

**E-Update Sept 8, 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](mailto:dberryman@psych.org).

### **Recently Released Documents Regarding Mississippi's Mental Health System**

1. **Office of the Coordinator of Mental Health Accessibility – Quarterly Report for January 2023 – June 2023** – The [Mississippi Legislature](#) created the Coordinator of Mental Health Accessibility position in 2020, tasked with these duties:

- To perform a comprehensive review of Mississippi's mental health system.
- To analyze and review the structure of the mental health system.
- To review the adequacy and quality of the individualized support and services provided to people discharged from the state hospitals.
- To review the quarterly financial statements and status reports of the individual community mental health centers.
- To consult with the [Special Master](#) appointed in the [United States v. Mississippi](#) ruling and a wide range of other stakeholders, including the Monitor in the same lawsuit.
- To determine where the delivery or availability of mental health services is inadequate in any county or geographic area within a county.
- To determine whether each community mental health center has sufficient funds to provide the required mental health services.
- To report on the status of the mental health system quarterly.

The court appointed [Bill Rosamond](#) to the Coordinator position on October 15, 2020. The [current quarterly report](#) focuses on the Coordinator's office and other groups consolidating Region 11 Community Mental Health Centers services with those of Region 12 and Region 15, House Bill 1222 and Mental Health Treatment Courts.

2. **U.S. v. Mississippi Lawsuit Fourth Report of the Court Monitor** The court posted this report on September 7, 2023. Dr. Michael Hogan monitors the mental health system's compliance with the changes and improvements the lawsuit requires. Dr. Hogan begins the report with helpful

background information about the decade-long legal battle and the mental health system. He then describes:

- Activities of the Monitor during this reporting period
- Observations on Compliance
- Compliance Findings
- Conclusion and next steps

He finds the state in compliance, approaching compliance or in partial compliance with all terms. He ends the report by stating, "Reviewing data to assess adequacy of services and DMH (Department of Mental Health) efforts to improve care will be priorities during 2024."

### 3. **Attorney General Opinion on County Holding Facility Certification by Mississippi**

**Department of Mental Health** On August 24, 2023. Attorney General Lynn issued [this opinion](#) in response to these questions from Ms. Wendy Bailey, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health:

- Does Mississippi Code Annotated Section 41-21-77 require the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to proactively certify county jails if they are being used for providing housing, maintenance, and medical treatment for an involuntarily committed person, or does the statute indicate that the Department of Mental Health has the authority to certify county facilities pursuant to Section 41-4-7(kk)?
- Does Section 41-4-7(kk) require the State Board of Mental Health to certify county holding facilities, such as county jails?
- If the answer to Question 2 is yes, would this also include county hospitals that may hold someone who has been involuntarily committed?

Each of these documents is informative. Together, they may also have implications for how Mississippi's care system can more effectively support people with mental illness.

### **There is No Health Care Without Mental Health Care**

Everyone deserves access to mental health care. You have an opportunity **right now** to help policymakers better understand the real-world impact of mental health treatment – and we need your advocacy!

The federal government is considering new policies to ensure that mental health treatment is covered at the same level of care as physical health conditions, and your voice can help ensure that these policies are finalized. [\*\*Don't wait: Tell policymakers to improve parity by submitting a comment today!\*\*](#)

**TAKE ACTION**

Parity is the basic idea that **mental health conditions and substance use disorders should be covered and treated at the same level as physical health conditions**. For example, someone shouldn't have to jump through more hoops or face more limits to see a mental health professional than they would to see a specialist for another health condition. Enforcing mental health parity law is a step in the right direction for people to access the quality, affordable mental health care they need and deserve.

MPA is advocating for policymakers to finalize proposals that:

- Require insurance plans to prove that they offer equal coverage of mental health care.
- Evaluate insurance plans' provider network based on wait times, prior authorization requirements, provider payment rates, and more.
- Implement penalties for insurance plans that do not comply with parity requirements.

We need your help. Sharing more about the barriers you've faced when trying to access mental health care will show the federal government why these proposals are needed and the impact they could have for millions across the country. [Submit your comment today! \(Comments are due by Monday, October 2nd.\)](#)

**ACT NOW**



***Suicide-Focused Assessment and Treatment: An Update for Professionals***  
*Free Workshop | October 25, 2023 | 11:30am-4:45pm EDT*

**Colleague,**

This is an email about our upcoming course from McLean Hospital and Stanford University Department of Psychiatry “Suicide-Focused Assessment and Treatment.” We wanted to let you know that in addition for registrants being able to attend the third annual **free** virtual suicide workshop live, registrants will be eligible to access the workshop on demand.

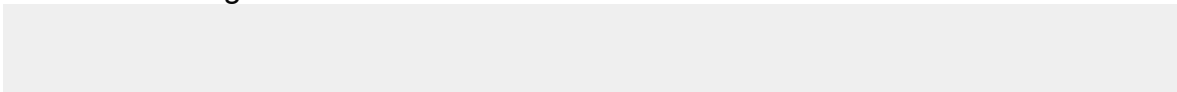
Please note the specific presentations that are **new and especially relevant for psychiatrists:**

- Management of impulsivity and chronic suicidality
- Assessing and treating suicide risk in psychotic disorders
- Integration of the SAFE-T Protocol into an EMR and assignment of suicide risk
- Update on clinical utilization of Ketamine/Psychedelics
- Liability mitigation in all settings, including Telehealth
- Molecular and clinical markers to identify patients with major depressive disorder who are at highest risk for suicide

There is no cost to attend the event or receive the online resource that will accompany the program. Importantly, optional **continuing medical education credits** for psychiatrists are available through McLean Hospital for a small administrative fee.

Information about the program and registration can be found by visiting: <https://home.mcleanhospital.org/ce-suicide>.

Or click the “Register” link here:



[Register](#)

**This free workshop has been designed to address the clinical interests of psychiatrists.**

Those who register for the workshop will receive McLean's free online resource entitled: [Current Status of Suicide-Focused Assessment and Treatment](#). This extensive online resource is updated every 6 months and provides easily accessible references and guidelines to help clinicians approach the clinical challenge of a suicidal patient.

**Douglas Jacobs, MD**

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Part-time, Harvard Medical School  
Former Chairperson, APA Practice Guidelines on Suicidal Behavior  
Co-Director, Suicide Focused Assessment and Treatment: An Update for Professionals (October 25, 2023)  
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**Alan F. Schatzberg, MD**

Kenneth T Norris, Jr Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine  
Director, Stanford Mood Disorders Center  
Past President, American Psychiatric Association  
Co-Director, Suicide Focused Assessment and Treatment: An Update for Professionals (October 25, 2023)

**Request from Mississippi Pediatrician to Participate in a Survey by Sept 30th**

Greetings fellow Mississippian physicians,

I am Denise Powell, a community pediatrician on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, as well as a 2023 [Climate and Health Equity Fellow](#); I am asking for your assistance in completing a survey created with the intention of gauging the understanding and priorities of physicians throughout Mississippi regarding the impact of climate on health.

This voluntary and confidential *Physician survey on Climate Health* survey will take fewer than 15 minutes of your time. It can be accessed by clicking the link below depending on the region of Mississippi you live in (Gulf Coast, Central Mississippi, Delta).

You also could win a \$100 Amazon gift card after completion of this survey.

Please complete and submit this survey no later than September 30, 2023.

Links to surveys depending on region

Begin survey for Central Mississippi [here](#)

Begin survey for Mississippi Delta [here](#)

Begin survey for Mississippi Gulf Coast [here](#)

Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Denise Powell, MD

**ARE YOU CROSSING THERAPEUTIC BOUNDARIES?  
12 DANGEROUS SIGNALS – PART IV**

Written by  
Professional Risk Management Services® (PRMS®)

10. You receive gifts, cards, letter, and/or personal phone calls from the patient.

11. You view the patient as “your” patient in a possessive way.

12. You tend to not accept the fact that the patient is a patient.

Review all 12 signals at [https://www.prms.com/media/2747/rm\\_0124-are-you-crossing-therapeutic-boundaries.pdf](https://www.prms.com/media/2747/rm_0124-are-you-crossing-therapeutic-boundaries.pdf)

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**Twitter Accounts of Interest** Main account: [@APAPsychiatric](https://twitter.com/APAPsychiatric)

- Healthy Minds: [@APAHealthyMinds](https://twitter.com/APAHealthyMinds)
- MPA Main account: [@MSPsychiatrist](https://twitter.com/MSPsychiatrist)

**Facebook Pages of Interest**

- Main account: [American Psychiatric Association](https://facebook.com/AmericanPsychiatricAssociation)

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

### **LinkedIn**

- [American Psychiatric Association](#)
- [Mississippi Psychiatric Association](#)

### **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](mailto:jcarty@psych.org)) with any questions you may have.