



Fall 2020 Newsletter

Health system transformation in 2020 and beyond: Reshaping policies, practices, and service delivery in SUD treatment

This year has fueled a large shift in how SUD treatment is provided, accessed, and paid for - from the shift to virtual appointments, an uptick in telemedicine prescribing (notably, increased prescribing of buprenorphine), and insurance companies, including Medicaid, allowing billing for telehealth visits. As patients and providers alike settle into, and become accustomed to, more medical appointments taking place virtually, the rapid expansion of telehealth use is a prime example of redefining health system innovation moving forward.

Within a matter of months, SUD treatment services, providers, patients, and payers learned to adapt to this new healthcare landscape during the pandemic. Our Center is eager to further explore, evaluate, and contribute to SUD treatment system innovation through newly-funded studies about Medicaid managed care plans' opioid treatment policies, telemedicine and SUD service delivery expansion.

-Constance Horgan, ScD, Director

Highlights

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Center Spotlight

Maureen Stewart receives NIDA R01 grant to study Medicaid health plan policies and opioid addiction treatment quality



Center researcher Maureen Stewart and colleagues [received an R01 grant from NIDA to study opioid addiction treatment offered through Medicaid Health Plans](#). This study will identify and examine Medicaid plan policies and innovative strategies that may influence access to and quality of opioid treatment. Dr. Stewart hopes state Medicaid directors and Medicaid health plans could leverage findings to implement policies associated with better outcomes for patients.

Constance Horgan presents impact of COVID-19 on SUD service delivery at Congressional Briefing

Center Director Constance Horgan presented “The Impact of COVID-19 on the Delivery of Behavioral Health Services” at a Congressional Briefing entitled [Impact of COVID-19 on Alcohol Use in the U.S.](#) The Friends of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the Research Society on Alcoholism, and the American Psychological Association sponsored the webcast briefing in cooperation with the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery.



Haiden Huskamp receives endowed professorship



Center researcher Haiden Huskamp has [recently been named the Henry J. Kaiser Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard University](#). The Henry J. Kaiser Professorship is given to support a “distinguished faculty member with interests and expertise in the subject of health care administration and management” at Harvard University.

Morgan Shields receives Investigator Award at Addiction Health Services Research Conference 2020

Congratulations to Dr. Morgan Shields, PhD, for receiving an AHSR Investigator Award for her presentation [Patient Characteristics Associated with Admission to Low-Safety Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities: Evidence of Racial Inequities](#). Dr. Shields is an NIMH T32 Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Shields is a graduate of Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management (PhD'20), former NIAAA T32 Predoctoral Fellow, and a recipient of the Center's pilot paper awards.



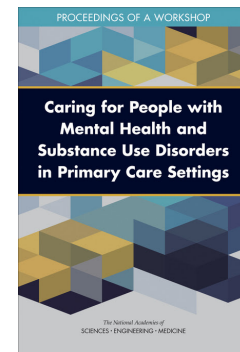
Constance Horgan appointed Co-Director of the Schneider Institutes of Health Policy and Research



Constance Horgan will join Dr. Stuart Altman as Co-Directors of the Schneider Institutes of Health Policy and Research at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. SIHPR incorporates the Institute for Behavioral Health, the Institute for Health Care Systems, and the Institute for Global Health and Development; Dr. Horgan will also continue in her role as Founding Director of the Institute for Behavioral Health. SIHPR has long been a leader in these areas, and we look forward to enhanced collaboration and coordination under the joint leadership of Dr. Altman and Dr. Horgan, reflecting the necessary overlap of health and behavioral health systems of care. The SIHPR expansive portfolio of research and policy projects is aimed at improving our health and behavioral health systems and ensuring they meet the highest standards of health equity.

Sharon Reif serves as panelist at NASEM Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

Sharon Reif was a panelist for the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in August 2020. She commented on delivery system considerations for integrating addiction and mental health treatment into primary care settings, as part of the session "[Addressing Financing, Payment, Practice, and Systems-level Issues, Policies, and Incentives to Support Provision of Essential Components of Care.](#)"



Center Researchers receive NIH supplements focused on service delivery expansion



Sharon Reif and colleagues received a supplement to NIDA

R01DA051067 (Hub and Spoke Opioid Treatment Networks: 2nd Generation Approaches to Improve Medication Treatment for OUD) to expand analyses to better understand co-occurring conditions of mental health disorders, alcohol use disorders, and/or other substance use disorders among people with OUD.

Haiden Huskamp and colleagues received a supplement to NIDA R01DA048533 (Telemedicine for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder) to design and field a survey of clinicians who provide care for opioid use disorder on their experiences with telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Center Activities

Massachusetts Health Policy Forum:

Telehealth in a Post-Pandemic World

co-sponsored by the Brandeis Harvard NIDA Center

Thursday, December 3, 8:30-10:40am EST

[REGISTER HERE](#)



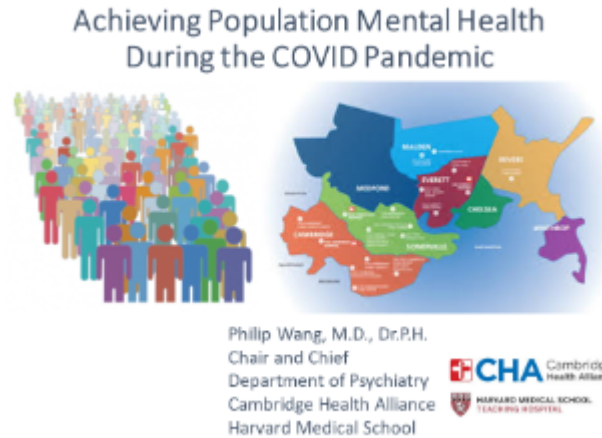
This forum will focus on Massachusetts in a post pandemic world. Information will be presented on how utilization and reimbursement for telehealth services have changed during the course of the pandemic. We will explore what we have learned and highlight best practices and recommendations on policy and practice going forward.

Fall 2020 Symposium:



Achieving Population Mental Health During the COVID Pandemic

with Dr. Philip Wang, MD, DrPH



The Brandeis Harvard NIDA Center hosted its Fall Symposium on Tuesday, November 10th. "Achieving Population Mental Health During the COVID Pandemic," was presented by Dr. Philip Wang, Chief of Psychiatry at Cambridge Health Alliance, former Deputy Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and former Deputy Medical Director and Director of Research for the American Psychiatric Association (APA). A recording of the symposium will be available soon [on our website](#).

Methods Workshop:



Let's put our differences aside and talk about difference-in-differences

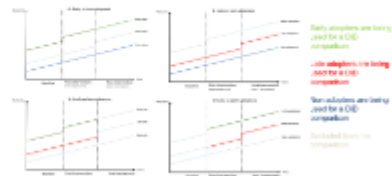
with Dr. Andrew Ryan, PhD

The Brandeis Harvard NIDA Center hosted its Fall Methods Workshop on Friday, November 13th. "Let's put our differences aside and talk about difference-in-differences" was presented by Dr. Andrew Ryan, UnitedHealthcare Professor of Health Care Management in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Director of the Center for Evaluating Health Reform, and faculty lead of the Data and Methods Hub for the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation. A recording of the workshop will be available soon [on our website](#).

Let's put our differences aside and talk about difference-in-differences

Andrew Ryan, Ph.D.
UnitedHealthcare Professor of Health Management and Policy
University of Michigan

Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Workshop
November 12, 2020



Publication Spotlight

New Systematic Review explores association of APMs with MH/SUD service delivery and outcomes



A recent publication in JAMA Network Open, [Association of Alternative Payment and Delivery Models With Outcomes for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders: A Systematic Review](#), evaluates and summarizes the implementation of existing alternative payment and delivery models (APMs) in mental health/substance use disorder (MH/SUD) treatment. Co-written by

Center researcher Alisa Busch, the systematic review identifies the association between APMs and improvements in MH/SUD care quality, as well as reductions in service use and spending on MH/SUD care. The authors also highlight the need for further research to identify successful program components and better elucidate the association between APMs and improved MH/SUD clinical outcomes.

Recent Researcher Publications



[Evaluating the feasibility and impact of case rate payment for recovery support navigator services: a mixed methods study](#)



[Disparities in outpatient visits for mental health and/or substance use disorders during the COVID surge and partial reopening in Massachusetts](#)



[Adoption of telemedicine services by substance abuse treatment facilities in the U.S.](#)



[Treatment of opioid use disorder during COVID-19: Experiences of clinicians transitioning to telemedicine](#)

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MENTEES

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RESEARCH & ACADEMIC
INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED BY
MENTORS

2020 marked the 5th year of the Brandeis Harvard NIDA Center mentoring program at AHSR. Thank you to all who participated in our first virtual program - we're looking forward to mentoring at AHSR 2021!