

## COVID-19 UPDATES

### NYS O-LOV PROGRAM ISSUES BOOSTER VACCINE GUIDANCE

The [NYS Offices of Mental Health](#) (OMH) and [Addiction Services and Supports](#) (OASAS)' ["O-Agency Link-Outreach-Vaccinate"](#) (O-LOV) program continues to offer COVID-19 vaccines to all staff and clients served in NYS voluntary healthcare provider programs. Additional "booster" doses of COVID-19 vaccines (Moderna and Pfizer) are now available for moderately to severely immunocompromised people.

People with immunocompromising conditions, or who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies are at increased risk for severe COVID-19. Studies have demonstrated that an additional mRNA COVID-19 (Moderna and Pfizer) vaccine dose, after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series, in some immunocompromised populations may enhance immune response. Currently, [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) is recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional dose. This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood;

- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system;
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system;
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome); or
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection.

Meanwhile, the O-LOV program remains available to assist with vaccination efforts. They offer a scheduled, pop-up model of vaccination events that are available for ad hoc events at various site types. Programs and agencies should contact the [O-LOV team](#) with any questions or if they see need for a pop-up event.

### HEALTHIX LAUNCHES COVID-19 VACCINATION REPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

As the COVID-19 Delta variant spreads rapidly across the country, many clinicians are eager to know the vaccination status of their service recipients. This report can be vital to patient outreach efforts and helpful in assessing risk levels.

In response to customer requests, [Healthix](#) has created a COVID-19 Vaccination Report that compiles all patient vaccination data from across Healthix Participants, [NYS Department of Health](#) (DOH) vaccination reporting system and the Citywide Immunization Registry, into a

single document. Updates are available on a bimonthly or monthly basis. It is important to note that reports will only include data for service recipients that have granted Healthix consent.

More information on Healthix's COVID-19 Vaccination Reports is available [here](#). CBC IPA agencies that use Healthix HIE can contact their Relationship Manager for assistance [here](#).

### NYS OMH ANNOUNCES NEW VIDEO SERIES TO HELP PARENTS & STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

NYS OMH has announced a series of ["Back to School 2021" videos](#) to assist and support parents, caregivers and students as they prepare for the new school year.

The videos are targeted to parents and caregivers, as well as students. Topics include:

- the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children and adolescents,
- ways to support yourself and others,
- how to get help when you need it,
- age-specific information on promoting mental wellness in children—from infancy to young adulthood.
- an overview of the Crisis Text Line, a national, text-based crisis counselor service.

OMH surveyed hundreds of New York children and families to learn what might be causing anxiety and concern ahead of this

school year. The videos will help kids and parents deal with the stress and other issues caused by the pandemic over the last 18 months, and also offer additional resources that have been compiled by OMH, including:

- resiliency tips for New Yorkers,
- conversation starters to check in on someone's mental health,
- brochures on supporting children's emotional development by age group, and
- NY Project Hope resources for teens, parents and young children.

Additionally, OMH's NY Project Hope Emotional Support Helpline (1-844-863-9314) continues to help support students and caregivers during this transition. The Helpline is open from 8am-10pm on weekdays. Trained crisis counselors can listen to concerns and offer suggestions for coping. It also provides linkages for callers who need additional support. Launched in March 2020 as part of the agency's COVID-19 response, to date the line has handled 70,000 calls and provided free, confidential and anonymous assistance to New Yorkers across the state.

## SAMHSA LAUNCHES "COVKID" PROJECT

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) has launched a new [Coronavirus in Kids \(COVKID\) Tracking and Education Project](#) that monitors and compiles epidemiologic surveillance data on COVID-19 in children and teens. Their goal is to present timely data in formats

that are accessible and useful for clinicians, public health practitioners, policymakers, elected officials and others interested in such information to help inform decisions.

Their [website](#) currently is sharing new dashboards on metrics that range from [pediatric hospitalization trends](#) to [state vaccinations by age](#). Their [COVKID State Report Card](#) tracks quality and completeness of data reporting by state health departments.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN / PHASE FOUR OF PROVIDER RELIEF FUND ANNOUNCED

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced it was making \$25.5B in new funding available for health care providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic via the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This funding includes \$8.5B in American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources for providers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicare patients, and an additional \$17B for Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic.

Consistent with the requirements included in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020, PRF Phase 4 payments will be based on

providers' lost revenues and expenditures between July 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021. As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing commitment to equity, and to support providers with the most need, PRF Phase 4 will reimburse smaller providers—who tend to operate on thin margins and often serve vulnerable or isolated communities—for their lost revenues and COVID-19 expenses at a higher rate compared to larger providers. PRF Phase 4 will also include bonus payments for providers who serve Medicaid, CHIP, and/or Medicare patients, who tend to be lower income and have greater and more complex medical needs. HRSA will price these bonus payments at the generally higher Medicare rates to ensure equity for those serving low-income children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and seniors.

The application will open on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Providers can apply for both programs in a single application and HRSA will use existing Medicaid/CHIP and Medicare claims data in calculating portions of these payments.

For more information about eligibility requirements, the documents and information providers will need to complete their application and the application process for PRF Phase 4 and ARP Rural payments, click [here](#).

## NYS OMH RFP FOR NEW ESSHI ROUND

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, [NYS Office of Mental Health](#) (OMH) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the sixth round of funding for supportive housing units under the [Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative](#) (ESSHI). As part of the State's \$20B housing plan to ensure that New Yorkers have access to affordable and safe housing, this RFP contributes to the goal of developing at least 20,000 supportive housing units over 15 years for individuals identified as homeless with special needs, conditions or other life challenges.

This RFP will provide up to \$35M in service and operating funding for 1,400 units of permanent supportive housing. Support services that accompany the housing units may include employment and training opportunities, parenting education, primary and mental health care and child care. No capital funding is available through this RFP. Applicants are expected to secure capital funding sufficient to fully finance the proposed housing project within 24 months from the date of the ESSHI conditional funding award. Eligible applicants are not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies with relevant experience serving the target population.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

## NYS OMH "SOURCES OF STRENGTH" RFP

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, NYS OMH released an RFP for the "Sources of Strength" program, which is a universal school-based suicide prevention program designed to build protective influences across a defined adolescent population. The evidence-based program trains students as peer leaders and connects them with mentoring adult advisors at school and in the community.

Through this RFP, OMH will provide \$710.8K to one organization over the five-year program. The awarded organization will be responsible for identifying participating schools in consultation with OMH, training peer leaders and adult advisors in the Sources of Strength program and monitoring school performance. Eligible applicants are not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies that have experience implementing evidence-based prevention programming in youth-serving organizational settings, such as schools. The awarded applicant will be required to contract with the national Sources of Strength organization for training, licensing, materials and support.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Required Letters of Intent are due on October 13<sup>th</sup> and applications are due on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

## NYS OMH RFA EXPANDING COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH SERVICES

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, NYS OMH released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the expansion of timely in-person and telehealth access to intensive community-based services for children and youth. Through this RFA, OMH will provide one-time funding for the provision of comprehensive community mental health services for youth returning to school following the COVID-19 pandemic. Services should aim to divert youth from higher levels of care and/or provide safe stepdown from higher levels of care.

OMH will provide up to \$1.9M to eligible providers, with a maximum of \$950K awarded to providers in NYC and Long Island. This funding is intended to:

- Increase service capacity for eligible and appropriate referrals;
- Decrease program length of stay and service waitlists;
- Increase workforce capacity to support service access/provision; and
- Increase community awareness and education regarding services and availability/access.

OMH will provide up to \$30K in expansion funding and up to \$50K in start-up funding to existing OMH-licensed providers. Applicants may submit one application for either expansion or start-up funding.

The full RFA is available [here](#). Applications are due on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## IN THE NEWS...

### NYS OMH EXTENDS TELEHEALTH WAIVER

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the [NYS Office of Mental Health](#) (OMH) released a regulatory waiver (available [here](#)) that effectively extended temporary service provision flexibilities for an additional 60 days. The waiver provides temporary relief from various requirements of Title 14 of the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR), which was initially granted for a 60-day period on June 25<sup>th</sup>, following the end of NYS's COVID-19 disaster emergency declaration.

Continuing 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.

The extension will remain in effect through October 23<sup>rd</sup>, unless otherwise modified or suspended by the OMH Commissioner, or if federal matching funds become unavailable during that period.

### NYS OMH RELEASES PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR CRISIS STABILIZATION CENTERS

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, NYS OMH published a proposed rule in the State Register (available [here](#)) that establishes standards for Crisis Stabilization Centers under Article 36 of the Mental Hygiene Law. Crisis Stabilization Centers are a new licensure category authorized by the fiscal year 2021-2022 enacted NYS Budget that will provide 24/7 stabilization services to individuals experiencing or at risk of a mental health or substance use crisis.

The proposed rule defines two types of Crisis Stabilization Centers that will be licensed (Supportive and Intensive), outlines the staffing model and governing body requirements and explains the application and approval process. Eligible applicants are entities currently in possession of an Article 31, Article 32 or Article 28 license.

OMH will accept public comment on the proposed regulations through October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### NYS HEALTH EQUITY & PANDEMIC RESPONSE 1115 MEDICAID WAIVER CONCEPT PAPER

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the [NYS Department of Health](#) (DOH) submitted a concept paper for a new Medicaid 1115 Waiver Demonstration to the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS).

Through this proposal, the State is

requesting \$17B to be reinvested over five years to support a transformational effort to address health equity by reforming systemic health care delivery issues that are linked to health disparities and have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the waiver proposal seeks to achieve the following four goals:

1. Build a more resilient, flexible and integrated delivery system that reduces racial disparities, promotes health equity and supports the delivery of social care;
2. Develop supportive housing and alternatives to institutions for the long-term care population;
3. Redesign and strengthen health and behavioral health system capabilities to provide optimal response to future pandemics and natural disasters; and
4. Create statewide digital health and telehealth infrastructure.

This waiver would further advance goals pursued during NYS's recently ended \$8B Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP), but would be distinct by more explicitly targeting health equity goals and incorporating lessons learned from DSRIP, including the need for:

- Regional alignment on objectives;
- Direct investment in and involvement of community-based organizations and behavioral health providers in governance and value-based payment (VBP) arrangements;
- Regional coordination of workforce initiatives to address shortage areas;

- Administrative simplification by avoiding new intermediaries between plans and providers; and
- Deeper alignment of provider and payment incentives, including greater use of subcapitation or global budgets as the highest level of VBP.

The concept paper is available [here](#).

## NYS POSTPONES CARVE-IN OF BH INTO MEDICAID ADVANTAGE PLUS

NYS DOH has announced that the planned carve-in of behavioral health services into the Medicaid Advantage Plus (MAP) benefit package has been postponed by one year to January 1, 2023. These services will continue to be available for MAP beneficiaries on a fee-for-service basis until the carve-in occurs in accordance with the updated timeline.

## NYS COMPTROLLER RELEASES AUDIT REPORT OF STATE'S MEDICAID PROGRAM

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, the [Office of the NYS Comptroller](#) released findings from three audits of the NYS Medicaid program:

- The first audit (available [here](#)) found that eMedNY, the Medicaid claims processing and payment system, improperly allowed payments for claims that did not contain an appropriate National Provider Identifier (NPI) in the ordering, prescribing, referring and attending (OPRA) fields. This resulted in improper Medicaid payments,

including \$1.5B in payments that did not have an appropriate referring or attending NPI.

- The second audit (available [here](#)) found that some Medicaid fee-for-service inpatient claims were incorrectly coded as hospital discharges when the patients were actually transferred to another facility, resulting in Medicaid overpayments.
- The third audit (available [here](#)) is a follow-up report to an initial audit released in July 2019, which identified over \$102.1M in improper Medicaid managed care premium payments for recipients with duplicate Client Identification Numbers (CINs). The follow-up report found that NYS DOH made significant progress in addressing the problems identified in the initial report, but that additional action is necessary to prevent future improper payments.

## NYS DOH PROVIDES UPDATE ON STATEWIDE FORMULARY FOR OPIOID TREATMENT MEDICATIONS

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, NYS DOH held a webinar to discuss updates to the statewide formulary for opioid dependence agents and opioid antagonists. The NYS 2020-21 Enacted Budget provided that DOH should implement a single statewide formulary for such drugs across Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care organizations (MCOs) by October 1<sup>st</sup>. As such, Medicaid FFS and MCOs will have a unified set of Prior Authorization (PA) requirements and list of preferred drugs.

Preferred drugs will not require PA, unless coverage parameters are exceeded, and non-preferred drugs will. Furthermore, clinical criteria for approval of a non-preferred drug will be uniform across the Medicaid program. A Medicaid Update article will be published later in September with further guidance.

The slides from the webinar are available [here](#).

## SAMHSA AWARDS \$74.2M IN GRANTS TO BOLSTER YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, SAMHSA [awarded](#) \$74.2M in grants to raise awareness of mental health issues for youth, train school personnel and coordinate treatment for young people who have emotional disorders. Seventeen grantees will receive \$54.3M in first-year funds through [Project AWARE](#) (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education). Twelve grantees will receive \$19.8M in first-year funds through the [Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their Families Program](#). These grantees will eventually receive a total of \$76.2 million over the four-year grant program.

The press release is available [here](#).

## CASES AMONG RECIPIENTS OF SAMHSA MHAT GRANT FUNDING

Congratulations to CBC IPA member agency [Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services](#) (CASES), which



was one of 145 recent recipients of a \$125K SAMHSA grant to operate a Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) program. Funding can be used to train school personnel, emergency first responders, law enforcement, veterans, armed services members and their families to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health disorders and to respond safely and appropriately. CASES' trainees will also learn about the available resources in their community that they might share with those individuals with whom they interact.

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## CARE COORDINATION SERVICES

### SPECIALTY MENTAL HEALTH CMAs & IN-PERSON VISITS

While the [NYS Office of Mental Health \(OMH\)](#) has extended telehealth flexibilities for an additional sixty days (see the "In The News..." section of this volume of the CBC Bulletin), Specialty Mental Health (MH) care management agencies (CMAs) should strive to complete in-person visits, but can use telehealth (video or telephonic) if a risk/benefit analysis is documented in the record. Once the regulatory waiver expires, Specialty MH CMAs must conduct in-person visits, per pre-pandemic policy.

### HEALTH HOME PLUS OPERATIONS MEETING

CBC Health Home (HH) will reconvene its quarterly HH+ Operations on Thursday,

October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am over Zoom. Please contact CBC HH+ Program Manager [Teresa Hill](#) for the calendar invite.

### VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

CBC HH has reformatted its standard weekly Virtual Office Hours (VOH) to rotate a spotlight on relevant CBC departments/programs. This allows for more focused updates from the respective CBC staff department/program scheduled each week. The new schedule should also allow CMA staff to plan to attend the weekly VOH most relevant to their role.

The proposed VOH rotation is below:

**First Friday**—Special Populations (HH Serving Children, Adult Home Plus, Health Home Plus)

**Second Friday**—Health Information Technology (HIT) and Quality Performance Management (QPM)

**Third Friday (9/17)**—Health Home Billing and Revenue Cycle Management

**Fourth Friday (9/24)**—CBC Training Institute/Value-Add presentation by invited guests.

Please contact CBC HH Director [Melissa Martinez](#) with any questions.

## QUALITY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT (QPM)

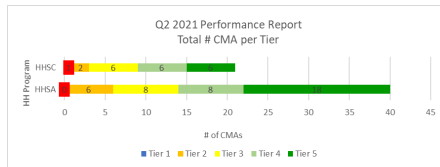
### HH CHILDREN'S / QUALITY MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

CBC's Quality Performance Management (QPM) department will host the next Health Home Quality Management Team (QMT)/Children's QMT meeting on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-11:30am via Zoom. CBC staff will share Health Home (HH) and HIT updates, and discussion topics will include recent [NYS Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) audit results, Q2 2021 Performance Reports and Incident Reporting Committee findings. Meeting invites have been distributed to all committee members. Please contact [cbcqpm@cbc.org](mailto:cbcqpm@cbc.org) with any questions.

### HH CMA Q2 2021 PERFORMANCE REPORT

CBC's QPM department distributed Q2 2021 Performance Reports to all HH care management agencies (CMAs) in mid-August. These are available via the "Performance Reports" folder in CBC's [SFTP Box](#). The report shows CMA performance on NYS DOH-mandated metrics, and other indicators of quality care.

Metrics included in overall calculations include Care Plan, Assessment and minimum contacts per month per special population served. The graph below shows the performance tiers that CMAs reached last quarter for both programs.



Please contact [cbcqpm@cbc.org](mailto:cbcqpm@cbc.org) with any questions about this report.

## HOW TO SECURE ePHI

Breaches of private health information (PHI) are increasing year-over-year. Total annual incidents have doubled since 2018 and the average number of breaches nationally was nearly two per day last year. The most common source of breaches are hacks/IT incidents, and as a result, healthcare organizations are investing more resources in data privacy and security. The rules below spotlight password security best practices and effective tips on securing ePHI.

**Rule #1:** Use unique passwords for computer and online accounts.

Almost all individuals use the same password to access more than one account. By doing so, a single stolen password exponentially increases the threat posed to multiple accounts.

**Rule #2:** Do not reuse personal and business passwords.

Home and personal security tends not to be as robust as the security protections for a business. Hackers know this and often attempt to compromise personal accounts to gain access to business accounts. Keeping the two separate ensures the impact of a compromise is limited.

**Rule #3:** Do not automatically save passwords on internet browsers.

Oftentimes when an individual sets up a new username and password for a portal, platform, etc., a message will automatically appear offering to save the password. For applications where PHI is entered, stored or shared, it is recommended that the individual never save the password, thereby supporting an additional level of security for the PHI accessible in those systems.

**Rule #4:** Report a potential PHI/ePHI violation or breach immediately.

Once aware of a potential PHI/ePHI violation or breach (e.g. lost/stolen laptop or smart phone, unencrypted email, being exposed to a phishing attack by clicking on an insecure link), the best practice is to immediately report it to appropriate staff within the organization. The sooner an individual reports a potential PHI violation or breach, the more effective corrective actions can be to investigate and mitigate the issue.

including CBC Health Home, Quality Performance Management, Training Institute and Pathway Home™. This will ensure that the Peer perspective informs all CBC departmental and programmatic initiatives.

The CAB welcomes all in the CBC network who identify as a consumer of behavioral health services, including Peers/Peer Specialists. Please send contact information of potential CAB members to Bob at [rpotter@cbc.org](mailto:rpotter@cbc.org). A \$25 Amazon gift card is currently provided to each participant every month!

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## TRAINING INSTITUTE




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## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ASSOCIATION

### CBC IPA'S CONSUMER ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTS NEW CHAIR

Beginning in September, CBC HH Performance Manager Robert Potter will also assume the role of Chair of CBC's IPA Consumer Advisory Board (CAB), which will be co-facilitated by leadership from across CBC programs and departments,

### 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. Furthermore, CBC TI has leveraged award funding from

[New York State Health Foundation](#) (NYSHealth) 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, NYSHealth sponsored trainings ranging from a "Long-Term COVID-19 Symptoms Support" group to beginner yoga techniques. In other trainings, attendees learned how to best recognize and manage anxiety they may be experiencing as they return to school or work after 18 months in relative isolation. Since the beginning of the grant's term, the TI has trained 286 unique individuals spanning 86 community-based provider agencies across NYS.

Meanwhile, SAMHSA funding has allowed CBC TI to partner with *reiki* master Lourdes Guzman (whose healing techniques require little more than one's own two hands) and the [NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare](#), who have helped bring other subject matter experts like Caz Recovery and its staff wellness program to CBC TI's audience of NYS behavioral health staff. SAMHSA-funded programming has trained 1252 unique attendees from 299 community-based behavioral health provider agencies since its January 2021 launch, of which 53% are based in NYC and 47% in the rest of NYS.

## PROJECT ECHO FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER PROVIDERS

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 and benzodiazepines, while [Federation of Organizations](#) staff presented current and complex cases to the series' growing community of MAT experts and learners.

## CBC TI PARTNERS WITH FOOHOLD TO BROADCAST TRAININGS

The CBC TI has recently partnered with [Foothold Care Management](#) (FCM) to help publicize its monthly Training Calendar. The FCM Support & Training portal now includes a link to the CBC Training Calendar, increasing the visibility of this resource. Six active Health Homes currently use the Foothold Care Management platform, serving over 70,000 members statewide, and these users will now have access to CBC TI offerings and can register for trainings with a few simple clicks.

## SEPTEMBER TRAINING INSTITUTE CALENDAR

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

## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

### PATHWAY HOME™'s NYC H+H PROGRAM EXPANDS

CBC's Pathway Home™ has expanded its partnership with NYC Health + Hospitals to include Brooklyn's Woodhull Medical Center. By adding Woodhull to the OneCity Health-sponsored wing of the program, Pathway Home™ serves vulnerable New Yorkers at five public hospitals (Bellevue, Coney Island, Lincoln, Harlem, Metropolitan, Woodhull) as they return to the community following an inpatient stay at one of these facilities.

### PATHWAY HOME™ & CCNS LAUNCH NEW KINGSBORO TEAM

CBC's Pathway Home™ has partnered with board member agency Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services (CCNS) to launch the newest Pathway Home™ team at Brooklyn's Kingsboro Psychiatric Center. The team is fully embedded at Kingsboro and funded as part of Pathway's recent portfolio of Care Transition & Support Team (CTST) contracts awarded by NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH). The team will serve individuals transitioning out of long-term stays at this State facility and returning to their respective community.



## TECHNOLOGY & DATA ANALYTICS



**IMSNY**  
INNOVATIVE  
MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS  
NEW YORK

### WATCH IMSNY'S SHARK TANK VICTORY AT NATCON21 NOW

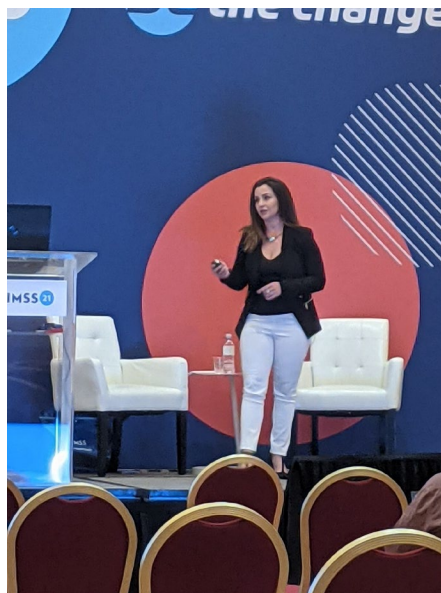
On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, [Innovative Management Solutions NY](#) (IMSNY) won the first ever "Shark Tank" event at the annual NatCon conference hosted by the [National Council for Mental Wellbeing](#) in partnership with [innovaTel Telepsychiatry](#). You can now watch IMSNY COO Mathew Smith and CIO Elise Kohl-Grant's presentation [here](#). IMSNY's entrepreneurial focus and mission for a premier behavioral health network supported via its proprietary [Data Analytics and Business Intelligence \(DABI\) Platform](#) showcased to a panel of judges its potential to be the foundation for quality-focused, value-based contracting.

### IMSNY AT HIMSS '21

CBC and its IPA partners at [Coordinated Behavioral Health Services, IPA LLC](#) were in Las Vegas in August for [HIMSS21](#)—Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's annual conference!

IMSNY's Chief Information Officer [Elise Kohl-Grant](#) presented on CBC's iChoose initiative and IMSNY's PASS method

during an educational session offered to near-20,000 attendees.



Her presentation underlined the importance of acknowledging the behavioral health service recipient as a key stakeholder in the decision-making process when organizations implement new digital health technologies, as CBC demonstrated in its iChoose pilot program.

With digital health funding set to skyrocket, IMSNY's PASS method (Pricing, Accessibility, System Functionality, Security) can help behavioral health provider agencies assess and select the technologies that effectively serve their staff and clients on a case-by-case basis.

More information on Elise's presentation [here](#).

### IMSNY ON DIGITAL HEALTH UNFILTERED PODCAST

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, IMSNY's Chief Information Officer Elise Kohl-Grant guested on Touch Point Media's Digital Health Unfiltered podcast with hosts Dr. Nicholas Genes and Sudipto Srivastava. In the "Digital Mental Health" episode, Elise shares her perspective on digital mental health—the vendor landscape, the human element, who should pay and where the industry is heading. Listen [here](#).

### IMSNY CIO ELISE KOHL-GRANT SHORTLISTED FOR HONORS AT WOMEN IN IT AWARDS

IMSNY Chief Information Officer Elise Kohl-Grant [has been nominated](#) for both the "Advocate of the Year" and "CIO of the Year" awards at the annual [Women in IT Awards Series](#). Winners will be announced on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Register for the virtual event [here](#). Kudos, Elise!

### DATA ANALYTICS BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

In August, IMSNY hosted three legal info sessions for all CBC IPA member agencies to review the legal structure that will support implementation of and access to IMSNY's Data Analytics Business Intelligence (DABI) platform. Agencies will have access to DABI once CBC, with support from IMSNY, implements the remaining legal guidelines.

As part of these legal guidelines, two documents will need to be signed by IPA member agencies:

1. Addendum to the IPA Participating Provider Agreement (PPA), and
2. Consent Attestation.

Contact IMSNY Chief Information Officer [Elise Kohl-Grant](#) with any questions.

IMSNY will offer two final legal info sessions for agency staff and counsel who may have missed the initial sessions. These will take place Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2pm ([register here](#)) and Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-1:30pm ([register here](#)).

## SOLUTIONS FOR CBC IPA MEMBER AGENCIES

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

IMSNY Partners	The IMSNY Deal
<b>Zoom</b> 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.  <a href="#">Learn More</a>
<b>Triad</b> Education, community & career resources	Triad provides education, community and career resources for behavioral and mental health professionals, employers and organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam Preparation</li> <li>• Continuing Education Credits</li> <li>• Targeted Recruitment (Jobs Marketplace)</li> </ul> <a href="#">Learn More</a>
<b>Ride Health</b> Client transportation solution	Connect with Ride Health to reduce dependence on costly fleets and/or the staff time spent scheduling and tracking appointments.  <a href="#">Schedule A Demo</a>
<b>Relias</b> 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.  <a href="#">Schedule A Demo</a>

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: VIBRANT EMOTIONAL HEALTH



As September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, we're spotlighting CBC IPA member agency [Vibrant Emotional Health](#).

For over 50 years, Vibrant has been at the forefront of promoting emotional wellbeing for all people. As leaders, advocates, educators and innovators in mental health, they work every day to help save lives and assist people to get care anytime, anywhere and in any way that works for them.

As part of this work, Vibrant administers programs such as:

- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Vibrant has been the sole administrator of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline since its inception in 2005. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in emotional distress. The Lifeline's network of over 180 crisis centers provides emotional support and local resources using national best practices and infrastructure.
- The National Disaster Distress Helpline: Vibrant administers the Disaster Distress Helpline, funded by SAMHSA, which provides free, multi-lingual crisis counseling and support to people across the United States and its territories who are experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters.

Vibrant's life-changing support helps over 2.5 million people across the country each year. Over 2.2 million people a year receive confidential emotional support through their state-of-the-art crisis services and approximately 50,000 individuals and families have received tools and skills to lead healthy and fulfilled lives through our local community service programs. Thousands more are helped through their advocacy and education work in support of better mental health access and care.

Vibrant believes that everyone can achieve emotional wellness with the right care and support. For more information, please visit their [website](#).