

Practice Management Insight

A report on events affecting Oklahoma providers

May 2015

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May is Mental Health Month

National organizations are launching programs for Mental Health Month today, offering everything from tools and apps to events and awareness campaigns.

Mental Health America (MHA) is marking the event with the one-year anniversary of its online screening tools. To date, almost 350,000 screens have been taken for depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder—almost 1,000 screens per day. This year, MHA will launch three additional screens for alcohol and substance use, youth (ages 11-17), and parents who are concerned about their children's mental health.

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Where Faith Fits in Treatment

What a faith-based program uses as a measurement for success is a key indicator of its true mission. Recruiting people into Christianity should not be the goal that supersedes long-term recovery, says Erik Hines, director of Addiction Campuses in Tennessee, a for-profit treatment center.

He says all clients are individuals who respond differently to different treatment modalities. Although the program in Tennessee is Christian-based, if the treatment doesn't resonate with a particular client, he or she can move to one of the organization's other programs that are not faith-based, he says.

Further, it does not expect any type of commitment to a particular Christian religion.

[More Information](#)

Senators Form EHR Improvement Group

Lest people think Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) were not serious in their stated efforts to improve EHR usability, the two have started a workgroup aiming to do just that.

Alexander, Chairman of the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and Murray, its ranking Member, announced the creation of a bipartisan committee workgroup to identify ways to improve EHRs. Alexander made this issue well known recently when he asked Health and Human Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell to commit to bettering EHRs at a Senate hearing. Alexander, Murray and other members of the HELP Committee held a hearing this past year on EHRs and the meaningful use program, where the idea of a workgroup was first floated.

[More Information](#)

Research Institute Brief Invokes Warnings About E-Cigarettes

A new issue brief from the University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions, released just days after the emergence of [new federal data](#) showing rising use of electronic cigarettes among adolescents, sounds a number of alarms about the largely unregulated and increasingly popular products.

The two-page issue brief, E-Cigarettes: Safer ... or Not?, cites the potential for e-cigarette vapor to contain toxic substances, and some emerging evidence that the products are attracting a good number of individuals with no prior history of using conventional cigarettes.

"Although e-cigarettes were first marketed as a way for smokers to receive nicotine in a more 'healthy' way or as a method for quitting nicotine altogether, the increasing use by nonsmokers, especially adolescents, has dampened enthusiasm for those supposed positive effects," the brief states.

[More Information](#)

For-Profit Trend Leaves Not-For-Profits Nervous

In a \$35 billion industry with significant growth potential, there's room for everyone, experts say. Still, as more for-profit and private-equity-backed addiction treatment centers enter the market, many longstanding providers are reluctant to welcome the profit-making newcomers.

"There is still a lot of hand-wringing about it," Charles Ingoglia, senior vice president of the National Council for Behavioral Health, tells *Behavioral Healthcare*. "We need to be reassured that these aren't real estate deals, that there is commitment to access and science-based services."

For-profit and not-for-profit centers alike agree that the quality of the treatment remains the critical factor. Rather than setting a goal based on the number of intakes, leaders say, they want to aim for more high-quality care.

[More Information](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 3-9
Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

May 4-5
ASI Training
[OKC, OK](#)

May 5
Cinco de Mayo

May 5
Tribal Consultation Meeting
[OKC, OK](#)

May 10
Mother's Day

May 10-16
National Women's Health Week

May 11
ASAM Training
[OKC, OK](#)

May 14
OHCA Board Meeting
[OKC, OK](#)

May 18-24
Healthy and Safe Swimming Week

May 21
Medical Advisory Committee Meeting
[OKC, OK](#)

May 22
ODMHSAS Board Meeting
[OKC, OK](#)

May 25
Memorial Day

May 27
National Senior Health & Fitness Day

May 31
World No Tobacco Day

Have a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend from your friends at OrionNet Systems!
May 25th, 2015

Happy Mother's Day!
To All Mothers,
With Endless Love

MAY is...

- National Mental Health Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Stroke Awareness Month
- Hepatitis Awareness Month

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