

THE 21st CENTURY CURES ACT

H.R. 34

Six Behavioral Health Highlights from the Act

#1



Addresses Opioid Addiction

#2



Establishes Structural Changes to Federal Agencies

#3



Updates Medicaid and HIPAA regulations

#4



Strengthens Mental Health Parity Law

#5



Reauthorizes Funding for Certain Mental Health Programs

#6



Develops the Mental Health and Substance Use Workforce

#1: Innovation Projects and State Responses to Opioid Abuse

\$1 Billion provided for state grants to supplement opioid abuse prevention and treatment programs.

Funding intended for activities such as training for health care professionals, increasing access to opioid treatment, prevention, and improving programs that monitor prescription drugs.



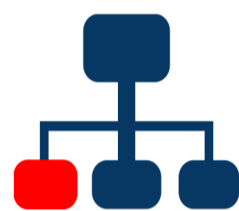
#2: Structural Changes to Federal Agencies



Establishes a new position at SAMHSA, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, which will be a Presidential appointment.

Adds a Chief Medical Officer position and formally creates an interagency coordinating council and a National Mental Health Policy Laboratory.

These structural changes are intended to elevate the visibility of the work performed by SAMHSA and increase the use of evidence-based practices.



#3: Provisions Relating to Medicaid and HIPAA



Requires that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) clarify HIPAA regulations so that health professionals have a clearer understanding of when they can share protected health information with caregivers.

Clarifies that there is no exclusion for Medicaid reimbursement of mental health and primary care services provided on the same day.

CMS must provide guidance to states on using demonstration projects to inform the use of innovative services for inpatient psychiatric care.

CMS must also report on the impact of the new federal rule which will allow reimbursement for inpatient stays at Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs).

#4: Mental Health Parity

Strengthening Enforcement of Mental Health Parity Legislation by:



Requesting guidance from the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, and Treasury, with examples of compliance and non-compliance.



Requiring HHS to create an action plan for improved enforcement of Parity, with identified objectives about how agencies will work together to improve enforcement.

#6: Promoting Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care

More than **\$1 Billion** authorized for grants to help individuals and families.

Funding for programs that support initiatives such as health care integration, jail diversion, community crisis response systems, assisted outpatient treatment, and assertive community treatment.

Over **\$250 Million** authorized in grants to develop the health care workforce.

\$36 Million authorized to improve mental health on school campuses.



Sources

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