

Practice Management Insight

A report on events affecting Oklahoma providers

March 2016

Meaningful use will likely end in 2016

The meaningful use program is on the cusp of major changes, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt said late Monday, adding that 2016 would likely see the end of the program altogether.

The Medicare Access & CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, with its emphasis on a new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System and alternative payment models, demands a new streamlined regulatory approach, he said, speaking at the J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference in San Francisco.

Acting Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Andy Slavitt on Tuesday shocked many in healthcare when he laid out an aggressive timeline to replace the meaningful use program, a electronic health records mandate and incentive program that healthcare providers put millions into. Slavitt made the remarks at the J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference in San Francisco.

Thanks for the introduction. Glad to be here and speak about the major policy areas that will affect the health care sector in 2016. I am particularly glad to be here with Jim from AMA, because between us we are working on an incredible amount of change across the health care sector.

From my not-so-distant past, I remember how CMS often felt opaque to me, and I probably said more than once how helpful it would be to know CMS's agenda rather than divining them by poring through an often intricate set of regulations like they were Fed minutes.

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BIG PAYOFF FOR OKLAHOMA'S STATEWIDE COMMITMENT TO CASE TO CARE MANAGEMENT

In terms of prevalence rates for mental illness, Oklahoma consistently ranks among the highest in the nation. Unfortunately, the state also invests less in treatment than most others. Therefore, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHASAS) has transformed its system to focus on strategies that maximize efficiency and effectiveness. Integrated care has long been a priority for the department as it seeks to improve treatment outcomes for all Oklahomans. Oklahomans experience many health challenges. Among the most significant of these are untreated mental health and substance abuse issues. Problematic behavioral illnesses often lead to poor health outcomes and substantial costs related to illness, hospitalizations, family fragmentation, workplace injury, motor vehicle accidents and premature deaths.

[More Information](#)

Preferred Family Healthcare and Bridgeway merge

Bridgeway Behavioral Health, located in the St. Louis area, has merged with Preferred Family Healthcare. The merger adds 13 locations to Preferred Family's portfolio.

Mike Morrison, CEO of Bridgeway, will assume the leadership role for all substance use disorder and domestic violence services in greater St. Louis. He says the merger has provided an opportunity to move forward on a big-picture strategic plan in the era of health reform.

Bridgeway Behavioral Health saw the merger with Preferred Family Healthcare as an opportunity to continue our mission and better serve those suffering from substance use disorders in this region." Morrison tells *Behavioral Healthcare*. "By integrating the best practices and programs from both companies, the merged organization will be the provider of choice in a Eastern Missouri."

[More Information](#)

Advantages and Challenges of Mobile Technology in Health Care

As governments and individuals experience ever-greater pressure to increase efficiency, mHealth solutions can offer numerous advantages.

The mobility of an interconnected, wireless system means that it can be used anywhere, and specifically at the point of care. Collaboration can reduce the risk of errors: there is less physical paperwork to get lost and a reduced risk of two doctors making different decisions.

Point-of-care digital tools can help to safeguard patients and protect professionals against litigation through instant recording of data and potential for verification in real time and in the future.

[More Information](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 1
Tribal Consultation
[OKC, OK](#)

March 5
Well Power
[Clint, OK](#)

March 9
Drug Utilization Review
[OKC, OK](#)

March 10
Reducing ASAM Dimension
[OKC, OK](#)

March 13
Daylight Saving Begins

March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 21
Oklahoma Determination of
ASAM Service Level
[Woodward, OK](#)

March 23
Wraparound 101
[Tulsa, OK](#)

March 23
Responsible Beverage Sales and
Services TOT
[OKC, OK](#)

March 25
Question Persuade Refer
[OKC, OK](#)

March 27
Easter

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American National Nutrition Month

Mental Retardation Awareness Month

Self Harm Awareness Month

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