



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)**  
***Office of Behavioral Health, Disability, and Aging Policy (BHDAP)***

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To our partners in research and policy analysis:

I am delighted to share with you BHDAP's first 2022 newsletter. This issue highlights eight recent publications, covering behavioral health topics (including Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and integrating SUD and OB/GYN care), and comparing new flexibilities in Medicare Advantage with Medicaid LTSS. This newsletter also includes the 2021 update to the National Plan to address Alzheimer's disease.

We also highlight two podcast interviews with BHDAP researchers on COVID-19 and mental health and how they intersect with children, adolescents, and social determinants of health.

Together, this work demonstrates the breadth and depth of the issues that our team addresses. We are grateful for your interest and partnership!

Dr. Tisamarie Sherry, Deputy Assistant Secretary

***Please share with interested colleagues and/or subscribe below to receive these and other updates from BHDAP.***

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**National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2021 Update** *(posted December 27, 2021)*

[Read National Plan](#)

[Clip of Secretary Becerra on MSNBC](#)

[Stakeholder Briefing Recording](#)

The 2021 National Plan adds a new goal on risk reduction for Alzheimer's disease, which has garnered much interest from stakeholders, Congress, and the Secretary himself, who recorded an interview about the National Plan and his own experience as a caregiver on MSNBC.

**Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)** *(posted December 29, 2021)*

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The annual Report to Congress assessments of: (1) access to community-based mental health services; (2) the quality and scope of services provided by Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics; and (3) the impact of the demonstration programs on the federal and state costs of a full range of mental health services. The interim report describes changes costs and quality bonus payments between the first demonstration year and the second.

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**Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Demonstration Program: Report to Congress, 2020**

[Read Report](#)

**Interim Cost and Quality Findings from the National Evaluation of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Demonstration**

[Read Report](#)

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) *(posted February 3, 2022)***

[Landing Page](#)

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe the range of disability that can result from prenatal alcohol exposure. FASD is an important public health and social issue associated with a large burden on society through the health care system, mental health and substance abuse system, foster care, criminal justice system, and long-term disability care services. This project included an environmental scan of the policies and programs of selected states and technical expert panel comprised of national experts on FASD to better understand how states are addressing this complex problem.

**State Responses to FASD: Effective Strategies and Ongoing Challenges Research Brief**

[Read Brief](#)

**The Role of Health and Human Service Providers in Preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research Brief**

[Read Brief](#)

**Integrating OB/GYN and Substance Use Disorder Services *(posted February 3, 2022)***

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This project used the SAMHSA-HRSA Framework for Levels of Integrated Care and adapted it to the provision of SUD and OB/GYN services. The program scan and literature review identified 10 distinct models of care and a variety of methods for integrating OB/GYN and SUD care. This included emerging and existing models of care, standalone and statewide efforts to integrate OB/GYN and SUD care, services addressing social determinants of health, and partnerships supporting integrated OB/GYN and SUD care. Technical experts and interviewees recommended expanding the definition of integrated care to include various types of providers, clinical and nonclinical support services, payment information, and family member support. Barriers such as stigma and shortage of SUD providers are reviewed with potential opportunities to address them in context of integrated OB/GYN and SUD care.

**Integrating SUD and OB/GYN Care: Policy Challenges and Opportunities Final Report**

[Read Report](#)

**Integrating OB/GYN and SUD Care Policy Challenges and Opportunities Issue Brief**

[Read Brief](#)

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## Comparing New Flexibilities in Medicare Advantage with Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports: Final Report *(posted February 15, 2022)*

[Read Report](#)

CMS has recently given new flexibilities to Medicare Advantage (MA) plans to provide supplemental benefits that address long-term services and supports (LTSS) needs and social determinants of health (SDOH) among their members. However, limited information is available about the extent to which plans have provided or plan to provide these expanded supplemental benefits. Furthermore, Medicaid managed care plans may be concurrently offering similar benefits to Medicaid beneficiaries. This potential duplication is particularly relevant for dual eligible beneficiaries accessing services from Medicare and Medicaid managed care plans. This report synthesizes information gathered from an environmental scan and case studies to provide an overview of early implementation of the expanded supplemental benefits.

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### BHDAP IN ACTION: PODCASTS

#### Covid Mental Health Outcomes and Social Determinants with Dr. Mir Ali *(January 23, 2022)*

[Listen to Podcast](#)

[Read Brief](#)

BHDAP researcher Dr. Mir Ali talked about the mental health impact of COVID-19, structural drivers of health inequities, and how we can better measure social determinants of health SDOH.

#### Children, Adolescents Struggle with Mental Health During Pandemic *(February 7, 2022)*

[Listen to Podcast](#)

[Read Report](#)

KNAU News Talk - Arizona Public Radio spoke with BHDAP researcher Kristina West about findings from a study of more than four million children and adolescents.

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**WHO WE ARE:** ASPE is the principal advisor to the Secretary of HHS on policy development, including major activities in policy coordination, legislative development, policy research, program evaluation, and economic analysis. Within ASPE, BHDAP focuses on policies and programs that support the independence, productivity, health and well-being of people with disabilities, people with behavioral health conditions, and older adults, including those with long-term care needs.

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