to services and supports. [https://events-na2.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/916603251/en/events/event/shared/1065850142/event\\_landing.html?sco-id=1065859592&\\_charset\\_=utf-8](https://events-na2.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/916603251/en/events/event/shared/1065850142/event_landing.html?sco-id=1065859592&_charset_=utf-8)

## WEBINAR: MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH AT NIMH: BUILDING RESILIENCE TO REDUCE SUICIDE IN ARTIC COMMUNITIES

AUGUST 3, 2017, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

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This NIMH webinar will present research that showcases two different community-based approaches that aim to build resilience in indigenous communities with the hope of reducing suicide in the Artic.

<http://nimhhealthdisparities.thebizzellgroup.com/>

## **WEBINAR: UNDERSTANDING THE OPIOID CRISIS: WHAT'S AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER?**

AUGUST 9, 2017, 12:00-1:15 PM ET

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National attention is focused on the opioid crisis and communities are struggling to respond. In this webinar, SAMHSA and CDC staff will share data and the science about opioid addiction, and dispel some common misconceptions about treatment and recovery.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1331845416025955075>

## **WEBINAR: THE ROLE OF FAMILY CAREGIVING IN CHRONIC ILLNESS: THREE STUDIES**

AUGUST 9, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

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This VA webinar will summarize findings from three studies, including the roles, motivations, and barriers to engaging family caregivers in the chronic illness self-management from the perspectives of patients, family caregivers, and clinical providers. The presentation will also review a pilot intervention study intended to improve collaboration and communication between patients and family caregivers to enhance self-management. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/398592040841403907>

## **WEBINAR: UPDATE ON THE VA'S NEW ACTIVITIES AND DIRECTION**

AUGUST 14, 2017, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

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This SAMHSA webinar will provide a policy-level overview of the VA's recent efforts to increase access to behavioral health care and address suicide prevention. Areas that will be covered include the expansion of emergency mental health coverage to Veterans with other than honorable discharges, the initiative to eliminate Veteran suicide, MyVA community collaborations and partnerships, changes to the Choice program, plans for the adoption of a new electronic health record system, and other behavioral health access initiatives.

<https://smvftacenter.prainc.com/content/smvf%20ta%20center%20webinar%20update%20va%20activities>

## **WEBINAR: THERE IS HOPE: TREATMENT, RECOVERY, AND PREVENTION**

AUGUST 16, 2017, 12:00-1:15 PM ET

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The HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, in collaboration with SAMHSA and CDC, presents this webinar reviewing early intervention and treatment, and the essential role the community plays in recovery support and prevention. The webinar will also address the impact of adverse childhood experiences on the development of a substance use disorder, and how upstream preventative action can restore hope and a brighter and healthier future for generations to come.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/958872380186877187>

## **WEBINAR: SUCCESS STORIES: IMPLEMENTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN A SPECIALTY CARE SETTING**

AUGUST 16, 2017, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

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Join the SAMHSA-Health Resources and Services Administration Center for Integrated Health Services for a webinar to learn about a successful partnership between a hospital system and an oncology practice, which has woven behavioral health screening and treatment into their practice, and the lessons they have learned along the way. [https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1155302&tp\\_key=d38b65ac9b](https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1155302&tp_key=d38b65ac9b)

## **SAMHSA'S 2017 VOICE AWARDS**

AUGUST 16, 2017, 7:30 PM PT, LOS ANGELES, CA

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SAMHSA's 2017 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 recognizes television and film productions that educate the public about behavioral health and showcase that recovery is real and possible. This year, the 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. Reserve your seat (whether in person or online) no later than Friday, August 4. <https://www.samhsa.gov/voice-awards>

## **WEBINAR: COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION IN MENTORING PROGRAMS**

AUGUST 22, 2017, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

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Mentoring programs are uniquely positioned to identify children and youth who have been subjugated to commercial sexual exploitation, due to the relationship-driven nature of services. In this OJJDP webinar, participants will explore indicators of commercial sexual exploitation and will walk through real-life scenarios to assess risk. It will also provide the tools and resources to integrate the assessment of commercial sexual exploitation into youth development programs. [https://events-na8.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1110525827/en/events/event/shared/default\\_template\\_si/mple/event\\_registration.html?sco-id=2126458003&\\_charset=utf-8](https://events-na8.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1110525827/en/events/event/shared/default_template_si/mple/event_registration.html?sco-id=2126458003&_charset=utf-8)

## **WEBINAR: PEER SUPPORT ROLES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SETTINGS**

AUGUST 22, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

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Peer support is implemented in many ways and in many different settings. Even within criminal justice settings, there is a wide spectrum of peer support roles. Understanding the many different peer support roles in criminal justice settings can be challenging. This webinar, presented by SAMHSA's GAINS Center, will highlight some of the peer support roles that exist at each intercept of the Sequential Intercept Model, and provide guidance to agencies and organizations seeking to implement or expand peer support services in criminal justice settings. <https://t.e2ma.net/click/kpq0k/4ce6po/o8b5yc>

## **WEBINAR: MENTAL HEALTH ECONOMICS: ANALYZING VALUE**

AUGUST 22, 2017, 9:00-10:30 AM ET

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This NIMH Global Mental Health webinar is aimed primarily at researchers and health care practitioners interested in addressing or better understanding issues of cost, cost-effectiveness and value in their work. There is an increasing expectation and need to demonstrate not only the health and other impacts of interventions and innovations in health, but also assess what it takes in terms of resources to develop, maintain or scale-up an intervention, and be able to link resources and costs to primary outcomes of interest. Accordingly, the webinar will start with an overview of key principles of health economic analysis, before moving into a presentation of analytical steps, methods and data requirements. Participants should come away with a better grasp of why economic analysis is needed, what is required to do it and how to go about it. <http://nimhglobalwebinars.thebizzellgroup.com/aug22>

## **WEBINAR: TREATMENT TARGETS, TARGET ENGAGEMENT, AND TARGET POPULATIONS IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH: EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD**

AUGUST 23, 2017, 9:00-10:30 AM ET

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In this NIMH Global Mental Health webinar, NIMH program officers will present a brief overview of the experimental therapeutics paradigm, which provides a framework to understand targets and mechanisms of action for all NIMH-funded clinical trial research, including mental health services research. Drs. Mary McKay and Mary Acri will then discuss two of their ongoing and high priority NIMH-funded research studies in the context of the experimental therapeutic paradigm: 1) *Family Groups for Urban Youth with Disruptive Behavior* and 2) *African Regional Research Partnerships for Scaling Up Child Mental Health Evidence-Based Practices*. <http://nimhglobalwebinars.thebizzellgroup.com/aug23>

## **WEBINAR: CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND GENDER ISSUES: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF HISTORICAL TRAUMA ON COMMUNITIES**

AUGUST 28, 2017, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

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This webinar hosted by SAMHSA's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care and Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint will address historical trauma in communities and identify strategies that work to address the importance of understanding intergenerational trauma.

<https://www.nasmhpd.org/content/community-vln>

## **WEBINAR: CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND GENDER ISSUES: THE ALI FORNEY CENTER**

AUGUST 28, 2017, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

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This SAMHSA webinar will feature insights from staff at the Ali Forney Center (AFC) in New York, NY, the largest program dedicated to meeting the needs of LGBTQ homeless youth in the nation. AFC provides a comprehensive range of services to LGBTQ homeless and street-based youth, including a drop-in center, mobile outreach, and emergency housing. Their Peer Educator program was created based on the recognition that homeless youth are most likely to trust outreach workers who have been formerly homeless themselves. In addition, their community outreach program is designed to help mental health providers to serve LGBTQ youth in a more culturally-competent manner.

<https://www.nasmhpd.org/content/crisis-services-vln>

## **WEBINAR SAVE THE DATE: MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH AT NIMH: COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH TO REDUCE THE BURDEN OF SUICIDE IN TRIBAL YOUTH**

AUG 29, 2017, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

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Save the date for the NIMH's next webinar on mental health disparities research. The webinar will focus on the NIMH-funded hubs for collaborative research to reduce the burden the suicide in tribal youth. Registration forthcoming.

## **VIRTUAL EVENT: ANNUAL SUMMIT: ADVANCES IN THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE AND BEST PRACTICE**

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2017

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The 2017 Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Annual Summit will connect health care professionals, researchers, and academicians involved in all aspects of psychological health and traumatic brain injury care for the military community. This year's event will offer real-time access to up to 28 hours of state-of-the-science programming. Join others from around the globe to participate in panel discussions and question and answer sessions, network with professionals and peers, visit the virtual exhibit hall for resources, and earn up to 14 CECs during the virtual event.

<http://dcoe.mil/training/events>

## NIH RESEARCH STUDY: DEPRESSION IN TEENAGERS

Study seeks to understand the causes of depression in teenagers. As part of a larger study looking at mood dysregulation, this part of the study is currently recruiting medically healthy teenagers ages 12 to 17, who meet the criteria for major depressive disorder, and are in treatment with a physician. Study participation begins with an initial 1-day evaluation. Research visits may include annual outpatient visits up to age 25, and/or a 4- to 15-week inpatient treatment. Call **1-301-496-8381** [TTY: 1-866-411-1010], Email [depressedkids@mail.nih.gov](mailto:depressedkids@mail.nih.gov)

Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health  
<http://go.usa.gov/x8Xmk>

### Resource Listing or Facebook:

NIH Research Study: Understanding the causes of depression in teenagers. Currently recruiting ages 12-17. Initial 1-day evaluation for outpatient visits annually and/or 4- to 15-week inpatient treatment. Call 1-301-496-8381 [TTY: 1-866-411-1010] or Email [depressedkids@mail.nih.gov](mailto:depressedkids@mail.nih.gov)  
<http://go.usa.gov/x8Xmk>

Department of Health & Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health

### Twitter:

Teenagers with Depression: NIH Research study currently recruiting ages 12-17 for outpatient visits & treatment to understand the causes of depression. <http://go.usa.gov/x8Xmk>

## THE NIH NEUROBIOBANK: ADDRESSING THE URGENT NEED FOR BRAIN DONATION

The Directors of the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), NIMH, and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke discuss the urgent need for brain donation. When unraveling the complexities of neurological, neurodevelopmental, and neuropsychiatric disorders, there is no substitute for studying human brain tissue. Brain donation is critically important, now more than ever. The more brain tissue available for research, the faster science can advance toward a better understanding of how to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure disorders of the human brain. The NIH NeuroBioBank is a central resource to coordinate brain donation and the distribution of tissue to qualified researchers. These efforts depend on the availability of post-mortem brain tissue. Yet, relative to donations of other organs for transplantation and research, brain donation is severely lagging, both from healthy people, from people with brain disease, and especially from children. Through partnerships with not-for-profit organizations like the Brain Donor Project, NIH aims to raise awareness about the importance of post-mortem brain donation and to simplify the process of becoming a donor. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2017/the-nih-neurobiobank-addressing-the-urgent-need-for-brain-donation.shtml>

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: RIGOR, REPRODUCIBILITY, AND STATISTICAL POWER IN MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

NIMH seeks input on the issue of statistical power in studies using human subjects, with the goal of improving the rigor and reproducibility of mental health research. While the NIH has provided guidance for improving both transparency and scientific rigor to foster reproducibility in biomedical research, there is no specific information relevant to statistical power. As such, the NIMH seeks input on the issue of statistical power in the context of human subjects research designed to elucidate mechanisms of disease, or to develop therapies for mental illness, including, but not limited to, those studies that employ neuroimaging techniques. Given the high importance and complexity of the issue of statistical power in clinical trials, the NIMH seeks guidance on approaches to improve attention to statistical power in mental health research. Comments accepted until August 6, 2017. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-17-036.html>

## 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:

COMMENT ON KEY QUESTIONS: HARMS OF FIRST-LINE DEPRESSION TREATMENT IN OLDER ADULTS  
(OPEN FOR COMMENT THROUGH AUGUST 10, 2017)

<https://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-available-for-comment/comment-key-questions/?pageaction=displayquestions&topicid=684&questionset=302>

## COMMENTS SOUGHT ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PARITY IMPLEMENTATION AND THE 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT PART 38

The Departments of HHS, Labor, and the Treasury are seeking comments on how to improve disclosure under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) and other laws, as required by the 21st Century Cures Act. As part of the solicitation of comments, the Departments are releasing and seeking comments on a draft model form that participants, enrollees, or their authorized representatives could use to request information from their health plan about non-quantitative treatment limitations that affect their mental health or substance use disorder benefits. In addition, the Departments request comments on whether any additional clarification is needed regarding how the requirements of MHPAEA apply to treatment for eating disorders. Comments are accepted through September 13, 2017.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/1a3047d>

## **BECOME A GRANT REVIEWER: SEEKING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS**

The HHS OMH is looking for Subject Matter Experts to serve as reviewers of applications submitted to its Empowered Communities for a Healthier Nation Initiative (ECI) competitive grant program. The ECI is intended to provide support for minority and/or disadvantaged communities disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic, childhood/adolescent obesity, or serious mental illness (SMI). ECI is looking for professionals with a well-documented history as a subject matter expert in the area(s) of opioid abuse, childhood/adolescent obesity, or SMI to register to serve as grant reviewers.

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=1&lvlid=5>

## **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030**

HHS is soliciting written comments on the proposed framework for *Healthy People 2030*, developed by the Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030. The framework refers to the Healthy People 2030 vision, mission, foundational principles, plan of action, and overarching goals that will guide the selection and prioritization of objectives for Healthy People 2030. Members of the public—including individuals, stakeholders, and organizations—are invited to provide comments on the Healthy People 2030 framework. This round of public comment will be open until September 29, 2017 at 5:00 PM ET. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/About-Healthy-People/Development-Healthy-People-2030/Public-Comment>

## FUNDING INFORMATION

INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR VICTIMS PROGRAM: INCREASING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

<https://ojp.gov/ovc/grants/pdfxt/FY2017-V21-Mental-Health-508.pdf>

DEVELOPING FUTURE VICTIM SPECIALISTS FOR INDIAN COUNTRY

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=295019>

A NATIONAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE POLICE-BASED RESPONSES TO PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS AND INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

<https://www.bja.gov/Funding/LEMHTTA17.pdf>

BRAIN INITIATIVE: NEW CONCEPTS AND EARLY-STAGE RESEARCH FOR LARGE-SCALE RECORDING AND MODULATION IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-EY-17-002.html>

FIRST IN HUMAN AND EARLY STAGE CLINICAL TRIALS OF NOVEL INVESTIGATIONAL DRUGS OR DEVICES FOR PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-327.html>



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.