

If we missed a recent (past 2 weeks) news article about your organization, please send the [link](#) to Lonnie Parizek at lparizek@mhca.com to be included in our next issue. Have something to report that wasn't covered in your local news? We'd love to hear all about it and link to news on your website! If you can't wait 2 weeks to read the latest news, follow [@mhca](#) on Twitter where we post these articles and many others daily.

Bi-weekly Bulletin for February 21, 2019

MEMBER NEWS

Meet Samantha Handley, new Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare CEO

Samantha Handley, 45, has lived in Evanston since 2010 and was recently named CEO at Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare, a nonprofit organization that helps those with serious mental illness.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/evanston/news/ct-evr-shout-out-samantha-handley-tl-0214-story.html>

Lebanon mental health center's CEO to step down, search on for replacement

West Central Behavioral Health CEO Suellen Griffin announced plans to retire at the end of the fiscal year in June.

<https://www.vnews.com/West-Central-CEO-to-Retire-23414499>

After 49 years, North Jersey's mental health leader says: 'The job's not done.'

Pete Scerbo didn't know it at the time, but his interaction with Ella would help launch a career that kept him on the leading edge of mental health care in this country for the next 52 years.

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/columnists/christopher-maag/2019/02/13/half-century-he-north-jerseys-leader-mental-health/2646458002/>

Pilot program aims to help low-income residents receive mental health treatment

Memphis police, the fire department and Alliance Healthcare have partnered together to form Crisis Assessment and Response to Emergencies, known as CARE.

<https://wreg.com/2019/02/07/pilot-program-aims-to-help-low-income-residents-receive-mental-health-treatment/>

Burrell, Youth Bridge sign letter of intent to explore collaborative merger

Together, the two organizations provide behavioral health services for more than 45,000 youth and adults in Missouri and Arkansas.

<https://www.burrellcenter.com/media/burrell-youth-bridge-sign-letter-intent-explore-collaborative-merger/>

Why is adolescent suicide on the rise in Oklahoma?

Oklahoma adolescent suicide rates are outpacing increases nationally. Family & Children's Services' COPES team lends their expertise to this tough issue that doesn't discriminate.

<http://www.tulsapeople.com/Tulsa-People/February-2019/Why-is-adolescent-suicide-on-the-rise-in-Oklahoma/>

Fatal drug overdoses down in Knox Co.

Bridgeway is looking at how they can expand their services to include higher intensive offerings.

<https://www.galesburg.com/news/20190119/fatal-drug-overdoses-down-in-knox-co>

Underserved Areas to Receive Access to Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders

Chestnut Health Systems and several partner organizations are the recipients of a \$500,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery to put in place a "hub and spoke" model for offering Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for people suffering from opioid use disorders.

<https://chestnut.org/Portals/0/Docs/News%20Releases/Grant%20to%20Fund%20Opioid%20Use%20Disorder%20Services%20in%20Underserved%20Areas%20020619.pdf?timestamp=1549574248287>

Putting on a few extra pounds during the holidays can result in added mental stress that may weigh you down as much as the added physical weight.

Tonya Moran of Hiwassee Mental Health, an agency of Volunteer Behavioral Health, said the often-recognized change in daily diets during the holidays beginning with Thanksgiving in November and not ending until early January can lead to what he termed "some very unhealthy" results.

<http://clevelandbanner.com/stories/losing-the-extra-holiday-weight-has-added-benefits,93859>

StarCare baby shower provides resources, direction for struggling parents

StarCare Specialty Health System's community baby shower gave some Lubbock parents gifts of baby care essentials, information about resources, Valentines themed treats and, most importantly, support.

<https://www.lubbockonline.com/news/20190210/starcare-baby-shower-provides-resources-direction-for-struggling-parents>

INDUSRTY NEWS

Will machines take over mental health care?

Artificial intelligence has a lot to offer to patients struggling with their mental health, but experts say we shouldn't expect it to replace humans

<https://scienceline.org/2019/02/will-machines-take-over-mental-health-care/>

Treating behavioral health in a digital world

Telehealth is a game-changing technology when it comes to the delivery of mental and behavioral health treatment.

<https://www.digitalcommerce360.com/2019/02/06/treating-behavioral-health-in-a-digital-world/>

Bucking The Merger Trend, Atrius And Blue Cross Sign A Novel Payment Deal

The agreement will put Atrius in control of all of the money Blue Cross would expect to spend on 65,000 members covered by a PPO plan

<https://www.wbur.org/commonhealth/2019/02/07/atrus-health-blue-cross-blue-shield-payment-contract>

Low reimbursement rates from private payers to mental health providers may curb patient access

Reimbursement rates from commercial insurers to mental healthcare providers may hinder patient access to such care, according to a new study.

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payer/low-reimbursement-rates-from-private-payers-to-mental-health-providers-may-curb-patient>

Georgia launches new app for mental health counseling

The My GCAL app, which works on Apple and Android phones, caters to younger Georgians who are more comfortable sending texts than picking up the phone.

<https://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/georgia-launches-new-app-for-mental-health-counseling/smyE0ALUL1PUGyGsTh7fJM/>

State audit says behavioral health MCO contracts did not protect state interests

Auditors determined N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' contracts with the organizations "did not always contain clear contractual requirements to sufficiently protect the state, nor ensure compliance with all federal and state requirements."

https://www.journalnow.com/news/elections/local/state-audit-says-behavioral-health-mco-contracts-did-not-protect/article_728c3286-1a8b-5fe4-8f1b-f6f988c38c81.html

Most states don't do well with mental health parity, but others are setting an example for enforcement.

Some states have involved mental health advocates in creating policies around mental health parity, and gotten more effective enforcement.

<https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2019/02/12/most-states-dont-do-well-with-mental-health-parity-but-others-are-setting-an-example-for-enforcement/>

Opioid battle in region getting boost from big data

A big tech power is coming to Dayton through the most ambitious project yet undertaken by a healthcare affiliate of Google — tackling the opioid crisis.

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/news/local/opioid-battle-region-getting-boost-from-big-data/2j1ma9Pyc69A8InT2l0jaO/>

Alphabet's Verily is building a high-tech rehab campus to combat opioid addiction

There is no single solution to treating substance abuse, with strategies spanning from intensive rehabilitation programs to drop-in meetings. Verily hopes to get a better understanding of what works and what doesn't work in helping people get and stay sober.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/06/alphabets-verily-building-a-rehab-campus-to-combat-opioid-addiction.html>

How this Sundance film seeks to 'fuel outrage' about how people with mental illness are treated

"Bedlam," titled after the notorious London psychiatric hospital founded in 1247, follows several men and women who suffer from mental illness as they seek treatment, navigate the criminal justice system and face life on the street.

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900054564/on-the-street-or-in-jail-sundance-film-festival-seeks-to-fuel-outrage-about-how-people-with-mental-illness-are-treated.html>

State Privatizing Alaska's Only Psychiatric Hospital

http://www.sitnews.us/0219News/021019/021019_api.html

Legislators voice concern over decisions made by AK Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner

Concerns raised over the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Adam Crum's decision to contract with 'Wellpath Recovery Solutions,' a for-profit company focusing on oversight.

<https://www.webcenter11.com/content/news/Legislators-voice-concern-over-decisions-made-by-AK-Department-of-Health-and-Social-Services-Commissioner-505706391.html>

Effort underway to update state's mental health code

An effort is underway to update Michigan's 45-year-old mental health code to encourage the development of more psychiatric urgent care and crisis centers that would work more closely with hospitals, group homes and families to hold and treat people with behavioral health problems until inpatient hospital beds are available.

<https://www.craigslist.com/health-care/effort-underway-update-states-mental-health-code>

Behavioral health experts have concerns over marijuana

There is evidence to suggest that medical marijuana can help with nausea, chronic pain and other ailments, but some local behavioral health experts believe more studies need to be done before doctors start prescribing.

http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/behavioral-health-experts-have-concerns-over-marijuana/article_c6f0ba38-21dc-5410-bd9c-cd3d1b4811d3.html

BUSINESS NEWS

How Big Companies Can Outrun Disruption

Large companies can be easy targets for disruption, but Gary Pisano says there are steps that can keep them ahead of the innovation curve. Rule 1: Don't emulate startup cultures.

<https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/how-big-companies-can-out-run-disruption>

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