

COVID-19 UPDATES

NYS' STATE OF EMERGENCY ENDS, WAIVERS ENSURE CONTINUED REGULATORY RELIEF

Fifteen months after its declaration in New York, New York's COVID-19 disaster emergency expired on June 25th. As a result, emergency provisions in Executive Order 202 and its successors have all expired, except those that have been enacted into law previously.

The [NYS Office of Mental Health](#) (OMH) issued a regulatory waiver to grant temporary relief from various requirements of Title 14 of the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR), in recognition of the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on operations. Some of the important waived provisions include:

- Regulations around the provision of telemental health services, including temporary approvals, expanded practitioner types and audio-only services.
- Requirements continuing the reduction of minimum service durations and allowing rounding up of service times.
- Requirements to waive timeframes around treatment planning reviews and to waive initial in-person assessments.

These waivers will remain in effect for 60 days or until suspended. **The waiver document is available [here](#).**

CBC staff attended OMH's June 25th webinar outlining ramifications for the next 60 days. During this period, OMH intends to put forth and adopt permanent regulatory changes. The regulatory waiver may also be renewed by OMH at its discretion. On the call, OMH indicated the only COVID-induced flexibilities **NOT** continuing via this waiver are:

- Provisions allowing practitioners who are out of state and not licensed in New York State to provide services.
- Amended regulations regarding who can order and conduct in-person reviews for restraint and seclusion.
- Incident reporting and investigation timeline adjustments.
- Flexibility regarding the criminal background check process for staff.

OMH intends to issue a guidance document shortly regarding the temporary waiver, which will be posted on the OMH website.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HRSA SUD LOAN REPAYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR BH STAFF

The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) has announced a new loan repayment program for substance use disorder (SUD) clinicians. The Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program (STAR LRP) offers eligible applicants up to \$250K each for the express purpose of loan repayment.

Note that not all SUD programs are eligible. Applicants must work full-time and at a facility located in either a mental health professional shortage area (MHPSA) or a county where the drug overdose rate for the past three years is higher than the most recent national average. Award recipients must subsequently work full-time for six years in a STAR LRP-approved facility.

Applications are due on July 22nd. Learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

IN THE NEWS...

NYS SPENDING PLAN FOR ENHANCED HCBS ARP FUNDING

On July 9th, NYS published its initial spending plan for American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. The ARP offers states a 10-percentage point enhancement in their Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) provided from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. States must use the resulting state share savings, referred to as "State funds equivalent" (SFE), to enhance, expand or strengthen Medicaid HCBS.

In total, NYS estimates that it will draw down approximately \$5.4B in federal funding, including \$2.15B of SFE and \$3.25B of additional federal matching funds that will be generated through reinvestment of the SFE funds into matchable HCBS service spending.

The spending plan would fund proposals across the following three categories:

- Supporting and strengthening the direct care workforce (\$1.29B);
- Building HCBS capacity through innovations and systems transformation, including new pilots and expansion of existing services (\$750M); and
- Investing in digital infrastructure (\$104M).

Amounts listed in the spending plan do **not** reflect the full federal matching funds that may be available. In most cases, NYS has indicated mechanisms through which it intends to obtain expenditure authority that would allow this spending to draw down matching funds.

The plan spans services across six state agencies that oversee HCBS provision. The funding is approximately allocated as follows:

- Department of Health (DOH): \$1.28B
- Office for People with Development Disabilities (OPWDD): \$728M
- Office of Mental Health (OMH): \$63M
- Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS): \$9M
- Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS): \$33M
- State Office for the Aging (SOFA): \$30M

The full spending plan is available [here](#).

CITY & STATE UNVEIL INAUGURAL “MENTAL HEALTH POWER 50” LIST

Mental health has always presented significant policy challenges for NYC but the trauma and uncertainty of this past year has brought the need for mental health services into sharp focus for all New Yorkers. Accordingly, [City & State NY](#) have seen fit to launch an inaugural [Mental Health Power 50](#) list of the most influential individuals in our sector who have devoted their lives to making a difference for our city’s most vulnerable. The CBC IPA is well-represented in the 2021 list, which includes:

- Matt Kudish (National Alliance of Mental Illness—NYC)
- Kimberly Williams (Vibrant Emotional Health)
- Ashwin Vasani (Fountain House)
- Donna Colonna (Services for the UnderServed)
- Mitchell Netburn (Samaritan Daytop Village)
- Ronald Richter (JCCA)
- Nancy Harvey (Service Program for Older People)
- Ann-Marie Louison (CASES)
- Susan Wiviott (The Bridge)
- Rosa Gil (Comunilife)
- Thelma Dye (Northside Center)

Congratulations to these champions of behavioral health who have been steadfast stewards for the sector and the communities it serves during this most trying year.

SAMHSA SELECTS VIBRANT TO ADMINISTER 988 TRANSITION

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) has awarded Vibrant Emotional Health a grant to serve as the administrators for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) for the next five years during which time the service will transition to the new 988 dialing code.

This national three-digit phone number will help to create a more equitable and easily accessible mental health safety net in the United States. [Vibrant Emotional Health](#) has administered the Lifeline program since 2004, launching the service in partnership with SAMHSA in 2005. The Lifeline is a network of over 180 local crisis centers, including the Vibrant-operated NYC Well, that respond to thousands of people in emotional distress every day.

988 will make it easier for people in distress to connect with a trained counselor in their own community. The skilled counselors at Lifeline network centers—who provide suicide prevention services for millions of people in crisis—will continue to be the nation’s first responders for mental health crises when 988 becomes nationwide. Vibrant is working with Lifeline’s network of crisis centers and other stakeholders to prepare for next summer’s launch.

988 will become available nationwide in July 2022. Until then, anyone in emotional distress or suicidal crisis should continue to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

CRAIN'S SPOTLIGHTS JESSICA FEAR'S RETURN TO VNSNY

As originally reported by [Crain's Health Pulse](#), Jessica Fear has returned to [Visiting Nurse Service of New York](#) (VNSNY) as Senior Vice President of Community Mental Health Services. Ms. Fear previously was Director of Children's Services and the Health Home at VNSNY, and most recently served as Healthfirst's VP of Behavioral Health Services.

WELLIFE NETWORK ARTSHOW BENEFIT

[WellLife Network](#) has partnered with [Lamb Insurance Services](#) to host a Virtual Art Fundraiser. Join them on July 27th for a live virtual event featuring the magnificent art of WellLife program participants, interviews and guest speakers, in a communal celebration of the arts' power to promote a positive environment for mental health.

Tickets start at \$50. For more information and registration, click [here](#).

GAYLE KING JOINS HUDSON GUILD'S RHYME TIME

"CBS This Morning" host Gayle King joined members of the [Hudson Guild](#) community in a celebration of poetry, storytelling and humor in its "Rhyme Time: Mother Goose (Old and New)" show. Watch the video—which includes orators aged 3 to 93—[here](#).

CBC IPA LAUNCHES GROUP MESSAGE BOARD

CBC IPA has launched an exclusive community message board for senior leadership and staff at behavioral health member agencies of the CBC IPA, courtesy of [Triad Behavioral Health](#).

Triad has been fostering a growing community of behavioral health professionals on its social network product in recent months, and CBC has created a private group for the IPA therein. This is a space where you can engage one another in topical discussion and/or share timely alerts of news at your agency/in the field. CBC will also post relevant opportunities that may be of interest to agency leadership.

To join, please contact CBC Director of Communications [Alex Wolff](#).

CARE COORDINATION SERVICES

HEALTH HOME NETWORK PROVIDER MEETING

CBC Health Home (HH) hosted its quarterly Network Provider meeting on Friday, June 25th. Over 80 participants from thirty-two care management agencies (CMAs) were in attendance. Both the [presentation deck](#) and [video recording](#) are now available in Box. The next quarterly meeting will take place in the Fall.

EXPIRATION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY IMPACT ON HH

On June 25th, the [NYS Department of Health](#) (DOH) released its guidance in response to the expiration of the COVID-19 NYS State Disaster Emergency Executive Order. It confirms that this expiration does **not** immediately impact day-to-day operations, waivers and flexibilities granted to HHs. Flexibilities granted to HHs **will continue** for the duration of the federal Public Health Emergency, or until notified by DOH—whichever comes first. It is anticipated that providers will have **at least 30 days' notice** but likely no more than 60 days prior to the termination of these flexibilities.

Nevertheless, HH CMAs should actively work to re-instate non-emergency policies, procedures and timelines, which includes obtaining wet/electronic consent to enroll members into HH services as opposed to verbal consent. As of June 1st, there are ~650 members that continue to have verbal consent only. Please utilize the "Verbal Consent Report," found as a tab in the monthly FCM documentation report and continue transitioning members to electronic/wet consents.

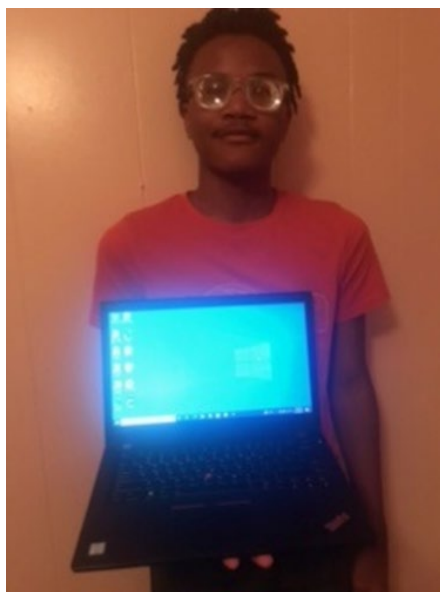
Moving forward, agencies should prioritize obtaining wet/electronic consents for enrolling new members and use verbal consents only as a last resort. If verbal consent is used, the expectation is to transition these members to wet/electronic consents within 60 days of initial consent. If you have questions, please contact [CBC QPM Department](#).

OASAS SERVICES FOR TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

On Friday, July 16th, the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) will facilitate a training for the HHSC network outlining services and programs available for youths transitioning into the HHSA program. The primary objective for the presentation is to provide the HHSC network with an understanding of OASAS resources, services and tools available to help support their transitioning members. The presentation will include information on the referral process for services as well as suggestions on how to engage transitioning aged youth and their guardians who may benefit from OASAS programming. The presentation will be geared toward supervisors and care managers. Register to attend [here](#).

CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD ACTIVITY

As reported in [last month's CBC Monthly Bulletin](#) (Vol. 38), CBC's Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) recently facilitated the collection and donation of dozens of desktop computers, laptops and monitors to network member agencies and their service recipients, per Peer Specialists' recommendations. This month, CBC can share photos of donation recipients, right.



QUALITY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT (QPM)

IPA CLINICAL/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The CBC IPA Clinical/Quality Improvement Committee (CQIC) convened in June to discuss various IPA updates. The Innovative Management Services NY (IMSNY) CLAIMS Portal is now live—39 agencies from CBC and CBHS IPAs have connected and are now benefiting from real-time network-wide benchmarking, aggregation by total revenue, count of patients and count of claims, breakdown by payors, diagnoses, procedures and share clients with partner agencies to better coordinate care. Updates to the CLAIMS Portal are scheduled to occur quarterly—a future version will enable data exports. If you have any questions related to CLAIMS portal access or functionalities, please contact [IMSNY](#).

Additionally, the CBC IPA High Priority Measures Tableau Dashboard is set to roll out early Q3. This dashboard was developed for the purpose of trending measure performance across the network, which can affect performance improvement projects, contracting/VBP procurement, and impact member outcomes at the individual and population health levels. 14 of the 18 IPA high priority measures are derived from readily available PSYCKES data, while additional non-IPA High Priority Measures and tabs have been

added to the dashboard to accommodate other initiative/programs (i.e., Citywide Addiction Support Network). Currently, this dashboard shows all measures across all populations served by the network; however, enhancements are being made to include a Children & Adolescent measures only dashboard.

For more information on dashboards pertaining to High Priority Measures, please contact CBC Senior Director of Quality Performance Management [Tracie Jones](#).

TRAINING INSTITUTE

SELF-CARE TRAINING SERIES

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) COVID-19 Emergency grant provided CBC and [Coordinated Behavioral Health Services](#) (CBHS) with funding to help address the immense unmet mental health needs in NYS. SAMHSA recognized that frontline staff—especially behavioral healthcare service providers—need support to address their personal and professional experiences with COVID-19. Meanwhile, the [CBC Training Institute](#) (TI) has leveraged additional award funding from the [New York State Health Foundation](#) (NYSHHealth) to expand the array and reach of its self-care trainings, and specifically target residential support staff and Peer Specialists across the state.

CBC TI has curated and facilitated these offerings, bringing nationally renowned

self-care and healing experts to NYS's behavioral health workforce. This past month saw Dr. Patricia Deegan follow up her appearance on Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry's *The Me You Don't See* docuseries with two dates at CBC TI—Dr. Deegan in which she addressed attendees with practical and inspirational material for self-renewal. [Kripalu Center's](#) RISE program also concluded in June, having brought mindfulness practice and insight to 330 participants from 87 community-based provider agencies (67% NYC and 33% ROS) since February.



SAMHSA funding also allowed CBC TI to partner with NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare to bring two “Post-Pandemic Supervisory Considerations Through a Trauma-Informed Lens” to agency staff. These trainings provided a foundation to ensure pandemic-specific considerations are impacting organizational decision-making and supervisors continue to be mindful of the impact this past year has had on agency staff as greater numbers revert back to in-person settings for care delivery and administration. CBC TI's SAMHSA-funded trainings have now reached over 1150 behavioral health staff from over 275 provider agencies across the state (52% in NYC) since their January launch.

JUNE TRAININGS RECAP

CBC TI also continued its ongoing [Project ECHO](#) series supporting Opioid Use Disorder treatment providers this past month—CBC resident Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) expert Dr. Bruce Trigg delivered a didactic on MAT Regulations During COVID-19, while [Community Access](#) staff presented a current and complex case to the series' growing community of MAT experts and learners.

In sum, CBC TI served 194 agency staff from 108 behavioral health agencies (54% NYC and 46% ROS) across its 11 training offerings this past month.

JULY TRAINING INSTITUTE CALENDAR

CBC TI's Training Calendar for the remainder of July is available [here](#). Please contact CBC TI Director [Emily Grossman](#) with any questions.

GRANTS & PROGRAMS

PATHWAY HOME™ ON POPHEALTH PERSPECTIVES PODCAST

On June 1st, CBC Senior Director, Pathway Home™, Barry Granek, guested on the PopHealth Perspectives Podcast, courtesy of the [Population Health Learning Network](#). The “[Innovations and Technology to Improve Medication Adherence Rates in Behavioral Health Patients](#)” episode reviews the Pathway

Home™ model and highlights how health care professionals can better address increasing motivation and habit-building around treatment and medication among behavioral health patients, before discussing digital health platforms that address challenges like remembering to take medication, transportation, maintaining sobriety, loneliness and engagement in care.

Listen to the podcast in full [here](#).

TECHNOLOGY & DATA ANALYTICS



IMSNY
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STAY INFORMED AT IMSNY

[Innovative Management Solutions NY](#) (IMSNY) is launching a monthly update with network providers. Subscribe [here](#) for product updates, opportunities to engage with IMSNY partners and insights derived from polls/surveys.

CLAIMS IS LIVE—IMSNY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

22 agencies from the CBC IPA have connected to IMSNY's new [CLAIMS](#) portal. IMSNY wants to hear from these agency staff:

- How is your agency using CLAIMS?
- What insights are you gaining?

- What other functionalities/features would you like to see?

If you work at an agency in the CBC IPA and would like to be connected to CLAIMS, please contact [IMSNY Support](#) for access.

DABI UPDATE

IMSNY is in the process of adding data sources to its Data Analytics Business Intelligence (DABI) platform. Inclusive to these efforts are:

- Active partnerships with [HealthConnections](#) and [Healthix](#) Health Information Exchanges (HIE) to retrieve Clinical Care Documents (CCD) on behalf of the attributed IPA clients.
- Partnerships with NYS agencies (OMH, DOH) to identify use cases that support the expansion of access to previously unavailable datasets.

To get the most from the **HIE CCD dataset**, IMSNY has entered phase one of implementation, which consists primarily of technical scoping exercises to ensure data availability and data integrity. As part of this technical scoping exercise, we found CBC Agencies have an affirmative RHIO consent for 30% of their clients. This means we can retrieve data for 30% of the CBC IPA population. While this is certainly a good start, **we encourage providers to focus on getting signed RHIO consents for their clients.**

IMSNY SOLUTIONS FOR AGENCIES

Take advantage of the negotiating power of the full CBC network to secure high quality solutions at a lower cost:

Zoom (Virtual meetings and telehealth)
\$15 per business license per month. Currently our network is using over 600 IMSNY licenses, ensuring collective annual savings of over \$30K. [Learn More.](#)

Triad (Education, community & career resources)

Triad provides education, community and career resources for behavioral and mental health professionals, employers and organizations.

- Exam Preparation
- Continuing Education Credits
- Targeted Recruitment (Jobs Marketplace)

[Learn More.](#)

Ride Health (Client transportation solution)

Connect with Ride Health to reduce dependence on costly fleets and/or the staff time spent scheduling and tracking appointments. [Schedule A Demo.](#)

Relias (Learning Management System with content library)

Discounted price for a full agency solution, giving agencies access to a large behavioral health learning library with tools to support training assignment and reporting requirements. [Schedule A Demo.](#)

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT:
FOUNTAIN HOUSE

FOUNTAIN HOUSE

Fountain House is a national mental health nonprofit fighting to improve health, increase opportunity and end social and economic isolation for people living with serious mental illness. For more than 70 years, Fountain House has believed in people living with serious mental illness and has proven that they can reach their goals and aspirations for a better life. Fountain House members are hospitalized and experience crisis significantly less than others with serious mental illness, resulting in 21% lower Medicaid costs. Of the 40% of members experiencing homelessness or unstable housing when they arrive at Fountain House, 99% are housed within a year. Of the 24% of Fountain House members with a history of incarceration and justice involvement, rates of recidivism are less than 5%. Members complete their education, find paid work and achieve health and wellness goals at significantly higher rates than people living with serious mental illness who don't have access to Fountain House programs. Visit [their website](#) for more information.

[NYC Parks and Fort Greene Park Conservancy Launch Person-Centered Intervention Training \(PCIT\) Mental Health Response Pilot in Partnership with Fountain House](#)

On June 23, NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, [Fellows of AICP](#), [Fort Greene Park Conservancy](#) and Fountain House announced the Person-Centered Intervention Training (PCIT) Mental Health Response Pilot at Fort Greene Park. This unique program will feature two dedicated in-park Fountain House social well-being teams to proactively develop relationships with, respond to and engage park users who need mental health support and services. The PCIT Mental Health Pilot is led by the Fort Greene Park Conservancy in partnership with NYC Parks and Fountain House and is funded through a multi-year grant from the [van Ameringen Foundation](#).

[Community First: A Pilot Project in Midtown Manhattan](#)

The coronavirus pandemic caused a significant increase in the number of people who are housing insecure and living with severe mental health issues and/or substance use addictions gathering in and immediately around the Times Square area. Times Square Alliance approached the [Center for Court Innovation](#), [Midtown Community Court](#), [Breaking Ground](#) and Fountain House during the height of the pandemic to ask for help designing and piloting an initiative to connect this population to the critical services they may need. Whether it is a warm meal or a pair of shoes, a team of Community Navigators help people address immediate needs and work towards linking them to longer term housing, services and support.