MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION (117TH CONGRESS)

Updated: 04/28/21
** = New bills since last update

ADDITION & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Foster, Bill (D-IL) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1685, To authorize the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, acting through the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, to award grants to States to expand access to clinically appropriate services for opioid abuse, dependence, or addiction.

Tonko, Paul (D-NY) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1384, Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act: To amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V (such as buprenorphine) for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes.

Trone, David (D-MD) – MH Caucus Member

**HR 2264: To require parity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services provided to enrollees in private insurance plans, whether such services are provided in-person or through telehealth.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Allen, Rick W. (R-GA)

HR 787, Expanding Student Access to Mental Health Services Act: This bill authorizes state and local educational agencies to use Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants to improve mental health services available to students. Specifically, it allows funds to be used for identifying and disseminating best practices for mental health first aid, emergency planning, coordination of services, and telehealth services.

Cárdenas, Tony (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

**HR 1803, To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to promote comprehensive mental health and suicide prevention efforts in high schools, and for other purposes.

Dean, Madeleine (D-PA)

HR 868, END Stigma Act: This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to award grants to institutions of higher education to educate students about substance use disorders.

Ferguson, Drew (R-GA)

**HR 2877, To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools, and for other purposes.

Lawrence, Brenda (D-MI)

**HR 2033: To amend subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings and assessments are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care.
Napolitano, Grace F. (D-CA) – MH Caucus Co-Chair

HR 721, Mental Health Services for Students Act: This bill provides specific statutory authority for the Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Educational Agency Grant Program that is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program supports school-based mental health services, including screening, treatment, and outreach programs.

Peters, Scott H. (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 586, STANDUP Act: This bill requires state, tribal, and local educational agencies that receive grant funding for priority mental-health needs, including through the Project AWARE State Education Agency Grant Program, to establish and implement evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention training policies. In addition, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in coordination with the Department of Education and Bureau of Indian Education, must provide educational agencies with best practices for these trainings.

COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Blunt Rochester, Lisa (D-DE)

HR 907, Investing in Community Healing Act: To address the psychological, social, and emotional needs of racial and ethnic minorities who experience trauma associated with law enforcement violence, and for other purposes.

Brownley, Julia (D-CA)

HR 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act: This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide mental health and suicide prevention outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native veterans. Specifically, the bill requires that each VA medical center have a full-time minority veteran coordinator. The coordinator must receive training in the delivery of culturally appropriate mental health and suicide prevention services to American Indian and Alaska Native veterans. Further, the suicide prevention coordinator and minority veteran coordinator of each VA medical center must develop and disseminate a written plan for conducting mental health and suicide prevention outreach to all tribes and urban Indian health organizations within the area of the medical center.

Cárdenas, Tony (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1331, Strengthening Mental Health Supports for BIPOC Communities Act: This bill requires states and other jurisdictions that receive certain block grants for community mental health services and substance abuse prevention and treatment to report on services and outreach provided through those grants to members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

Napolitano, Grace (D-CA) – MH Caucus Co-Chair

**HR 2529, Mental Health for Latinos Act: To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino population, and for other purposes.

**HR 2480, Immigrants’ Mental Health Act: To expand and improve access to trauma-informed mental health interventions for newly arriving immigrants at the border, to alleviate the stress of and provide education for border agents, and for other purposes.

Watson Coleman, Bonnie (D-NJ) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1475, Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act: To address mental health issues for youth, particularly youth of color, and for other purposes.
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Kuster, Ann McLane (D-NH) – MH Caucus Member

HR 706, Emergency Support for Substance Use Disorders Act: This bill requires the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to award grants to states, other jurisdictions, and community-based entities for harm reduction activities to address drug misuse during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic.

Porter, Katie (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 588, Stopping the Mental Health Pandemic Act: This bill requires the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to award grants to states, tribal nations, local governments, behavioral health and primary care providers, and community organizations to support behavioral health treatment and services during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic.

Ryan, Tim (D-OH) – MH Caucus Member

HR 593, Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Act: To establish the Coronavirus Mental Health and Addiction Assistance Network, and for other purposes.

Tonko, Paul (D-NY) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1716, To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, and for other purposes.

Trone, David J. (D-MD) – MH Caucus Member

HR 434, Preventing Mental Health and Substance Use Crises During Emergencies Act: To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a task force to advise the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use on a national strategy for preventing mental health and substance use crises during a public health emergency, and for other purposes.

Wild, Susan (D-PA) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1667, To address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS

Bera, Ami (D-CA)

HR 1480, HERO Act: To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes.

Boyle, Brendan F. (D-PA) – MH Caucus Member

**HR 2297: To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide coverage and payment under title XIX of the Social Security Act for services furnished to individuals who are patients in institutions for mental diseases during the COVID-19 emergency period and 180-days thereafter, and for other purposes.

Blunt Rochester, Lisa (D-DE)

HR 909, Moms Matter Act: To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, to establish a program to award grants to eligible entities to
address maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders with respect to pregnant and postpartum individuals, with a focus on racial and ethnic minority groups, and for other purposes.

**Cárdenas, Tony (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 1544, Virtual Community Support Act: To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to facilitate the funding of community-based mental health and substance use disorder services and peer support programs, and for other purposes.

**Chu, Judy (D, CA) – MH Caucus Member**

**HR 2767, To clarify the eligibility for participation of peer support specialists in the furnishing of behavioral health integration services under the Medicare program.**

HR 1551, Nutrition CARE Act: This bill provides for Medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy services for individuals with eating disorders. Such services must be furnished by a registered dietitian or nutrition professional pursuant to a referral from a physician, psychologist, or other authorized mental health professional.

**Dean, Madeleine (D-PA)**

HR 523, Community Health Center Mental Health Screening Act: This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to award grants for mental and behavioral health screenings and mental health services to federally qualified health centers.

**Emmer, Tom (R-MN) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 1495, Jim Ramstad Legacy of Recovery Act: This bill allows states to receive federal Medicaid payment for psychiatric and substance-use disorder services provided in institutions for mental diseases (IMDs) to patients who are enrolled with a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) or in a prepaid inpatient health plan (PIHP). Current law generally prohibits federal payment under Medicaid for services provided in IMDs for individuals under the age of 65. However, states may receive federal Medicaid payment for monthly capitation payments to MCOs and PIHPs for services provided in IMDs to enrollees aged 21 to 64. Such services must be provided for no longer than 15 days per month and in lieu of other services covered under the state Medicaid program.

**Jackson Lee, Sheila (D-TX) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 137, Mental Health Access and Gun Violence Prevention Act: This bill authorizes FY2022 appropriations for the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Social Security Administration to (1) increase access to mental health care treatment and services, and (2) promote reporting of mental health information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. To authorize funding to increase access to mental health care treatment to reduce gun violence.

**Latta, Robert E. (R-OH)**

HR 1001, CRISIS Act: This bill increases the authorization of FY2022-2023 appropriations for crisis care under the Community Mental Services Block Grant program for adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances. The bill also requires states and territories to expend a certain percentage of their grant funds on evidence-based crisis care activities such as crisis call centers, 24/7 mobile crisis services, and crisis stabilization programs in hospitals or other licensed facilities.

**Lee, Barbara (D-CA)**

**HR 2035: To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.**
**Napolitano, Grace F. (D-CA) – MH Caucus Co-Chair**

**HR 2611, Increasing Behavioral Health Treatment Act:** To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid Program of items and services for patients in an institution for mental diseases, and for other purposes.

**Norcross, Donald (D-NJ) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 1364, Parity Enforcement Act: This bill provides authority for the Department of Labor to enforce the parity requirements for group health plans with respect to the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

**Ruiz, Raul (D-CA)**

HR 1205, Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act: This bill authorizes a grant program for emergency departments to increase access to follow-up psychiatric services for individuals who present for care of acute mental-health episodes. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration may award these grants.

**Porter, Katie (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 1368, Mental Health Justice Act: This bill creates a grant program for states and local governments to train and dispatch mental health professionals to respond, instead of law enforcement officers, to emergencies that involve people with behavioral health needs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) must manage the program in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ). SAMHSA may cancel grants that increase incarceration or institutionalization. Grantees must use funds for purposes including de-escalation and anti-racism training. The Department of Health and Human Services and the DOJ must evaluate this program.

**Smith, Adam (D-WA)**

**HR 1859: To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, to award grants to States, territories, political subdivisions of States and territories, Tribal governments, and consortia of Tribal governments to establish an unarmed 911 response program, and for other purposes.**

**Thompson, Mike (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 432, Mental Health Access Improvement Act: This bill provides for coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under Medicare. It also excludes such services from the skilled nursing facility prospective payment system, and authorizes marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors to develop discharge plans for post-hospital services.

**Tonko, Paul (D-NY) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 955, Medicaid Reentry Act: This bill allows Medicaid payment for medical services furnished to an incarcerated individual during the 30-day period preceding the individual's release. The Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Payment and Access Commission must report on specified information relating to the accessibility and quality of health care for incarcerated individuals, including the impact of the bill's changes.

**Trone, David J. (D-MD) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 1385, Behavioral Health Coordination and Communication Act: To establish the position of Interagency Coordinator for Behavioral Health to coordinate the programs and activities of the Federal Government relating to mental health, and for other purposes.
**Axne, Cynthia (D-IA)**

**HR 2441: Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act:** To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas.

**Buchanan, Vern (R-FL)**

HR 67, Veteran Overmedication and Suicide Prevention Act of 2021: This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to report on the deaths of covered veterans who died by suicide during the last five years, regardless of whether information relating to such deaths has been reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A covered veteran is any veteran who received VA hospital care or medical services during the five-year period preceding the veteran's death. Among other elements, the report shall include the total number of covered veterans who died by suicide, violent death, or accidental death, as well as certain demographic information.

**Delgado, Antonio (D-NY)**

**HR 2724:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for peer support specialists for claimants who are survivors of military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

**DeSaulnier, Mark (D-CA) – MH Caucus Member**

**HR 2648:** To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices, and for other purposes.

**Garbarino, Andrew R. (R-NY)**

HR 1123, Veteran Suicide Prevention Act: This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to complete a review of the deaths of all covered veterans who died by suicide during the five-year period preceding the enactment of this bill. Covered veterans are those who received VA hospital care or medical services during the five-year period preceding the death of the veteran. The VA shall report on the results of the review and make such report publicly available.

**Gonzalez, Anthony (R-OH) – MH Caucus Member**

**HR 2778:** To require a pilot program on activities under the Transition Assistance Program for a reduction in suicide among veterans, and for other purposes.

**Moulton, Seth (D-MA) – MH Caucus Member**

HR 1309, SERVE Act: This bill provides for inpatient and outpatient treatment of eating disorders under TRICARE for dependents of members of the uniformed services. Dependents are eligible for such care regardless of (1) their age, except with respect to residential service; and (2) whether the eating disorder is their primary or secondary diagnosis. The bill also requires the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Homeland Security (with respect to the Coast Guard) to identify, treat, and rehabilitate members of the armed forces who have an eating disorder. Finally, DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs must jointly develop, publish, and disseminate clinical practice criteria and guidelines on the identification and treatment of eating disorders.
Murphy, Gregory (R-NC)

HR 1014, Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act: This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement a five-year pilot program to furnish, under the Veterans Community Care Program, hyperbaric oxygen therapy to veterans with traumatic brain injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Rutherford, John H. (R-FL) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1022, PAWS Act: This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a grant program for the purpose of pairing service dogs with eligible veterans. Organizations that receive grants must provide veterinary health insurance coverage, hardware, and travel expenses for each service dog and veteran participating in the program. Eligible veterans are those who (1) are enrolled in the VA health care system, (2) have been evaluated and treated for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) but remain diagnosed with PTSD, (3) may benefit from a service dog, and (4) agree to successfully complete training provided by an eligible organization. Veterans are required to see a VA health care provider at least once every six months to determine whether the veteran continues to benefit from a service dog. Eligible organizations are nonprofit organizations that

- provide service dogs to veterans with PTSD,
- meet publicly available standards set forth by the Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans,
- have expertise in the needs of veterans with PTSD,
- agree to cover all costs in excess of the grant amount to guarantee the benefits of the program,
- agree to reaccept or replace a service dog provided to a veteran, and
- submit an application to the VA.

Any improvement in PTSD symptoms as a result of the provision of a service dog shall not affect the veteran's eligibility for any other VA benefits.

The Government Accountability Office must report on the grant program.

Underwood, Lauren (D-IL)

**HR 2749: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the Lethal Means Safety and Suicide Prevention training course of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Waltz, Michael (R-FL)

HR 852, United States-Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act: This bill establishes a grant program for collaborative efforts between the United States and Israel to advance research on post-traumatic stress disorders. The Department of Defense, in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of State, shall award grants to eligible academic institutions or nonprofit entities in the United States. Work shall be conducted by the eligible entity and an entity in Israel under a joint research agreement.

Zeldin, Lee M. (R-NY)

HR 1476, PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act: This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program to make grants to eligible entities for peer-to-peer mental health programs for veterans. Eligible entities include (1) a nonprofit organization that has historically served the mental health needs of veterans; (2) a congressionally chartered veteran service organization; or (3) a state, local, or tribal veteran service agency, director, or commissioner. The VA shall establish an advisory committee to create appropriate program standards.
TELEHEALTH

McKinley, David B. (R-WV)

HR 1647, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the use of telehealth for substance use disorder treatment and mental health services, and for other purposes.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Beyer, Donald S., Jr. (D-VA) – MH Caucus Member

**H.R.2862, To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a national suicide prevention media campaign, and for other purposes.

HR 792, Barriers to Suicide Act: To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to facilitate the installation, on bridges, of evidence-based suicide deterrents, including suicide prevention nets and barriers, and for other purposes.

Bilirakis, Gus M. (R-FL) – MH Caucus Member

HR 1324, Effective Suicide Screening and Assessment in the Emergency Department Act: This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to award grants to hospitals to improve their capacity to identify patients in emergency departments who are at risk of suicide and connect those patients with mental health treatments and services.

Emmer, Tom (R-MN) – MH Caucus Member

HR 220, STRESS under COVID–19 Act: To make supplemental appropriations to carry out farm stress programs, provide for expedited additional support under the farm and ranch stress assistance network, and for other purposes.