

# MPCA WEEKLY COMPENDIUM

JULY 26, 2022 | YEAR 3, VOLUME 21

## JULY IS NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH.



### **Mental Health Disparities: Diverse Populations**

[Mental Health in the USA](#) - Racial/ethnic, gender, and sexual minorities often suffer from poor mental health outcomes due to multiple factors including inaccessibility of high quality mental health care services, cultural stigma surrounding mental health care, discrimination, and overall lack of awareness about mental health.

These [factsheets](#) provide a snapshot of the current state of mental health of minority populations and some factors that may contribute to mental health disparities among these groups.

## POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

### **Senate Democrats Push Ahead with a Skinny Budget Reconciliation Bill**

Senate Democrats are working hard to try to get a “very skinny” reconciliation bill passed before they leave for August recess. The bill will contain only two broad sections – policies to reduce drug prices, and an extension of the higher subsidies for ACA Marketplace plans, which expire at the end of the year. A lot of details remain to be worked out, including how long the higher ACA subsidies would be extended for, and whether the drug pricing section will contain a provision that would impact 340B prices and savings.

### **PhRMA and 340B Hospitals Launch Dueling Media Campaigns**

Both PhRMA and a group of 340B hospital associations have launched dueling media campaigns around 340B. PhRMA launched theirs this week with a full-page ad in the Washington Post claiming that 340B benefits big hospitals and chain pharmacies at the expense of patients. Their ads link to the [PhRMA website’s 340B page](#). The hospital campaign is digital-only and will run for about a month. The hospital campaign ads link to [protect340bpatients.org](#), which fleshes out its 340B positions.

## ORAL HEALTH UPDATES

[Study found link between Periodontitis and Alzheimer’s Disease](#) – *Tech Explorist* (7/23)

[How dental schools are minimizing COVID-19 transmission](#) – *DrBicuspid* (7/21)

[What dental professionals need to know about monkeypox](#) – *DrBicuspid* (7/20)

[Should you prescribe antibiotics to patients with prosthetics?](#) – *DrBicuspid* (7/18)

For resources and information, please visit the [Oral Health Resources](#) section on the [MPCA website](#).

## BILLING, CODING & TELEHEALTH NEWS

[New billing codes for Novavax - the new COVID-19 vaccine](#)

For resources and information, please visit the [Telehealth Resources](#) section on the [MPCA website](#).

## CDC UPDATES

[Novavax COVID-19, Adjuvanted Vaccine: Overview and Safety](#) – (7/20)

[V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker](#) – (7/18)

[Flu & People 65 Years and Older](#) – (6/30)

*What’s happening?* Click [here](#) for a full listing of upcoming MPCA trainings and events.

## **INTERESTING READS**

[WHO declares monkeypox outbreak a public health emergency](#) – *STAT News* (7/23)

The World Health Organization on Saturday declared [the unprecedented monkeypox outbreak](#) that has spread around the world a public health emergency, a decision that will empower the agency to take additional measures to try to curb the virus's spread.

[The BA.5 Wave Is What COVID Normal Looks Like](#) – *The Atlantic* (7/15)

The endless churn of variants may not stop anytime soon, unless we do something about it.

[Statement from NIH and BARDA on the Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine](#) – *NIH* (7/20)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine be used as another primary series option for adults in the United States ages 18 years and older.

[HHS Approves Nation's First Section 1332 Waiver for a Public Option-Style Health Care Plan in Colorado](#) – *Commonwealth Fund* (7/12)

The waiver represents the first time the federal government has taken action to approve state legislation that introduces more heavily regulated plans into Affordable Care Act marketplaces to compete against traditional plans.

## **CLINICAL UPDATES**

[IZ Express Weekly Newsletter](#) – *immunize.org* (7/20)

[Long-term Immune Response to SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Children and Adults After Mild Infection](#) – *JAMA Network* (7/13)

[Reactogenicity of Simultaneous COVID-19 mRNA Booster and Influenza Vaccination in the US](#) – *JAMA Network* (7/15)

[Vaccine-Induced Immune Response to Omicron Wanes Substantially Over Time](#) – *NIH* (7/19)

### **Conversations on Healthcare - Dr. Eric Topol: COVID BA.5 variant "worst we've seen"**

#### **[LISTEN HERE](#)**

Dr. Eric Topol, one of the most prominent and prolific COVID experts, provides his thoughts on the COVID BA.5 subvariant. He says, "it's the worst variant... [because of] the immune escape...the ability to have growth, fitness and advantages that we haven't seen before...the properties are getting worse...and lasting longer. The virus has not finished its evolutionary arc. There's more to come, unfortunately."

## **HEALTH EQUITY/SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE RESOURCES**

[U.S. Transition to 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Begins July 16](#) – *SAMSHA* (7/16)

On Saturday, July 16, the U.S. transitioned the 10-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to 988 – an easy-to-remember three-digit number for 24/7 crisis care. The lifeline, which also links to the Veterans Crisis Line, follows a three-year joint effort by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to put crisis care more in reach for people in need.

For resources and information, please visit the [Health Equity/Social Determinants Resources](#) section on the [MPCA website](#).

***Is Your Health Center Hiring?*** Click [here](#) to utilize the MPCA Job Board and list your openings on our website!

## WORKFORCE UPDATE

### Governor Mills Announces \$1.6M Grant Program to Expand Medical Provider Training in Rural Maine

The initiative offers funding to support the expansion or development of new medical residency programs in underserved areas for new physicians in addition to training opportunities for students enrolled in accredited healthcare profession educational or training programs such as (but not limited to) nursing (RN, LPN, APRN), Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), Medical Assistants, behavioral health (LCSW, LADC) professionals, pharmacists, physical therapists, physicians, physician assistants, emergency medical services, (AEMT, Paramedic), and dentistry. This helps fill an important gap: Maine ranks among the [lowest states](#) in terms of graduate medical education opportunities.

[Click here](#) for the full press release and [click here](#) for the Request for Applications for the Expansion of Rural Clinical Preceptorships and Rural Graduate Medical Education Program

### Association for Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) and STAR<sup>2</sup> Center's CHC Individual Recruitment and Retention Data Profiles

STAR<sup>2</sup> Center has released updated [Data Profile Dashboards](#) on health center recruitment and retention. These interactive Profiles blend public, private, and proprietary data to highlight individual health centers' strengths and weaknesses, as well as national CHC trends. Health center staff and workforce teams can utilize the [dashboards](#) to review past and present data and compare both against average data from similar CHCs. The STAR<sup>2</sup> Center has directly emailed health center CEOs to provide access, and PCA teams may also access certain Dashboard data. [Learn more](#) and [contact Mariah Blake](#) at the ACU with questions.

### The National Health Service Corps 2023 Class of Scholars and Student-to-Service participants are beginning to search for their service sites.

NHSC scholars and S2S clinicians are required to serve at an NHSC site between two to four years. Participants may be in the following health disciplines: Primary Care Physician (MD/DO), Dentist (DDS or DMD), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM), Physician Assistant (PA). Click the following links for more info on these programs: [NHSC Scholarship Program](#) and [NHSC Student-to-Service](#).

NHSC Scholars and S2S participants are required to serve at NHSC-approved sites that meet the HPSA score requirement below for their discipline. If you have any questions or would like more information if your CHC site meets the HPSA score requirements, please reach out to Emily Ferry at [eferry@mepca.org](mailto:eferry@mepca.org).

Class Year 2023 NHSC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	
Discipline	HPSA Score Requirement
Primary Care MD, DO, NP	18
PA	5
CNM	14
DDS, DMD	18
Psychiatric (MD & DO)	18
Class Year 2023 STUDENT TO SERVICE (S2S)	
Discipline	HPSA Score Requirement
All	14

**\*\*Reminder\*\***--some participants may be searching for sites on HRSA's [Health Workforce Connector](#) or creating their own profiles for recruitment. Be sure to encourage health centers to update their site profiles and post vacancies.

For resources and information, please visit the [Workforce](#) section on the [MPCA](#) website.

**MPCA Annual Conference: October 5-6, 2022 Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME**

**PSO CORNER**

For resources and information, please visit the [MePCA PSO](#) section on the [MPCA website](#).

**CHCNET NEWS**

For the latest information concerning the MPCA’s HCCN, **Community Health Center Network of Maine (CHCNet)**, or for support with health information technology needs, please visit the [CHCNet Member Portal](#) or contact Michael Pancook: [mpancook@mepca.org](mailto:mpancook@mepca.org).

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