



**National
Association
for Behavioral
Healthcare**



Access. Care. Recovery.

Shaping the Future of Behavioral Healthcare

Shawn Coughlin, NABH President and CEO

NABH: Need, Awareness, Bipartisanship, Headwinds

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- Need
- Awareness
- Bipartisanship
- Headwinds



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NEED:

- Covid's Toll
- Ongoing Opioid Crisis
- Suicide



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AWARENESS:

- Telehealth Expansion
- Parity Enforcement
- Greater Awareness Often Leads to Better Access



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BIPARTISANSHIP:

- 988 Behavioral Health Crisis Hotline
- Senate Finance and HELP Committees
- House Energy and Commerce & Ways and Means Committees
- Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force
- State & Local Policies



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HEADWINDS:

- Increased Demand
- Decreased Capacity: Workforce Challenges
- Health Worker Burnout



Building on Covid-19 Experience to Expand Access to Care

Public Health Emergency Flexibilities:

- Continue to expand coverage of telehealth, including audio-only services
- Maintain telehealth reimbursement rates comparable with in-person treatment
- Continue to allow take-home methadone medication
- Continue to allow buprenorphine prescribing via telehealth for new and existing patients
- Maintain regulatory flexibility for practitioners to practice to full extent of license
- Increase behavioral healthcare supports for healthcare professionals



Areas to Address

- **BHIT: What data are important and improve our ability to meet quality requirements?**
- **Have we identified all regulatory barriers to behavioral healthcare delivery?**
- **ACOs: How do they apply to behavioral healthcare?**
- **Are there new workforce improvement initiatives we should pursue?**
- **Can new technologies improve access/delivery of behavioral healthcare?**



Ongoing Challenges

- **Repeal the IMD Exclusion**
- **Eliminate the Medicare 190-day lifetime limit**
- **Increase support for education services in RTPs**
- **Ensure funding for 988 behavioral health crisis hotline**
- **Allow methadone induction via telehealth**
- **Expand the mental health workforce**
- **Enforce parity**



NABH: Shaping the Future

- **Strong and Growing**
- **Building the Behavioral Healthcare Continuum**
- **NABH Members Leading the Way: Access. Care. Recovery**

