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IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

December 9, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

Gov. Reynolds steers \$50M in CARES Act funding to Iowa's mental health system

Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that \$50 million in federal funds allocated through the CARES Act will be invested in Iowa's mental health care system.

The CARES Act mental health funding allocation:

- Mental health and disability services regions, \$30 million – The state will distribute an equal-per-capita amount to each mental health and disability services region to support adult and children's mental health services, including covering increased service need because of the stressors and isolation associated with the pandemic. With \$98-99 million of property tax levy dollars going to these regional services, the additional \$30 million investment brings the system funding to nearly \$130 million.
- Mental health providers, \$10 million – For Medicaid providers of non-hospital-based inpatient and outpatient services to cover increased costs associated with the pandemic.
- Substance-use disorder providers, \$10 million – For Medicaid providers of non-hospital-based residential and outpatient services to cover increased costs associated with the pandemic.

HHS asked to delay hospital transparency rule

Last week, the [American Hospital Association](#) and other state hospital associations, including IHA, sent letters to the US Department of Health and Human Services urging a delay to the effective date of the hospital price transparency rule. The delay was requested given the burden that complying with the rule would pose on hospitals and health systems while responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The letters ask that the rule be delayed until the matter is settled by the courts.

CMS clarifies new and expanded flexibilities for RHCs and FQHCs

This week, CMS updated MLN Matters Article [SE20016](#) to clarify how rural health clinics (RHC) and federally qualified health centers (FQHC) can apply the cost-sharing modifier to preventive services furnished by telehealth. This update includes additional claim examples and a new section about the RHC productivity standard.

Gov. Reynolds evaluating new mitigation orders as COVID-19 rises in Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds said Tuesday she is reexamining the state's response to COVID-19 because of growing positive cases, particularly among young adults. Gov. Reynolds is analyzing the state's seven- and 14-day trends with Caitlin Pedati, MD, to decide whether any additional proclamations are needed to mitigate COVID-19. Ten Iowa counties have accounted for 65% of recent new cases, including Polk, Johnson, Black Hawk, Scott and Story counties.

CEO update call

The next CEO update call is scheduled from **1-2 pm Wednesday, July 29**. Register [here](#).

Free webinar opportunities

- Noon-1 pm Thursday, July 9, **Leadership and Resiliency: Navigating Through and Beyond COVID-19 Virtual Series**. This session in the series is titled Update on Coronavirus – What's Next and How to Plan. Marty Makary, MD, a surgeon at Johns Hopkins and a professor of health policy, will be the speaker. This series is being offered for free by IHA in cooperation with more than 30 other state hospital associations and is designed for c-suite health care executives. Register [here](#).
- 1-2 pm Tuesday, July 14, **How COVID-19 is Changing the World for Hospitals**. Drawing on Kaufman Hall's proprietary data, analysis and CEO interviews, this webinar will quantify the effects on hospital volumes, revenues and margins. The presentation will also review the changes to the hospital competitive landscape, outline strategic scenarios for hospitals based on their pre- and post-COVID conditions, and will address methods of planning through uncertainty. Robert Fromberg, chief communications officer of consulting with Kaufman Hall will serve as faculty. Before joining Kaufman Hall, Fromberg was vice president and editor-in-chief at HFMA. He also previously held leadership roles at ACHE. Register [here](#).
- 2-3 pm Tuesday, July 14, **Optimizing COVID-19 Financial Cost Recovery**. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, funding streams from various sources have been made available with different guidelines for eligible uses and reporting requirements. This complimentary webinar will provide a big picture view of the various funding options available to health care institutions from agencies, including Federal Emergency Management Agency, and focus on how hospitals and other health care facilities can develop a recovery strategy that optimizes the use of their available recovery dollars. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, July 15, **Returning to Work: A Comprehensive Protection System in Response to COVID-19**. This webinar discusses the specifics of practical, real-world return-to-work programs implemented on behalf of large, small and mid-sized employers. It provides a full playbook of steps/resources to use and customize for your facility, from temperature checks to quarantine plans, to overall plan implementation, staffing, monitoring and management. Register [here](#).

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