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# UPDATE

April 1, 2011

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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*

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## SCIENCE AND SERVICE NEWS UPDATES

### RECOVERY ACT-FUNDED JOBS PROGRAM HELPS HIGH SCHOOL GRADS WHO HAVE ASD: ONLINE RESOURCE FILLS KNOWLEDGE GAP IDENTIFIED THROUGH NIH CHALLENGE GRANT INITIATIVE

JobTIPS, a free, Web-based program unveiled today, aims to help youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or other disabilities develop and maintain skills needed for successful employment. Supported through the Recovery Act with a grant for just under \$1 million over two years from the National Institutes of Health, this resource targets a critical transition period as teenagers leave the school system, which is usually their primary source of ASD-related services throughout childhood.

**Press Release:** <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2011/recovery-act-funded-jobs-program-helps-high-school-grads-who-have-asd.shtml>

### ARMY STARRS PRELIMINARY DATA REVEAL SOME POTENTIAL PREDICTIVE FACTORS FOR SUICIDE

Early examination of data from the U.S. Army's *Total Army Injury and Health Outcomes Database* has revealed potential predictors of risk for suicide among soldiers. Preliminary results were provided by researchers leading the ongoing Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Service members (Army STARRS). Army STARRS, a partnership between the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the U.S. Army, is the largest study of mental health risk and resilience ever conducted among military personnel.

**Science Update:** <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2011/army-starrs-preliminary-data-reveal-some-potential-predictive-factors-for-suicide.shtml>

### VA LAUNCHES NEW PSA ON SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR VETERANS; CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS LINE PROVIDES 24/7 ACCESS TO HELP

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to veterans in crisis and their families in a new public service announcement to raise awareness about suicide prevention resources, such as the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The new television spot encourages veterans in crisis to call the crisis hotline number and then push 1 on their telephone keypad to reach a trained VA mental health professional who can assist the veteran 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Press Release:** <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2071>

## **HUD AND VA ISSUE FIRST-EVER REPORT ON VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the VA have published an analysis of the extent and nature of homelessness among American veterans. According to HUD and VA's assessment, nearly 76,000 veterans were homeless on any given night in 2009 while roughly 136,000 veterans spent at least one night in a shelter during that year. This assessment is based on an annual report HUD provides to Congress and explores in greater depth the demographics of veterans who are homeless, how veterans compare to others who are homeless, and how veterans access and use the nation's homeless response system.

**Press Release:**

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-014](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2011/HUDNo.11-014)

**Full Report:** <http://www.usich.gov/PDF/OpeningDoorsOverview.pdf>

## **VA REACHING OUT TO VETERANS ON CAMPUS THROUGH VETSUCCESS; NEW AGREEMENTS RECENTLY REACHED TO EASE TRANSITION FROM ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY**

The VA is making a concerted effort this spring to reach out to student veterans at eight VetSuccess on Campus sites to make them aware that VA counselors are standing by to help ease their transition from active-duty military to college life. Under the VetSuccess on Campus program, a full-time, experienced vocational rehabilitation counselor and a part-time Vet Center outreach coordinator are assigned at each campus to provide VA benefits outreach, support, and assistance to ensure veterans' health, educational, and benefit needs are met.

**Press Release:** <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2070>

## **VA EXTENDS POST-INCARCERATION HEALTH CARE; MEASURE WOULD HELP REDUCE REPEAT OFFENSES**

The VA will extend health care to eligible veterans in halfway houses and other temporary, post-incarceration housing under a new program aimed at cutting back on repeat offenses. A long-standing rule has barred VA from providing health care to veterans for whom another federal, state, or local government has an obligation to provide health care. Frequently, that means inmates of prisons and jails. Under the changed rule, that prohibition would be amended and VA would be allowed to provide health care to veterans in halfway houses and other temporary, post-incarceration housing.

**Press Release:** <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2074>

## **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS RELATED TO “ECSTASY” USE INCREASED NEARLY 75 PERCENT FROM 2004 TO 2008; NEARLY 70 PERCENT OF THESE VISITS INVOLVED PATIENTS AGED 18 TO 29**

A new national study indicates that the number of hospital emergency department (ED) visits involving the illicit drug ecstasy increased from 10,220 in 2004 to 17,865 visits in 2008 – a 74.8 percent increase. According to this new study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) most of these ecstasy-related ED visits involved patients aged 18 to 29, but notably 17.9 percent involved adolescents aged 12 to 17.

**Press Release:** <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1103232942.aspx>

**Full Report:** <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k11/dawn027/ecstasy.cfm>

## **ADULTS REPRESENT A MAJORITY OF INHALANT TREATMENT ADMISSIONS: OVER 1 MILLION ADULTS ABUSE INHALANTS EACH YEAR**

"Huffing," or intentionally inhaling a chemical vapor to get "high," has been thought to be a serious, life-threatening risk primarily among children and adolescents, but a new SAMHSA study shows that 54 percent of treatment admissions related to inhalants abuse in 2008 involved adults ages 18 or older. Specifically, 52 percent of these adult admissions involved people aged 18 to 29, 32 percent involved people aged 30 to 44, and 16 percent were involved people aged 45 or older.

**Press Release:** <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1103165331.aspx>

**Report:** <http://oas.samhsa.gov/spotlight/Spotlight024InhalentAdmissions.pdf>

## **NATIONAL QUALITY STRATEGY WILL PROMOTE BETTER HEALTH, QUALITY CARE FOR AMERICANS**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the *National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care (National Quality Strategy)*. The strategy was called for under the Affordable Care Act and is the first effort to create national aims and priorities to guide local, state, and national efforts to improve the quality of health care in the United States. The *National Quality Strategy* will promote quality health care that is focused on the needs of patients, families, and communities. At the same time, the strategy is designed to move the system to work better for doctors and other health care providers—reducing their administrative burdens and helping them collaborate to improve care.

**Press Release:** <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/03/20110321a.html>

## RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS, TOOLKITS, OTHER RESOURCES

### NEW ON NIMH WEBSITE

#### SUICIDE IN AMERICA: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This is a brief overview of the statistics on depression and suicide with information on depression treatments and suicide prevention. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-in-america/suicide-in-america-frequently-asked-questions.shtml>

#### HELPING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS COPE WITH VIOLENCE AND DISASTERS: WHAT RESCUE WORKERS CAN DO

A booklet that describes what rescue workers can do to help children and adolescents cope with violence and disasters. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-rescue-workers/index.shtml>

#### BLOG POSTING: HIGHLIGHTS IN AUTISM PROGRESS -- FOR APRIL, AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

In observance of Autism Awareness Month, the NIMH Director discusses recent activities and developments in autism research.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2011/highlights-in-autism-progress-for-april-autism-awareness-month.shtml>

#### BLOG POSTING: NEW FINDINGS REVEAL NEW WORLDS IN NEUROSCIENCE

The NIMH Director discusses recent findings from emerging neuroscience fields that may provide new perspectives on understanding mental illness.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2011/new-findings-reveal-new-worlds-in-neuroscience.shtml>

#### BLOG POSTING: A GPS FOR THE DEVELOPING HUMAN BRAIN

The NIMH Director discusses how the first transcription (genetic expression) map of the brain is a landmark for the field. This new developmental human brain resource will serve as a resource to the clinical neuroscience community the way the mouse atlas has served basic neuroscientists.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2011/a-gps-for-the-developing-human-brain.shtml>

## NIH RESEARCH MATTERS: SCIENTISTS SWITCH OFF BRAIN'S ANXIETY CIRCUIT

Using a light-based technique called optogenetics, scientists have identified a distinct brain circuit that seems to switch anxiety off and on in the mouse brain. The findings could have implications for developing improved anti-anxiety medications for humans.

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/march2011/03212011anxiety.htm>

## SAMHSA OUTLINES NEW STRATEGIC INITIATIVES PAPER FOR ADVANCING THE NATION'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SAMHSA published its strategic initiatives paper -- an overview of SAMHSA's goals, priorities, and action steps for accomplishing its mission of reducing the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. Carefully developed from months of public discussion and input from a wide variety of SAMHSA's stakeholders, the strategic initiatives paper lays out how SAMHSA will focus its resources in meeting the new opportunities and challenges it faces in the near future.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA11-4629>

## NEW SAMHSA RESOURCES AND REPORTS

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### SUICIDE PREVENTION DIALOGUE WITH CONSUMERS AND SURVIVORS: FROM PAIN TO PROMISE

This report provides further understanding of suicide and recovery from those who have attempted suicide and those who try to help. This publication is part of an ongoing series of dialogues, called *Building Bridges*, that bring together individuals with lived experience of mental health and/or substance use problems with their professional counterparts. The dialogue documents the views of attempt survivors in their own voices, with revealing quotes that shed light on what leads to, and what helps prevent, suicide attempts. This publication also offers recommendations and insights on how to effectively work with consumers and attempt survivors. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA10-4589>

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### PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC MEDICATIONS 2011: WHAT EVERY COUNSELOR SHOULD KNOW

This new online resource from the Addiction Technology Transfer Center is designed as a "desk-top reference" of medications commonly prescribed in the treatment of persons with alcohol, drug, and mental health conditions. This searchable database offers up-to-date information on generic and brand name medications. It is intended to provide a basic understanding of medication dose, frequency, side effects, emergency conditions, abuse potential, cautions, and considerations for pregnant women.

<http://www.findrxinformation.org/>

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## UNDERSTANDING HEALTH REFORM: WHAT DOES HEALTH REFORM DO?

This SAMHSA publication assists consumers in understanding health reform as a result of the Affordable Care Act. It offers tips for how to become involved in the health care change process, and lists immediate and future health care changes for which consumers should be aware.

[http://www.samhsa.gov/healthReform/docs/ConsumerTipSheet\\_HealthReform.pdf](http://www.samhsa.gov/healthReform/docs/ConsumerTipSheet_HealthReform.pdf)

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## JAIL DIVERSION AND TRAUMA RECOVERY: PRIORITY TO VETERANS

This brief from the GAINS Center provides an overview of SAMHSA's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery - Priority to Veterans initiative. [http://www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov/pdfs/veterans/JDTR\\_Brief\\_3\\_11.pdf](http://www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov/pdfs/veterans/JDTR_Brief_3_11.pdf)

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## LATEST ISSUE OF THE DIALOGUE

*The Dialogue* is a quarterly e-communication that provides practical information for state and territory behavioral health coordinators, local services providers, federal agencies, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations. The latest issue addresses the adaptation of trauma interventions for refugee families, vicarious trauma, and the formation of long-term recovery groups.

[http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/dialogue/Dialogue\\_Vol7\\_Issue2.pdf](http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/dialogue/Dialogue_Vol7_Issue2.pdf)

## **SAMHSA FUNDED NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS NETWORK: SEXUAL ABUSE FACTSHEETS FOR TEENS**

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### SEX OR SEXUAL ABUSE? RESPECT YOURSELF — KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Defines sexual abuse and presents examples of “red flag” situations to help teens determine what is or is not sexual abuse. [http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/sex\\_or\\_sexual\\_abuse.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/sex_or_sexual_abuse.pdf)

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### BUT WHO SHOULD I TELL? QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT SEEKING HELP AFTER SEXUAL ABUSE

Discusses the options teens have after sexual abuse: whether or not to tell, who to go to for help, and what resources are available for support.

[http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/sex\\_abuse\\_disclosure.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/sex_abuse_disclosure.pdf)

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### STAYING SAFE WHILE STAYING CONNECTED: FACTS AND TIPS FOR TEENS

Warns about the dangers of connecting via technology—including “sexting”—and tips for staying safe.

[http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/staying\\_safe.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/staying_safe.pdf)

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## IT'S NEVER YOUR FAULT: THE TRUTH ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE

Highlights the common myths teens have about sexual assault and then presents the facts.

[http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/the\\_truth\\_about\\_sexual\\_abuse.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/the_truth_about_sexual_abuse.pdf)

## NIAAA SPECTRUM—LATEST ISSUE AVAILABLE

The latest issue of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's (NIAAA) web magazine covers alcohol poisoning; caffeinated alcoholic beverages; the connection between impulsivity, alcohol, and violence; and collaborative community-based interventions to reduce off-campus college drinking.

<http://www.spectrum.niaaa.nih.gov/>

## AHRQ RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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### CERTAIN WOMEN ARE AT GREATER RISK FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS DURING PREGNANCY

A new study reveals that certain women may have an increased risk for mental health problems during pregnancy. The researchers found that levels of social support, general health status, and a woman's history of mental health affected the risk for developing mental health problems during pregnancy. A history of mental health issues prior to getting pregnant was strongly associated with poor mental health during pregnancy. In fact, 31 percent of women with poor mental health before pregnancy had poor mental health after getting pregnant. However, only 5 percent of women without any mental health problems before their pregnancy developed such problems while pregnant. The study was supported in part by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/apr11/0411RA28.htm>

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### ADOLESCENTS WITH HIGHER SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AT GREATER RISK FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE DURING EARLY ADULTHOOD

Previous research has shown that adolescents with low socioeconomic status (SES) are more likely to engage in substance abuse, as are adults with high SES. Yet a new study reveals that adolescents with high SES are also at risk for substance abuse. It found that higher SES among adolescents was associated with greater rates of binge drinking and marijuana and cocaine use in early adulthood. There was no significant correlation between high SES in adolescence and crystal methamphetamine or other drug use.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/apr11/0411RA25.htm>

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## ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD DECISION SUPPORT IMPROVES THE CARE OF CHILDREN WITH ADHD

Children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) must be managed properly if they are to succeed in school, in their relationships, and in life. Critical to optimal care of these children is the role of the pediatrician. Although consensus guidelines exist on the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD, provider adherence to the guidelines is suboptimal. Offering decision support as part of the electronic health record can improve the quality of care for these children, concludes a new study. This includes getting children in for a visit with their pediatrician to assess ADHD symptoms and review treatment effectiveness.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/apr11/0411RA24.htm>

## NEW PSA FROM DEFENSE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

In this public service announcement, Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) James Hancock, shares his experience as a shock trauma platoon doctor and a person who sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) when the armored vehicle he was in hit an improvised explosive device. Hancock discusses the importance of getting checked out if you have sustained a brain injury, whether in a blast, a car, or fall.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=222>

## NEW FROM REAL WARRIORS WEBSITE

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### TWO NEW VIDEO FEATURES

*Real Warriors* (<http://www.realwarriors.net/multimedia/profiles/pcs.php>) highlights service members who had the strength to reach out for support and continue to thrive in military and civilian careers. *Real Warriors and Resilience* (<http://www.realwarriors.net/multimedia/profiles/resilience.php>) features service members, their commanders, and their families discussing the importance of reaching out for support to build resilience.

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### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY: TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

This Real Warriors online resource provides an overview of TBI treatment options.

<http://www.realwarriors.net/active/treatment/tbirecovery.php>

## CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION: PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE

A COMPARISON OF DEPRESSION AND MENTAL DISTRESS INDICATORS, RHODE ISLAND BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, 2006

[http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2011/mar/10\\_0097.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2011/mar/10_0097.htm)

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE WHOLE CHILD: WHAT PUBLIC HEALTH CAN DO TO ANSWER THE EDUCATION SECTOR'S CALL FOR A STRONGER PARTNERSHIP

[http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2011/mar/10\\_0014.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2011/mar/10_0014.htm)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### HEALTH OBSERVANCE: ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2011

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Alcohol Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness of alcohol abuse and encourage people to make healthy, safe choices. <http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho/aprtoolkit.aspx>

NIAAA Resources: <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

### HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

APRIL 2011

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National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and create strong communities to support children and families.

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/>

### HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2011

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In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community. <http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho/nho.asp?year=2011#5>

## **WEBINAR: USING DATA TO INFORM AND GUIDE SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS**

APRIL 12, 2011, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST

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This SAMHSA webinar will provide concrete suggestions on how to create "dashboard indicators" and use data to assess the quality of services to persons with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The webinar will address the most current issues facing states, organizations, and providers, including: electronic health records, the effect of health reform on data collection, and mandated data collection.

[https://www.mymeetings.com/emeet/rsvp/index.jsp?customHeader=mymeetings&Conference\\_ID=1823309&passcode=5820599](https://www.mymeetings.com/emeet/rsvp/index.jsp?customHeader=mymeetings&Conference_ID=1823309&passcode=5820599)

## **ADDICTION PERFORMANCE PROJECT: LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT**

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 15 AND 16, 2011 AND PHOENIX, ARIZONA, MAY 6, 2011

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The program includes a dramatic reading of act III from Long Day's Journey into Night by Eugene O'Neill, followed by an expert panel presentation and facilitated audience discussion on caring for drug-addicted patients. The Addiction Performance Project is a CME program that offers health care providers the opportunity to help break down the stigma associated with addiction and promote a healthy dialogue that fosters compassion, cooperation, and understanding for patients living with this disease. This project is part of NIDAMED, NIDA's outreach to practicing physicians, physicians in training, and other health professionals.

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/nidamed/APP/index.html>

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S OSDFS NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

WORKSHOP AND POSTER PROPOSALS DUE: APRIL 18, 2011

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The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS) is accepting proposals for workshops and posters for its conference to be held August 8-10, 2011 at the National Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference will address issues related to: alcohol, drug and violence prevention; health, mental health, and physical education; special populations; emerging issues; and other areas concerning drug and violence prevention. Submissions should relate to one of the conference tracks: alcohol/drug use; bullying/cyberbullying; training or skill-building; youth violence prevention; emergency management planning; health, mental health, environmental health, physical health; resources; data collection; partnerships; special populations; and emerging issues.

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/news.html>

## **SECOND NATIONWIDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY**

APRIL 30, 2011, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM LOCAL TIME

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The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its community partners will hold the second National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day at sites throughout the United States. This will be an opportunity for the public to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs for safe disposal. The service is free and anonymous—no questions asked.

<http://www.nationaltakebackday.com/>

## **NIMH RESEARCH VIDEOCAST-- CONNECT THE DOTS: UNDERSTANDING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

MAY 3, 2011, 2:00PM - 3:00PM ET

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In celebration of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, NIMH is presenting an expert panel on the latest research related to children's mental health. Learn the state of the science in children's mental health and ask top NIMH scientists about topics ranging from normal brain development to anxiety, bipolar disorder, and ADHD. Register to watch the videocast or attend in person. <http://guest.cvent.com/d/6dq5l>

## **SAMHSA'S NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY**

MAY 3, 2011

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Join communities, organizations, and individuals nationwide in raising awareness that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development. This year's national event in Washington, DC, on the evening of May 3, will focus on building resilience in young children dealing with trauma.

[http://www.samhsa.gov/children/save\\_date\\_2011.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/children/save_date_2011.aspx)

## CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION NEWS

### NATIONWIDE RECRUITMENT

#### CHILD & ADOLESCENTS WITH SEVERE MOOD DYSREGULATION: BRAIN IMAGING, NON-TREATMENT AND TREATMENT STUDIES

The NIMH is seeking boys and girls ages 7 to 17 with severe mood dysregulation to participate in research. Children and adolescents with mood and behavioral dysregulation display chronic anger, sadness, or irritability, as well as hyperarousal symptoms common in ADHD (such as insomnia, distractibility, hyperactivity) and extreme responses to frustration (such as frequent, severe temper tantrums). Sometimes, children with this pattern of severe, chronic irritability and outbursts are given the diagnosis of bipolar disorder. The non-treatment study involves visits to the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD and includes outpatient assessment, computer tasks, and fMRI scanning (a form of brain imaging).

A treatment study is also available for those who are not doing well on their current medication(s). The treatment study includes these outpatient assessments and research tasks, plus discontinuation of all current medications and starting new medications or a placebo. The discontinuation of current medication and starting of new medications occurs while the child is hospitalized or in day treatment at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. The remainder of the treatment trial can be completed in those settings or as an outpatient from home with the child coming to NIH only for clinic visits every other week. This study seeks to learn whether citalopram, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), added to methylphenidate (i.e., Ritalin®) is helpful for severe irritability. Eligible participants receive optimal doses of methylphenidate, and then are randomly assigned to receive citalopram or placebo, in addition to methylphenidate. While these medications are used commonly in the treatment of ADHD, depression, and anxiety, their use in very irritable children is experimental. All participants will receive a thorough clinical evaluation. All participants must be able to fill out daily self rating forms and cooperate with study procedures (including genetics study, MRI, neuropsychological, and behavioral testing). Participants in the treatment study also must be in treatment with a psychiatrist who agrees that it is appropriate for the child to participate in the study and not doing well on current medications.

There is no charge for participation in this study. Travel and lodging expenses paid for by NIMH.

Call: 301-496-8381 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010), or e-mail: [irritablekids@mail.nih.gov](mailto:irritablekids@mail.nih.gov).

## CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

### PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL ILLNESS VIDEO PSA CONTEST

SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention is launching a video PSA contest that embraces the theme, "We are the ones. How are you taking action?" This contest highlights the efforts made by young adults to make a difference in their communities to prevent substance abuse and promote emotional well-being. Submissions are due April 15, 2011.

<http://challenge.gov/SAMHSA/128-prevention-of-substance-abuse-and-mental-illness-video-psa-contest>

### COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REPORTS

The AHRQ Effective Health Care Program encourages the public to participate in the development of its research projects. The Program uses these comments to help focus the 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:

KEY QUESTIONS: EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERVENTIONS ADDRESSING CONCOMITANT MENTAL HEALTH AND CHRONIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS IN THE PRIMARY CARE SETTING (DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS APRIL 15, 2011)

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/ehc/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displaytopic&topicid=297>

KEY QUESTIONS: COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERVENTIONS WITH THE PRIMARY CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN EXPOSED TO MALTREATMENT (DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS APRIL 15, 2011)

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/ehc/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displaytopic&topicid=298>

DRAFT REPORT: EFFICACY AND COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF OFF-LABEL USE OF ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS – UPDATE (DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS APRIL 18, 2011)

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayProduct&productID=648>

## **NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2011 VOICE AWARDS: CHAMPIONING THOSE WHOSE VOICES MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

SAMHSA is seeking nominations for consumers and peer leaders who have been leaders in educating the public about behavioral health. This year, SAMHSA is putting special emphasis on the impact of trauma and the significant effects it can have on individuals, families and friends, communities, and our Nation. Consideration is being given to consumers and peer leaders who have successfully advocated for the rights of trauma survivors and promoted the importance of trauma-informed care. All nominations must be submitted by Friday, April 22, 2011. To nominate an eligible consumer/peer leader(s), visit the Voice Awards Web site at [www.voiceawards.samhsa.gov](http://www.voiceawards.samhsa.gov).

## **ONC ANNOUNCES OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON THE FEDERAL HEALTH IT STRATEGIC PLAN: 2011-2015**

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) announced an open public comment period on the *Federal Health IT Strategic Plan: 2011-2015*. The Plan reflects ONC's strategy, developed in collaboration with other federal partners, over the next five years for realizing Congress and the Administration's health IT agenda. Despite evidence of the benefits of the use of health IT, today only 25 percent of physician offices and 15 percent of hospitals take advantage of electronic health records (EHRs). Two major pieces of legislation, enacted over the past two years, are dramatically changing the health IT landscape and providing an opportunity to modernize the way care is delivered and improve the health of all Americans – the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act and the Affordable Care Act. The Plan, originally published in 2008, is being updated to reflect the significant impact of these two pieces of legislation.

ONC welcomes the public to submit comments on the plan through April 22, 2011, in order to better inform its strategy. <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/03/20110325a.html>

## **FUNDING INFORMATION**

NIH BLUEPRINT FOR NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH GRAND CHALLENGE: DEVELOPING NOVEL DRUGS FOR DISORDERS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-12-002.html>

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL INTERVENTIONS FOR MENTAL DISORDERS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-11-177.html>

RESEARCH ON ETHICAL ISSUES IN BIOMEDICAL, SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-180.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-181.html> (R03)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-182.html> (R21)

RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING GRANTS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-184.html>

OVW FISCAL YEAR 2011 TRIBAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION PROGRAM

<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/tribal-domestic-fy2011.pdf>

DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSLATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-EB-11-001.html>

## CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), through a contract with Westover Consultants, Inc., and AFYA, Inc., is providing financial support to consumers of mental health services who wish to participate in the 2011 annual conferences of the National Association of Peer Specialists or the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The purpose of this scholarship is to foster the transformation of mental health care to focus on recovery.

- National Alliance on Mental Illness 2011 Annual Convention application deadline: April 8, 2011
- National Association of Peer Specialists 2011 Annual Conference application deadline: May 10, 2011

[https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A2=CMHS\\_ADCA\\_ENEWS;467ea4f2.1103](https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A2=CMHS_ADCA_ENEWS;467ea4f2.1103)



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 help close the gap between mental health research and clinical practice, inform the public about mental illnesses, and reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partners>. To subscribe to receive the **Update** every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.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.