

Practice Management Insight

A report on events affecting behavioral health and substance abuse providers

November 2017

OrionNet Systems Gathered Together For Their Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

Phone support was shut down from 12:30-3:00pm on Thursday, November 16th, for the OrionNet team to celebrate Thanksgiving.

The company wide feast provided an opportunity for the team to step away from work, socialize, and enjoy a meal together.

OrionNet Systems feels Thanksgiving is an appropriate time to show their gratitude for the hard work the team has put in all year.

The company provided ham, a fried turkey, stuffing and candied yams for everyone, as employees were encouraged to bring their favorite Thanksgiving dishes to share.

"It's great to just eat and take time to get to know everyone," said Herminia Wafford, Vice-President of OrionNet Systems. "The Thanksgiving meal and sharing the different dishes everyone prepared was great; just enjoying a casual conversation,"

All in all, it was an enjoyable event, allowing the company's employee's time to celebrate and step away from the normal office environment.

[More Information](#)

"Where will I go?" Housing for seniors weigh in the balance of budget cuts

According to a letter sent out by DHS Wednesday, a program some 17,000 people rely on will be cut in less than 30 days.

"I don't think they really think about what they are doing to some of us," Joan Jones, one of the residents of Village Oakwood Assisted Living Center, told KOCO. "This has become home to me."

Yesterday, Oakwood's administration had an emergency meeting with residents, letting them know the entire center will closed if funding for a vital DHS program doesn't come through next month.

[More Information](#)

OSU Works To Combat State's Opioid Epidemic

Oklahoma State University is taking a new step to combat the state's growing opioid epidemic.

Oklahoma is number 1 in the nation for non-medical use of prescription drugs, so OSU is partnering with non-profits to help put a stop to this epidemic.

"Addiction can affect anyone. It doesn't discriminate," said Jarrod Armstrong.

Armstrong hurt his back and was given prescription pills for the pain.

After his surgery, he realized he couldn't stop taking them.

"From that point on I realized that I needed help," said Armstrong

[More Information](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 5

[Daylight saving time](#)

November 9

[OHCA Board Meeting](#)

November 11

[Veterans day](#)

November 14-15

[Therapeutic Options Train the Trainer Recertification](#)

November 16

[Medical Advisory Committee Meeting](#)

November 17

[Introduction to Motivational Interviewing](#)

November 21

[Tobacco Free Support](#)

November 22

[PRSS Supervisory Training](#)

November 23

[Thanksgiving Day](#)

November 27

[Addiction Severity Index](#)



NOVEMBER is ...

American Diabetes Month

Epilepsy Awareness Month

National Caregivers Month

Stomach Cancer Awareness Month

National Healthy Skin Awareness Month

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

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Improper Medicare payments drop by nearly \$5 billion

The CMS on Tuesday unveiled that the number of improper payments doled out by Medicare is the lowest it's been since 2013, accounting for less than 10% of overall Medicare payments.

All in all, the CMS estimated that improper payments dropped \$4.9 billion from 2016 to 2017, marking a rate decrease from 11% in 2016 to 9.5% in 2017.

Improper payments include fraudulent claims, payments distributed to the wrong recipient or for the wrong amount, payments with insufficient documentation and issues where the recipient uses the funds improperly.

The CMS calculations include all claims incorrectly paid between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. This is the first time since 2013 that the Medicare fee-for-service improper payment rate is below 10%, according to the agency.

[More Information](#)



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Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served



Frequently Asked Questions about Oklahoma's Special Session

Although the Oklahoma Legislature has convened numerous special sessions in recent decades, none has dealt with issues as sweeping and consequential as the current one. This set of Frequently Asked Questions is intended to help Oklahomans understand the rules guiding the process and the issues being addressed. It will be updated regularly as the session continue.

After the failure of the comprehensive budget plan in Week 7, House and Senate leaders began to move forward with a [new budget](#) that relied on some \$140 million in additional cash, a higher gross production tax on "legacy wells," and cuts of up to 2.44 percent on most agencies to fill the \$215 million shortfall. (See our statement on the plan [here](#).) A new General Appropriations bill, [HB 1019X](#), along with several other budget bills, narrowly passed out of House and Senate committees Tuesday. It passed the full House, 56-38, on Wednesday and is scheduled to be heard by the full Senate on Friday. [Click here](#) for agency-level appropriations under HB 1019.

[More Information](#)

Adults With Disabilities Advocates To Rally At State Capitol

With time in the special session running out, a group of Oklahomans will be rallying Thursday morning at the Capitol in an effort to save their services.

DHS is one of the many organizations with state funding on the chopping block.

Department leaders said they may have to cut adult day services.

Families that depend on the state for these services are waiting for a budget breakthrough.

Many families will lose services like being able to receive care at the Oklahoma Foundation for the Disabled (OKFD).

[More Information](#)

State House Passes Budget Bill

The state is one step closer to bridging a \$215 million budget gap.

The State House of Representatives passed a bill today that would take money from several state funds, make targeted cuts, and raise the tax on oil and natural gas production. It does not include raises for teachers and state workers.

Lawmakers aren't happy. Last week they were told they had to pass the largest tax increase in state history, or services for thousands of Oklahomans would be cut. Now they're being told the state had the money to fund services all along.

[More Information](#)



Veterans Day

By: Cheryl Dyson

On Veterans Day we honor all,

Who answered to a service call.

Soldier's young, and soldiers old,

Fought for freedom, brave and bold,

Some have lived, while others died,

And all of them deserve our pride.

We're proud of all the soldiers who,

Kept thinking of red, white, and blue.

They fought for us and all our rights,

They fought through many days and nights.

And though we may not know each name,

We thank ALL veterans just the same.



National Alliance on Mental Illness



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