



CMS Snapshot

February 1-8, 2024

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, February 1 through 2pm Thursday, February 8, 2024.

News Releases

*February 1- [ICYMI: Readout of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs visit to Salt Lake City, Utah](#). On January 22, 2024, staff from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Region 8 and the Office of Population Affairs (OPA), with the assistance of Planned Parenthood Association of Utah, convened a roundtable discussion regarding the status of women’s health and reproductive health in the state. The HHS staff also visited West High School and learned about the upcoming opening of their school-based health clinic which will offer integrated primary and mental health care to over 7,000 students in the district.

*February 1- [ICYMI: Readout of ADM Levine’s Community Dialogue in Boise](#). On January 19, 2024, representatives from state and local health care providers and youth-serving agencies and organizations gathered at the Terry Reilly Health Center in Nampa, Idaho for a Community Dialogue on the [Take Action for Adolescents: A Call to Action for Adolescent Health and Well-Being](#). Admiral Rachel Levine, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health, joined OPA staff to provide an overview of *Take Action for Adolescents*.

*February 1- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Black History Month](#). As we pay tribute to the Black trailblazers and visionaries who have shaped our history during this Black History Month, it is imperative to lift-up and recognize the impact of Black leaders in health and reaffirm our work to ensure that our African American and Black communities have access to the care and resources they need.

*February 1- [ICYMI: HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Joined Vice President Kamala Harris on the Fight for Freedoms Tour During Trip to Bay Area](#). On Monday, January 29, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined Vice President Kamala Harris’s “Fight for Reproductive Freedoms” tour in San Jose, California. During the tour, Secretary Becerra delivered remarks on the work that HHS is doing to protect and expand access to reproductive health care.

*February 2- [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$28 Million in Funding Opportunities for Grants Expanding Treatment Services for Substance Use Disorder](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is announcing notices of funding opportunities for two grant programs aimed at expanding substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services among pregnant and postpartum women and through adult and family treatment drug courts. The grant opportunities total about \$28 million and are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to beat the overdose epidemic and tackle the mental health crisis – two key pillars of the President's Unity Agenda for the nation.

*February 2- [HHS Hosts First-Ever 'Food is Medicine' Summit, Launches Three Public-Private Partnerships](#). On Tuesday, January 31, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hosted its first-ever Food is Medicine summit in Washington, D.C., an all-day summit for stakeholders at the intersection between food and health. Secretary Xavier Becerra (pronounced Ha-vee-air Beh-sehr-rah) opened the summit by announcing three new public-private partnerships with Instacart, Rockefeller Foundation, and Feeding America. All three partnerships will support HHS's nutrition goals.

*February 6- [HHS Approves New Mexico's Request to Expand Access to Critical Behavioral Health Services Through Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), today approved a proposal from New Mexico for community-based mobile crisis intervention teams to provide Medicaid crisis services. Today's announcement is the latest in HHS' [ongoing efforts](#) to support President Biden's whole-of-government strategy to transform mental health services for all Americans — a key part of the President's Unity Agenda.

*February 6- [Health Resources and Services Administration Takes Historic New Steps to Transform the Organ Transplant System to Better Serve Patients](#). *Actions will Break up Organ Network Monopoly, Address Inequities in Organ Transplant Waitlist, and Modernize Organ Matching IT.* Today, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is taking historic steps as part of its [Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network \(OPTN\) Modernization Initiative](#), leveraging new legal authority proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and signed into law as part of the *Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act* in September.

*February 6- [HHS Releases the National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People](#). *Seventeen federal departments and agencies developed an interagency plan to combat vector-borne diseases.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the [National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People](#) (VBD National Strategy). As directed by the 2019 Kay Hagan Tick Act—named after the U.S. Senator who died due to complications from a tickborne illness—HHS led a four-year process with civilian agencies and defense departments to deliver this strategy. Co-led by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, the strategy identifies and describes federal priorities to detect, prevent, respond to, and control diseases and conditions caused by vectors in the United States.

*February 6- [Final Rule to Update Regulations for Older Americans Act Programs Rule strengthens the system of supports that help millions of people age in place](#). Today, ACL [released a final rule to update regulations](#) for implementing its Older Americans Act (OAA) programs. The first substantial update to most OAA program regulations since 1988, the rule aligns regulations to the current statute, addresses issues that have emerged since the last update and clarifies a number of requirements. It aims to better support the national aging network that delivers OAA services and improve program implementation, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that the nation's growing population of older adults can continue to receive the services and supports they need to live – and thrive – in their own homes and communities.

*February 6- [HHS' Office for Civil Rights Settles Malicious Insider Cybersecurity Investigation for \\$4.75 Million](#). *The OCR Settlement with Montefiore Medical Center resolves multiple potential HIPAA Security Rule Violations*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a settlement with Montefiore Medical Center, a non-profit hospital system based in New York City for several potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule. OCR is responsible for administering and enforcing health information privacy, including enforcement of the [HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules](#) for the health care sector. OCR plays a unique role in serving as the agency at HHS that enforces federal civil rights, privacy and security laws in health care. HIPAA requires that health care providers, insurers and others take steps to protect the privacy and security of patients' protected health information.

*February 7- [Readout of HHS Secretary Becerra's Meeting with Pharmacy CEOs on COVID-19 Therapeutics Commercialization](#). On Monday, February 5, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra met virtually with pharmacy CEOs, including Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, and pharmacy leaders, to discuss COVID-19 therapeutics commercialization. Secretary Becerra reconvened pharmacy leaders as a follow-up to his larger meeting with pharmacies, pharmacy benefit managers, and insurers on January 9, 2024.

*February 8- [HHS Finalizes New Provisions to Enhance Integrated Care and Confidentiality for Patients with Substance Use Conditions](#). *Final Rule to Implement the Bipartisan CARES Act Legislation*. Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through its Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), finalized modifications to the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Patient Records regulations at 42 CFR part 2 ("Part 2"), which protect the privacy of patients' SUD treatment records. Specifically, today's final rule increases coordination among providers treating patients for SUDs, strengthens confidentiality protections through civil enforcement, and enhances integration of behavioral health information with other medical records to improve patient health outcomes.