

E-Update Jan 26, 2024



Medical leadership for mind, brain and body.



Friday, January 26, 2024

Thank you, Dr. Miller! Chandra Miller, MD, served as Doctor of the Day on Friday, January 26, 2024. Dr. Miller is pictured with Representative Celeste Hurst.

The weekly E-update is the tool by which MPA members can share information or announcements with each other. It is a member benefit and the mechanism by which MPA shares important notices regarding trends in psychiatry, pharmaceutical updates, information about your medical practice, advocacy, your opinions, and job opportunities. Members are encouraged to make the content their own. Please submit items for weekly publication by Thursday at 5pm. Your email addresses are protected by the DB and not for sale or use by any other entity besides the DB. Content should be pertinent to the practice of psychiatry or related medical information. Review the E-update highlighted titles and attachments for content and action steps. We value your input and attention to your specialty! Any item that appears in **royal blue** contains a link for detailed information on the topic. Questions regarding membership status are referred to our APA Membership Coordinator.



This Week at the Mississippi Legislature The fourth week of the legislative session was highlighted by a 1 ½ hour hearing of the Public Health and Welfare Committee on Wednesday afternoon. The subject matter was the commitment process and the group heard from Chancery Court Clerks from Lamar and Forrest County, DMH Executive Director Wendy Bailey and Bill Rosamond, Director of Mental Health Accessibility for the state. You can access the full hearing on the Legislative YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhgm0-h0EGs> All of the content is important but I draw your attention to the question and comment made by

Senator Brice Wiggins from Jackson County at the 1:04:15 mark in the meeting. This is the first time in a long time that psychiatry specifically was called out by a member of the Legislature. Post the hearing I spoke personally with Senator Wiggins and assured him that MPA would discuss his concern in the future beginning here with the MPA E-Update. His point is does the Psychiatrist consider where the family is and has been when making a formal assessment of the patient. As a

lawyer on the front lines in Jackson County, his opinion is that the matter should be a part of the criteria and judgment. I would ask that any MPA member(s) who participate in commitment proceedings in any county, consider writing a short synopsis of steps taken by the psychiatrist to uphold the law and use proper clinical criteria and judgment. The update is happy to run your response and share with Senator Wiggins and members of the Legislature so he and they can better understand the psychiatric perspective in the process.

Don't miss the designated opportunity for MPA members to come to the capitol on February 14th from 7:30 am to noon during the MPA/MSMA/MOA and MAPA White Coat Day. If you plan to attend, go to www.msmaonline.com.

The next article covers a vast portion of health care issues the Legislature will tackle but all of the opinions and content are not MPA priorities just shared for consideration.

New legislative leadership: Nothing off table in tackling Mississippi health issues



by [Sophia Paffenroth](#)/*reprinted from Mississippi Today*

Last year, committee chairs in the House and Senate killed every Medicaid expansion bill without a debate or vote. Now, for the first time in a decade, a policy that has been politically forbidden in Mississippi will at least get a full hearing.

That's because of pivotal changes in House leadership. Newly elected Speaker Jason White appointed Missy McGee, R-Hattiesburg, to chair the Medicaid Committee, and Sam Creekmore IV, R-New Albany, to chair the Public Health and Human Services Committee.

McGee has been a vocal proponent of postpartum coverage, which passed last year, and presumptive eligibility for pregnant women – which did not. Creekmore, along with Rep. Kevin Felsher, R-Biloxi, successfully passed legislation last year to improve mental health services in the state.

Both say that this year, nothing is off the table. And while leadership on the Senate side of Public Health and Medicaid remains the same, committee chairs there have voiced support of increasing health care coverage and reform.

“I do think it could definitely be a historic year for the state of Mississippi,” McGee said, “in that we have talked a lot about providing health care to low-income workers.”

McGee and Creekmore have also been diligent about reframing the narrative around expansion to make it clear that the increased coverage they support is not welfare and it's not a handout – it's health care coverage for low-income, working-class Mississippians.

“And we don't really know what that's going to look like right now,” McGee said, “but it has been something that the majority of Mississippians really support. I'm looking forward to coming up with sound policy that would provide this option for hardworking Mississippians who can't afford health care – whether their employers don't offer it, or whether they simply can't afford to purchase it.”

McGee said she is also looking forward to reintroducing her presumptive eligibility bill – which would allow pregnant women to be presumed eligible for Medicaid and receive timely prenatal care. [House Bill 539](#) was assigned to committee this week.

“We know that with a lot of women who are eligible for Medicaid, it often takes quite a while before they are able to get on their Medicaid benefits – and sometimes it can be beyond the first trimester,” she said.

McGee says she has confidence presumptive eligibility will pass this year, and will help move Mississippi off the top of the list for infant and maternal mortality – which she says is her goal for the term.

“I just feel like it's got a lot more momentum this year than it has in years past,” she said.

Creekmore said he was surprised at his appointment to chair the Public Health Committee, and he did not ask for it – though it was his first choice.

Creekmore, who comes from a family of health care workers, said health care has always been “near and dear” to him. He remembers, growing up, the phone would sometimes ring in the middle of the night and he would wake up his father to attend a delivery.

“He's a hometown doctor and he's my hero,” Creekmore said about his father.

Last year, Creekmore authored [House Bill 1222](#) – which provides mental health training for law enforcement and helps families dealing with the court systems. It passed unanimously.

“My first four years, for whatever reason, the Lord has led leadership to put me into the mental health realm, and we’ve made some great strides,” Creekmore said. “I want to continue to do that, and I just thought I would be more effective in Public Health.”



Join us as we host a
DAY AT THE CAPITOL - WHITE COAT DAY
with the
Mississippi State Medical Association
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association
Mississippi Psychiatric Association
Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants

This is your chance to meet your lawmakers and have your voice heard.
We are encouraging all attendees to wear your white coat.

White Coat Day
MSMA's Day at the Capitol

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
7:30 AM - 12:00 PM
1st Floor - Mississippi State Capitol Building

REGISTER HERE

LET'S FLOOD THE CAPITOL WITH WHITE COATS!

REGISTER TO ATTEND WHITE COAT DAY

In the Senate, Kevin Blackwell, R-Southaven, is introducing a presumptive eligibility bill similar to McGee’s.

In addition to two presumptive eligibility bills coming from both the House and Senate, Blackwell said, “we’ll also probably have it added to the tech bill. It’s a serious issue for a lot of us on this side.”

The Medicaid technical bill is a notoriously complicated bill with a lot of jargon that outlines the function and scope of Medicaid, and which must be renewed every three years. This year, it’s up for renewal.

The tech bill could be a way to pass presumptive eligibility for pregnant women or Medicaid expansion – if separate bills on those fronts aren’t successfully passed. The tech bill usually bounces back and forth between the

chambers, and involves concessions on both sides, since, unlike other bills, the tech bill must be renewed for the program to operate.

Aside from presumptive eligibility, Blackwell also filed [Senate Bill 2080](#), on professional midwifery, and [Senate Bill 2079](#) on nurse-practitioner collaboration agreements.

The midwifery bill would look at establishing a formal licensed midwifery program in the state – the first of its kind.

Midwifery is currently not regulated in Mississippi, meaning anyone can practice without formal training or certification. Midwives who want to undergo a certification program end up going out of state – and sometimes don’t return.

In a state riddled with maternity care deserts, losing providers to neighboring states because they are offering a service Mississippi could easily offer just doesn’t make sense, Blackwell explained.

Midwifery, he says, is an obvious solution for non-complicated, low-risk births, since “women have been helping women have babies since our primitive days.”

Senate Bill 2079 seeks to abolish restrictive collaboration agreements between nurse practitioners and physicians.

These agreements are expensive and limit the freedom with which nurse practitioners can operate. They usually have distance limitations, as well, placing restrictions on how far from their collaborating physicians nurse practitioners can practice. Since most physicians operate in urban areas, that means nurse practitioners can't provide care to the rural communities that desperately need it.

“All it is is a paid relationship and it needs to go away,” Blackwell said. “Nurse practitioners aren't killing folks, they're not doing major surgeries, open heart surgeries. They're practicing within the confines of their license and given our need to have access to health care, why would we not do this?”

Blackwell has filed similar bills in past years, but they all died in committee.

Like Blackwell in Medicaid, Hob Bryan, D-Amory – the longest-serving state senator – is continuing to chair Public Health.

Bryan said he is excited to be “on the horizon of a new four-year term,” although, he joked, he might not make it that long – a nod to the presentation State Health Officer Dr. Daniel Edney gave to the Senate Public Health Committee last Wednesday.

In it, Edney had stressed the urgency of several public health metrics and had said to Bryan “I don't think I'm the oldest one in this room, no offense Mr. Chairman, the life expectancy is 71,” – the lowest in the country.

“These are real numbers that impact real Mississippians,” Edney said. “We have the highest rate of preventable deaths. That means more Mississippians die unnecessarily every year than anywhere else in this country, and these problems have solutions. I trust your good judgment to get us where we need to be. And I want to help you with whatever data, information, resource you need.”

While it's unclear whether Republicans who say they will consider Medicaid expansion will ultimately support it, Bryan has been more outspoken with his beliefs that the current system of coverage is not working for low-income working Mississippians.

Diabetes, according to Bryan, is a “maddening example” of a group of people who are ineligible for preventative care, and become eligible for health care only by the time they need to have limbs amputated.

“At which point, congratulations!” Bryan exclaimed. “Now you are disabled and you qualify for health care.”

Edney gave presentations to both the House and Senate Public Health committees during their first meetings of the session. Rep. McGee says her committee will be hearing from Drew Snyder, Mississippi Medicaid executive director, next week.

The deadline to file bills is Feb. 19, later than most years since the first session of a new term is 120 days, as opposed to the typical 90 days.

MPA's 2024 Legislative Priorities:

- Regulate the Prior Authorization Process for Physicians by MS Dept of Insurance
- Changes to Commitment Laws to Result in Jail Diversion and Increased Community Treatment Options
- Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women
- Address Future Testing Options for Citizens Around Foreign Substances
- Ban the Sale of Kratom by Making it Scheduled
- Strengthen the Step Therapy/Fail First Protocol Override Statute
- Support a Change to CON regarding Psychiatric Residential Treatment Beds and Substance Use Disorder Beds in the State
- Add a Designated Child Psychiatrist to the Rural Physician Scholarship Program

A full listing of Senate and House Committees can be found here:

[2024 Senate Committee Listing](#)

[2024 House Committee Listing](#)

MPA Congratulates 3 New APA Fellows and 2 New APA Distinguished Fellows APA alerted the DB’s this week that there was a 96% approval rate this year for the Distinguished Fellow/Distinguished Life Fellow/International Distinguished Fellow nominations this year, which is consistent with previous years. MPA is honored that Doctors **Saurabh Bhardwaj**, **Clyde Glenn** and **Tongji Shavers** will receive their Fellowship and Doctors **Maxie Gordon** and **Mark Ladner** were selected as Distinguished Fellows. All will be given the opportunity to participate in the convocation in May 2024 in New York, NY.

Apply for APA/APAF Fellowship at the Link Provided

MPA has been very fortunate in recent years with these Fellowship opportunities for Residents. Please read all the criteria as commitments vary from one year to two years. We encourage anyone interested to get started now.



Link here: <https://www.psychiatry.org/residents-medical-students/residents/fellowships/available-apa-apaf-fellowships/american-psychiatric-leadership-fellowship>

Weekly E-update Column Features MPA Members in Action

MPA is highlighting a member or members each week via a repost of social media or shared photos of members in action. Follow us on FB or X and LinkedIn. If you have something exciting to share, tag MPA in the original post and we will happily reshare or email to mpa39206@aol.com! Today's highlight features APA Assembly Rep, Dr. Chasity Torrence who presented a Grand Rounds to the UMMC Dept of Psychiatry and Human Behavior on Thursday. Dr. Torrence is the Medical Director at Hinds Behavioral Health.

Register Today for the MPA/LPMA Meeting March 2024 in Baton Rouge, LA

Make your reservation and register for the 2024 LPMA/MPA Spring meeting to be hosted in Baton Rouge, March 1 – 3. This is an opportunity to explore the latest developments in the field of psychiatry in a relaxed and welcoming environment at the Marriott Baton Rouge. Engage with experts on important topics such as Psychedelic Drugs in Substance Use Disorders, Perinatal Mental Health, Risk Management, Physician Assisted Suicide to name a few. We are excited to again partner with LPMAA and the Mid-Gulf Council for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. I encourage you to take this opportunity to connect with colleagues and contribute to the ongoing progress of psychiatry. [Registration](#) is open so please [book your hotel room](#) now. [Deadline for the Resident Poster Session abstracts to be received is January 30th.](#) Please direct any questions to mpa39206@aol.com.

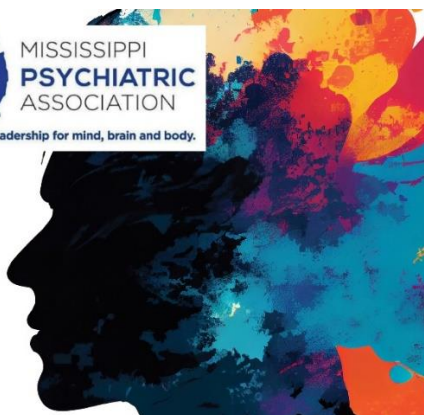


in
conjunction
with



**2024 LPMA/MPA
Spring Meeting**

MARCH 1 - 3, 2024



MPA to Receive Advocacy Award from MS Families as Allies This Monday

Please join Families as Allies for our [Community Partnership Celebration on Monday, January 29, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.](#) at Bravo Italian Restaurant. [Tickets and sponsorships are still available.](#)

During the celebration, we will honor and recognize the outstanding people and organizations that exemplify our four core values: **Every Child and Family, Excellence, Partnership and Accountability.**

Accountability states: “We will be open and honest with you about our organization and help you get information from the systems that serve your child.” This award honors the memory of our much-beloved founder, Tessie Schweitzer. Tessie was fearless in holding systems accountable and a tireless advocate at the Capitol.

We honor **The Mississippi Psychiatric Association** with the Tessie Schweitzer Accountability Award for its ongoing legislative advocacy, particularly its work on House Bill 1222 in the 2023 legislative session. We especially appreciate MPA keeping Families as Allies and other grassroots groups up to date from when a group of legislators introduced HB 1222 until they voted it into law and the governor signed it. (We suspect Tessie may have been championing HB 1222—and possibly shaking her finger at people—from above.)

Again, the date is Monday, January 29, for our [10th Annual Community Partnership Celebration at 5:00 p.m.](#) Please help us celebrate these remarkable award recipients and all we can accomplish as we work together for our children.

Southern Psychiatric Association Announces Meeting Date for 2024

Mark your calendar now for the 2024 meeting with the Tennessee Psychiatric Association:
September 11 – 14, 2024 Westin Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Second Risk Management New Year’s Resolution for 2024

Written by
Professional Risk Management Services® (PRMS®)

Our suggested easy-to-implement risk management resolutions are focused on termination of the treatment relationship. Get a kick-start on the first quarter of the year with our second risk management resolution for 2024 below!

2. Avoid prescribing large amounts of medications around the time of termination.

You are responsible for the medications you prescribe, so you should only prescribe enough medication to get to the termination date. This is true even if a smaller prescription increases the cost to the patient.

Stay tuned for resolutions three and four in the coming weeks.

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- MPA Main Account: [Mississippi Psychiatric Association](https://facebook.com/MississippiPsychiatricAssociation)

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Voting Now Open in APA National Elections

Voting is now open for APA National Elections! [Visit APA's Elections Page](#) to view the slate of candidates and their platforms. Polls close **January 31 at 11:59 P.M. ET**. By voting in APA elections, you can have a direct impact on the future of our Association. As an APA member, your vote is your voice, so [make yourself heard today!](#)

January Course of the Month – Emerging Biomarkers of Response to Ketamine: Opportunities and Challenges

Ketamine and esketamine can produce rapid and substantial antidepressant effects. However, individual response is variable, and there are no well-accepted methods to differentiate persons who are more likely to benefit. This course will discuss the emerging

biomarkers for ketamine/esketamine response, present data regarding the antianhedonic effect of ketamine, cover off-label use of IV ketamine and the FDA-approved esketamine for TRD, and more.

[Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)

O'Leary Award for Innovation in Psychiatry – Deadline February 1

The O'Leary Award for Innovation in Psychiatry provides seed money to launch innovative ideas in mental and behavioral health. The strongest award nominations will reflect Dr. O'Leary's values and include business ideas that improve the efficiency of behavioral healthcare teams, improve and expand access to care, and leverage economies of scale, address crisis de-escalation, stabilization, and wrap-around services to support recovery. [Submit your nomination](#)

Addressing Substance Use Disorder in the Hispanic Community Unpacking Sociocultural Risk and Resilience

We invite you to join us on **Thursday, February 8**, starting at 7:00 pm ET for our next **APA Looking Beyond Mental Health Equity Fireside Chat**. This discussion will explore the independent and interactive effects of acculturation (i.e., heritage and U.S. cultural practices and identification) and sociocultural stress (i.e., perceived discrimination, perceived context of reception, and bicultural stress) on alcohol initiation among Hispanic youth. [Register Today](#)

@theAPA Delirium Update 2024 Promotion:

Join us at APA Headquarters on **Friday, March 8** for the next **@theAPA Educational Series** event. This immersive learning experience offers an in-depth exploration of Delirium detection, prevention, and treatment. [Secure your spot today!](#)

Be a part of APA's Speakers Bureau

APA is seeking members who are active and engaged in Component activities to be a part of APA's Speaker's Bureau. The Speaker's Bureau is aimed at diversifying and broadening APA's bench of public-facing experts. In addition to traditional media requests, APA has a number of other opportunities available for members who are willing to share their expertise. This includes writing blogs on important mental health topics, providing government testimony, and participation in social media events, like Twitter chats, Instagram live, and more.

Members of the APA Speaker's Bureau, as an internal influencer group, will also be asked to amplify APA's voice by promoting public education initiatives via social media and engaging during APA social media events.

Simply scan this QR code to access the speaker's bureau form and add your voice.

Note: Any personal information shared is kept **strictly confidential** and only able to be accessed by APA Communications staff. We ask for this information so that we can get a decent picture of who our experts are and make the best match for a given opportunity. Participation in this project does not guarantee that a member will be contacted for a media interview or other public-facing opportunity.

