

E-Update Sept 22, 2023



Medical leadership for mind, brain and body.

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, Doneisha Berryman. Please contact Doneisha at 202-459-9749 or dberryman@psych.org.

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Rules in Favor of MS Against DOJ

There are multiple media outlets covering this story after Wednesday's ruling on the state's appeal of the DOJ lawsuit that has been ongoing since the original letter of inquiry in December 2011. MPA has shared coverage of this process since the testimony given by Dr. Garland "Bo" Holloman to a legislative task force in October 2010. Whether there is agreement that the lawsuit regarding the ADA and institutionalization was proper, the one thing of note is the attention given to the subject allowed for vast improvements in systems and approaches throughout the last 12 years. The forced dialogue and planning as a result of Judge Reeves' ruling in favor of the DOJ in 2019 and his remedial order in 2021 has placed the focus on delivery of community-based services and intent to remove jail as the primary option for those in crisis. One can only hope that the state will continue to strive to emphasize community services and parity in the delivery of care. It is not clear what the DOJ will do regarding this matter in the future. MPA will continue to analyze and provide updates as things become more clear.

Mississippi Chose to Fight': Court Overturns Justice Department Efforts to Overhaul State's Mental Health System

<https://mississippitoday.org/2023/09/21/federal-court-overturns-efforts-to-revamp-mental-health-system/>

Court reverses ruling that found state discriminated in mental health care

https://jacksonclarion-ms.newsmemory.com/?publink=15fc95b45_134ad2e

Additionally, today's Clarion Ledger article highlights the additional issue of prior authorization that Governor Reeves has promised MPA to address in 2024 legislative session:

Reeves has Plans to Help State's Struggling Hospitals

https://jacksonclarion-ms.newsmemory.com/?publink=0bba65ea2_134ad2e

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT: RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR RECORDS

Written by
Professional Risk Management Services® (PRMS®)

1. Your practice should have written policies and procedures for responding to information requests appropriately. Written confidentiality policies and procedures are required under HIPAA's Privacy Rule, as well as under some states' laws. It is important to remember, however that responding to a request for information does not always involve disclosing the information, in fact, frequently it does not.
2. Verbal requests usually come from a patient, a member of the patient's family, or a law-enforcement professional. Verbal requests are almost always insufficient to allow or compel disclosure, and psychiatrists have very little discretion with such requests. The primary exception to this rule is an emergency situation (e.g., a call from the ER or an imminently suicidal patient). If there is no emergency, the appropriate response is to explain that the request must be put in writing. Additionally, if the request is from someone other than the patient, the requester must cite his authority to access the information.

A subpoena is a legal document used to obtain the testimony (written or oral) of a witness in a legal proceeding. Subpoenas are usually issued by an attorney but while they do have the authority of the court behind them, they do not carry the same weight as actual court orders. Generally, a subpoena alone is not sufficient to compel the release of mental health records. This does not mean, however, that a subpoena may be ignored. Subpoenas require a timely response even if no information is released.

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- MPA Main Account: [Mississippi Psychiatric Association](#)

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What's New at the APA

Most Americans believe they would know how to get help for a loved one living with addiction, according to the latest Healthy Minds Monthly public opinion poll presented by APA & Morning Consult. 71% of those polled said they know how to help get a friend or loved one help with addiction, while 65% defined recovery as "being able to function better in life." You can [read more about his poll and see the full results here](#).

The APA Foundation donated \$25,000 to relief efforts for the wildfires in Maui. The APAF's gift will be made to the [Maui Strong Fund](#). The APAF has committed to absorbing all administrative expense for those who donate, so that 100% of funds donated go directly to relief efforts. You can read [more here](#).

APAF launched the Mental Health Care Works public information campaign dedicated to raising awareness around the signs and symptoms of mental health disorders and showcase the efficacy of mental health care and encourage people to take action and seek help if they need it. The campaign is currently active in Denver, CO, Raleigh, NC, and Baltimore/Washington, D.C., with a nationwide rollout slated for 2024. You can [read more about the Mental Health Care Works campaign here](#).

September Course of the Month – The Shame of Suicide and Attempted Suicide in Physicians: Five Physicians Who Are Speaking Out

Physicians are known to be a group of individuals who are more at risk of suicide than the general public. Data is sparse about attempted suicide, but we do know that medical students and residents have rates of suicidal ideation that are higher than age-matched peers. The intent of this course is to unravel the stigma around suicide and attempted suicide in physicians, present new learning from look-back research, share personal narratives, and offer ways to save doctors' lives.

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

Call for Applications: Moore Equity in Mental Health Community Grants Program

Increasing equitable access to mental health care is a cornerstone of the APA Foundation's mission. Each year, [we award grants to community nonprofits that are supporting the mental health of minoritized youth](#) through the Moore Equity in Mental Health Community Grants program. The 2024 grant application is open now through September 30. [Learn more about our work to end disparities in access to health care and apply today!](#)

Virtual Immersive: Geriatric Psychiatry Updates

Don't miss out on the opportunity to enhance your clinical expertise in geriatric psychiatry! Join us on September 27 for the **Virtual Immersive: Geriatric Psychiatry Workshop**. Expand your knowledge and sharpen your skills in caring for older adults with common psychiatric disorders. [Register today](#) and secure your spot in this immersive learning experience.

Looking Beyond:

We invite you to join us on Thursday, September 28 for the next **APA Looking Beyond Mental Health Equity Fireside Chat**. During this engaging discussion our panelist will provide valuable insights into the growing public health concern of vaping and e-cigarette use and how these behaviors are linked to increased risks of substance use, especially among marginalized youth. Our panel of experts will explore the intersectionality of these risks and the role of psychiatry in addressing and preventing these inequities. Don't miss out on this informative discussion - [Register today!](#)

@theAPA November Event:

Mark your calendars for November 17 to join us at APA Headquarters for the **Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Update**. This second event of our new immersive learning series will provide an update on the five critical domains relevant to practicing psychiatrists and primary care physicians. Don't miss this opportunity to stay informed and enhance your professional expertise. [Sign up for Updates.](#)

Submit Abstracts for APA's 2024 Annual Meeting

Abstract submissions are now being accepted for APA's 2024 Annual Meeting, which will take place May 4 to 8 in New York, N.Y. The theme of the meeting is "Confronting Addiction From Prevention to Treatment." Submit your ideas for general sessions, courses, and posters to the biggest psychiatric meeting of the year. [LEARN MORE](#)

2023 APA Mental Health Services Conference Scientific Program Now Available

The Mental Health Services Conference will take place from **Thursday, October 12**, through **Saturday, October 14**. You can now review sessions planned for this year's conference. [LEARN MORE](#)

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.

Please contact James Carty (jcarty@psych.org) with any questions you may have.