

❖ TELEHEALTH

RCPA and Woods Services Teams for Telehealth Research Project

RCPA has teamed with Woods Services to further its strategic message and support of telehealth expansion and the building of a sustainable service platform. The project goal is to utilize information on the intersects of service delivery and payor dynamics, as well as the practitioner and client engagement data to support our efforts on the federal and state levels.

We are requesting that our members complete this brief [telehealth survey](#) to provide our first cut of the data that will go through analysis. Your agency's individual responses will be confidential, and only aggregated information will be shared as part of the report. **The survey will remain open for responses until February 22, 2021.**

This survey has been expanded across the continuum of RCPA policy and human services, and we respectfully request that one survey be completed for each of those program areas in which you are providing telehealth. The data we collect will be instrumental in our efforts with the Department of Human Services (DHS), managed care organizations, and other critical decision makers to ensure that telehealth has a place in your continuum of care.

If you have questions regarding the survey, please call the principal investigator, Dr. Scott Spreat, at 215-801-2401. All other inquiries can be directed to RCPA Children's Division Director [Jim Sharp](#). ◀



Telehealth Sustainability: Telehealth and Pediatric Rehabilitation Beyond the Pandemic *Reflections of the IPRC Steering Committee*

Over the past several months, many pediatric rehabilitation providers plunged deep into the world of telehealth. For many, this was a brand-new service delivery method. With restrictions easing and organizations re-opening their doors and expanding face to face services once again, the question surfaces: so what do we do about telehealth? [View full article.](#) ◀

Telehealth Continues to Deliver

As the Covid-19 pandemic persists, organizations continue to deliver services through a matrix of delivery options, including telehealth.

In a [letter](#) to United States governors, Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Norris Cochran announced their intention to keep the public health emergency (PHE) declaration throughout 2021. [View full article.](#) ◀



NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

March 2021

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

ABA in PA Initiative

132 Savannah Dr
Hummelstown, PA 17036
Cheryl Tierney
President

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Feinberg Shopp Associates

240 N Third St Ste 800
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Bradley P. Shopp
Principal

The SpyGlass Group, LLC

25777 Detroit Rd Ste 400
Westlake, OH 44145
Cody Seiple
Executive Director, Enterprise &
Alliances Sales

PROVIDER MEMBER

I Am Boundless, Inc.

445 E Dublin Granville Rd
Worthington, OH 43085
Patrick Maynard, PhD
President/CEO

About RCPA:

With well over 350 members, the majority of who serve over 1 million Pennsylvanians annually, Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) is among the largest and most diverse state health and human services trade associations in the nation. RCPA advocates for those in need, works to advance effective state and federal public policies, serves as a forum for the exchange of information and experience, and provides professional support to members. RCPA provider members offer mental health, drug and alcohol, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children's, brain injury, medical rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging services, through all settings and levels of care. Contact **Tieanna Lloyd**, Membership Services Manager, with questions about membership.

[View Benefits of Membership](#)

[Join RCPA or Renew Your Membership](#)



STAFF

Richard S. Edley, PhD

President and CEO

Allison Brognia

Event Planner/ Accounts Payable Manager

Melissa Dehoff

Director, Rehabilitation Services Divisions

Sarah Eyster, MSW

Director, Mental Health Division

Carol Ferenz

Director, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Division

Cindi Hobbes

Director, International Pediatric Rehabilitation Collaborative

Tieanna Lloyd

Accounts Receivable/Membership Services Manager

Tina Miletic

Assistant to the President/CEO, Finance Manager

Sharon Militello

Director, Communications

Jack Phillips, JD

Director, Government Affairs

Jim Sharp, MS

Director, Children's Division

Jason Snyder

Director, Drug & Alcohol Division

Joan Martin, XtraGlobex

Consultant, Physical Disabilities & Aging Policy Director

Fady Sahhar, XtraGlobex

Consultant, RCPSO Acting COO

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Pennsylvania 211 Wants You!

Pennsylvania 211 has replaced the previous county resource and referral hotlines. Operated by the United Way of Pennsylvania, they want to get the word out. For providers, please [register](#) so that PA 211 can refer people to your services as needed. They are also asking that you inform your staff and consumers/family members of the availability of PA 211.

If you need to connect with resources in your community but don't know where to look, PA 211 is a great place to start. If you need help with a utilities bill or information on housing assistance, after-school programs for kids, and other programs, dial 211 or text your zip code to 898-211 to talk with a resource specialist for free. The trained specialists will listen to your needs and give you information on programs in your community that might be able to help. Visit the [211 search page](#) to explore programs available in your community by categories such as financial assistance, housing, and food. ◀

DIVERSITY

Diversity. Equity. Inclusion. Belonging.

These concepts are crucial to understand when looking at organizational policies, practices, and culture. Of even greater importance, is recognizing that these concepts are not interchangeable.

Understanding the different meanings, and the strategies employed to achieve each of them, is essential to setting the stage for a healthy and productive work environment. On January 29, RCPA hosted Michael Cohen of Duane Morris to share in greater depth during a recent member webinar.

Michael shared tough and encouraging words with RCPA members: "There was a time where a conversation within an organization about diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging... it was only the really progressive and most forward thinking organizations that were having meaningful conversations about how to achieve these kinds of goals. We're not there anymore. We're in January of 2021 and if your organization, irrespective of size, irrespective of current demographics, if you're not having meaningful discussions about how in a better way to achieve diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging; if you're not talking about the subject of implicit bias and the



recognition that we all have it and that we are going to really have to work... to at least recognize and take steps to fight against this implicit bias and the decisions that are

being made upon implicit biases ...then you're not doing your job...

These are conversations that absolutely must be happening." A recording of this presentation is available on the [RCPA website](#) (Title: RCPA

Member Webinar and Free Training 01-29-21).

For a more in-depth description and explanation of the terms and how to apply them, read: "[What's the Difference Between Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity?](#)" or watch Michael Cohen's webinar. The RCPA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee remains committed to identify, create, and distribute resources to support RCPA members in their individual DEI efforts.

RCPA members should stay tuned for an upcoming DEI Survey, intended to collect baseline data and assess member needs and preferences for DEI resources. We appreciate your time and completion of this important survey to help us better meet your needs. ◀

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

RCPA's Legislative Tracking Reports

RCPA is constantly tracking various policy initiatives and legislation that may have positive or negative effects on our members and those we serve — so for your convenience, RCPA has created a legislative tracking report, which is broken down into specific policy areas. You can review these tracking reports below to see the legislative initiatives that the General Assembly may undertake during the current Legislative Session. If you have questions on a specific bill or policy, please contact [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs. ◀

- ▶ [Adult Mental Health](#)
- ▶ [Brain Injury](#)
- ▶ [Budget](#)
- ▶ [Children and Youth](#)
- ▶ [Children's](#)
- ▶ [Drug & Alcohol](#)
- ▶ [Insurance](#)
- ▶ [Intellectual Disabilities](#)
- ▶ [Labor](#)
- ▶ [Miscellaneous](#)
- ▶ [Regulatory](#)

BRAIN INJURY

Brain Injury Awareness Month

[View](#) the Governor's Proclamation designating March as Brain Injury Awareness Month. Brain Injury Awareness Month is recognized every March to bring attention to the prevention of traumatic brain injury (TBI), as well as promote strategies to improve the quality of life for individuals living with TBI and their families. ◀



PHYSICAL DISABILITIES & AGING

Value-Based Payment White Paper

The members and leadership of the Physical Disabilities and Aging Division have developed an initial White Paper on Value-Based Payment (VBP) in the Community HealthChoices (CHC) program of the Office of Long-Term Living. The two-page document describes the reason for creating the White Paper that aims to set the stage for discussion with our state partners and the managed care organizations on the use of future value-based payment in CHC. An expanded paper with additional detail and information about trends and current uses of VBP will be developed over the next few months. Members interested in joining the writing work group should contact [Joan Martin](#). Read the paper [here](#). ◀

MENTAL HEALTH

Integrated Care and Wellness Clinics (ICWC) and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) in PA

In 2016, Pennsylvania applied for and received an Excellence in Mental Health demonstration planning grant to fund Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). These entities, a new provider type in Medicaid, are designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals. In return, CCBHCs receive an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate based on their anticipated costs of expanding services to meet the needs of these complex populations. [View full article](#). ◀

DRUG AND ALCOHOL

As ASAM Implementation Nears, D&A Providers Remain Frustrated, Concerned

In early 2017, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) announced the beginning of a major transition to the ASAM Criteria, a comprehensive set of guidelines governing the level of care most appropriate for patients and the services provided at those levels.

Improved quality of care through outcome-oriented and results-based treatment was among the many changes this transition promised.

DDAP cited several reasons for the change, from ensuring the necessary federal Medicaid funding through an 1115 waiver to support the continuation of residential services, to the consistency that the most widely used system would bring to the Pennsylvania provider and payer world.

Today, the commonwealth's addiction treatment system is little more than four months away from DDAP's July 1 deadline for implementation, yet providers still have questions about the specifics of many of the changes taking place. Some of these changes go beyond ASAM Criteria, creating additional questions and confusion. [View full article.](#) ◀



INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

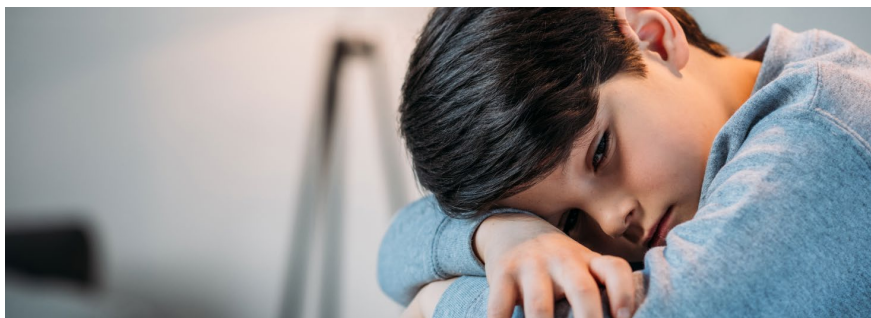
ODEP 20th Anniversary

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) as a sub-cabinet level within the U.S. Department of Labor. In celebration, ODEP is conducting a range of activities throughout 2021 to explore the impact of its work and reaffirm its commitment to improving employment opportunities and outcomes for people with disabilities. These include a monthly blog series, the first of which explores the critical role of credible, consistent data to the agency's work. Read the [blog post](#) or learn more about [ODEP's anniversary.](#) ◀

Against "Community" The biggest buzzword in disability rights is undermining intellectually disabled people.

By Amy S. F. Lutz

When my severely autistic son, Jonah, was first diagnosed at the age of two, we were so hopeful. How lucky we were, to live in the 21st century! Instead of being institutionalized in snake pits like Willowbrook, Jonah and his intellectually and developmentally disabled peers now had the right to educational, vocational, and residential services in "the community"—the biggest buzzword in disability discourse for the past 50 years. It all sounded so warm and fuzzy—until Jonah broke a teacher's nose when he was in kindergarten and it quickly became evident that his cognitive and behavioral challenges would require intensive, specialized services. [View full article.](#) ◀



IBHS Arrives

The Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) regulations went into effect on January 17, 2021 after a one-year implementation period. Recently, the regulations have gone through some adaptations to address the clinical needs of children and families. One such change was the release of a bulletin outlining the approval to deliver 1:1 services for both ABA and Individual IBHS Services in a community or site-based setting, as well as the compatible billing codes.

These bulletins are both retroactive to January 17, 2021; the full bulletins can be found here: [View full article.](#) ◀



RCPA Events Calendar

(event dates and locations subject to change)

RCPA CONFERENCE



HOPING, HEALING, HELPING

SEPT. 28 - OCT. 1

Hybrid Event
(part virtual)