LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Progress in behavioral health is in the hands of legislators.

The biggest budgetary concern is assuring that community mental health centers (CMHCs) are sustained and kept out of bankruptcy due to skyrocketing pension costs.”

By Sheila Schuster, PhD

The new year and a new Kentucky General Assembly session are off to a busy—and promising—start for behavioral health. We have seen a larger number of behavioral health bills filed in this legislative session than ever before.

Mental Health First Aid

Rep. Kim Moser’s HB 153 boosts Mental Health First Aid, an evidence-based education program geared toward first responders, school personnel and the general public. It has been likened to CPR, where the individual is trained to recognize the signs of distress and to know how to respond to get help for the individual. The bill also establishes a state trust from which grants could be given for training and courses. The bill unanimously passed the House and is in the Senate.

SB 1 Update

The School Safety and Resiliency Act was passed as SB 1 in the 2019 General Assembly session, but unfortunately, did not include licensed mental health professionals as part of the trauma-informed schools which are the focus of the legislation.

SB 8, filed by Sen. Max Wise, has corrected that oversight and now lists all licensed mental health practitioners as being part of the school team. A recent change in Medicaid reimbursement may provide a reimbursement source for mental health services, if the state’s budget is not able to provide funding.

Conversion Therapy

Two companion bills—HB 199 filed by Rep. Lisa Willner and SB 85 filed by Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr—take on the dangerous and often deadly practice of conversion therapy aimed at convincing youngsters they are not gay.

This is not evidence-based and has been universally condemned by every national mental health professional organization. This coercive, shame-based approach often results in suicide attempts, anxiety, depression and self-loathing among its young victims. Both bills to ban this practice are awaiting action in their respective chambers.

Conversion Therapy

Two companion bills—HB 199 filed by Rep. Lisa Willner and SB 85 filed by Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr—take on the dangerous and often deadly practice of conversion therapy aimed at convincing youngsters they are not gay.

This is not evidence-based and has been universally condemned by every national mental health professional organization. This coercive, shame-based approach often results in suicide attempts, anxiety, depression and self-loathing among its young victims. Both bills to ban this practice are awaiting action in their respective chambers.

Eating Disorders Council

Eating disorders have long been ignored in Kentucky, with little to no treatment available in most communities, forcing families to send their loved ones to treatment out of state.

Compelling testimony by Melissa Cahill and her daughter, Meredith, inspired the filing of SB 82 by Sen. Julie Raque Adams. It establishes a multidisciplinary clinical, advocacy...
Northern Kentucky University’s (NKU) Institute for Health Innovation (IHI) received a new federal grant funded program to continue addressing the opioid epidemic in rural Kentucky.

NKU received $750,000 to help reduce opioid overdoses for those who are involved in the criminal justice system. The Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State Justice Institute and the Institute for Intergovernmental Research awarded the funds to NKU.

The Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) serves as the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) Network coordinator for training and technical assistance (TTA) efforts and collaborates with Bureau of Justice Assistance leadership and fellow TTA providers to support COAP site-based grantees.

The grant will support Owen and Carroll counties through a six-month planning and 18-month implementation phase.

The Institute for Health Innovation at Northern Kentucky University was established in 2018 to encompass teaching, research, outreach, advocacy and policy initiatives around population health. It drives change that directly addresses urgent unmet health needs.

UK HealthCare CECentral and partners were awarded the Outstanding Educational Collaboration Award in 2020 by the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Profession (ACEHP).

This national award recognized a collaborative initiative to improve provider knowledge on diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment, as well as improving access to and utilization of eye screening technology to positively impact patient screening, treatment and referral outcomes related to diabetic retinopathy.

UK HealthCare CECentral receives national award

UK HealthCare CECentral and partners were awarded the Outstanding Educational Collaboration Award in 2020 by the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Profession (ACEHP).

This national award recognized a collaborative initiative to improve provider knowledge on diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment, as well as improving access to and utilization of eye screening technology to positively impact patient screening, treatment and referral outcomes related to diabetic retinopathy.

UofL School of Nursing, Trilogy Health Services dedicate simulation lab

Renovation and upgrades of a simulation lab at the University of Louisville School of Nursing give students more opportunities for hands-on clinical learning. The school dedicated the lab in late February with Trilogy Health Services and the Bufford Family Foundation. Trilogy Management Services, manager of Trilogy Health Services, and the Bufford Family Foundation jointly committed $250,000 for the project.

Leaders of the UofL School of Nursing and Trilogy Health Services also announced an agreement to offer priority admission for Trilogy employees to attend the traditional Bachelor of Science in nursing program.

Beginning in fall 2020, the school will work toward accepting 25 qualified applicants per semester, up to 50 annually. Trilogy Health Services will provide scholarship support and part-time, flexible hours to its employees who meet requirements for admission to the UofL School of Nursing.

The agreement between UofL and Trilogy Health Services is an extension of Trilogy’s recent $10-million work-based learning commitment to hire 200 Kentucky high school students into healthcare jobs as part of the Trilogy Scholar Program. The collaboration with UofL will create a pathway for these students to earn a four-year college degree.

New partnership between Appriss Health, Norton Healthcare

Appriss Health, provider of a platform for opioid stewardship and substance use disorder, is partnering with Norton Healthcare to deploy leading technologies to integrate prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) information into prescribers’ electronic health record (EHR) systems, share PDMP information across state lines, and provide advanced analytic insights to improve opioid stewardship and help identify, prevent, and manage substance use disorder (SUD) for training and technical assistance (TTA) efforts and collaborates with Bureau of Justice Assistance leadership and fellow TTA providers to support COAP site-based grantees.

The grant will support Owen and Carroll counties through a six-month planning and 18-month implementation phase.

The Institute for Health Innovation at Northern Kentucky University was established in 2018 to encompass teaching, research, outreach, advocacy and policy initiatives around population health. It drives change that directly addresses urgent unmet health needs.

UofL School of Nursing, Trilogy Health Services dedicate simulation lab

Renovation and upgrades of a simulation lab at the University of Louisville School of Nursing give students more opportunities for hands-on clinical learning. The school dedicated the lab in late February with Trilogy Health Services and the Bufford Family Foundation. Trilogy Management Services, manager of Trilogy Health Services, and the Bufford Family Foundation jointly committed $250,000 for the project.

Leaders of the UofL School of Nursing and Trilogy Health Services also announced an agreement to offer priority admission for Trilogy employees to attend the traditional Bachelor of Science in nursing program.

Beginning in fall 2020, the school will work toward accepting 25 qualified applicants per semester, up to 50 annually. Trilogy Health Services will provide scholarship support and part-time, flexible hours to its employees who meet requirements for admission to the UofL School of Nursing.

The agreement between UofL and Trilogy Health Services is an extension of Trilogy’s recent $10-million work-based learning commitment to hire 200 Kentucky high school students into healthcare jobs as part of the Trilogy Scholar Program. The collaboration with UofL will create a pathway for these students to earn a four-year college degree.

New partnership between Appriss Health, Norton Healthcare

Appriss Health, provider of a platform for opioid stewardship and substance use disorder, is partnering with Norton Healthcare to deploy leading technologies to integrate prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) information into prescribers’ electronic health record (EHR) systems, share PDMP information across state lines, and provide advanced analytic insights to improve opioid stewardship and help identify, prevent, and manage substance use disorder (SUD) for training and technical assistance (TTA) efforts and collaborates with Bureau of Justice Assistance leadership and fellow TTA providers to support COAP site-based grantees.

The grant will support Owen and Carroll counties through a six-month planning and 18-month implementation phase.

The Institute for Health Innovation at Northern Kentucky University was established in 2018 to encompass teaching, research, outreach, advocacy and policy initiatives around population health. It drives change that directly addresses urgent unmet health needs.

UK HealthCare CECentral receives national award

UK HealthCare CECentral and partners were awarded the Outstanding Educational Collaboration Award in 2020 by the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Profession (ACEHP).

This national award recognized a collaborative initiative to improve provider knowledge on diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment, as well as improving access to and utilization of eye screening technology to positively impact patient screening, treatment and referral outcomes related to diabetic retinopathy.

UK HealthCare CECentral and partners were awarded the Outstanding Educational Collaboration Award in 2020 by the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Profession (ACEHP).

This national award recognized a collaborative initiative to improve provider knowledge on diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment, as well as improving access to and utilization of eye screening technology to positively impact patient screening, treatment and referral outcomes related to diabetic retinopathy.

UofL School of Nursing, Trilogy Health Services dedicate simulation lab

Renovation and upgrades of a simulation lab at the University of Louisville School of Nursing give students more opportunities for hands-on clinical learning. The school dedicated the lab in late February with Trilogy Health Services and the Bufford Family Foundation. Trilogy Management Services, manager of Trilogy Health Services, and the Bufford Family Foundation jointly committed $250,000 for the project.

Leaders of the UofL School of Nursing and Trilogy Health Services also announced an agreement to offer priority admission for Trilogy employees to attend the traditional Bachelor of Science in nursing program.

Beginning in fall 2020, the school will work toward accepting 25 qualified applicants per semester, up to 50 annually. Trilogy Health Services will provide scholarship support and part-time, flexible hours to its employees who meet requirements for admission to the UofL School of Nursing.

The agreement between UofL and Trilogy Health Services is an extension of Trilogy’s recent $10-million work-based learning commitment to hire 200 Kentucky high school students into healthcare jobs as part of the Trilogy Scholar Program. The collaboration with UofL will create a pathway for these students to earn a four-year college degree.

New partnership between Appriss Health, Norton Healthcare

Appriss Health, provider of a platform for opioid stewardship and substance use disorder, is partnering with Norton Healthcare to deploy leading technologies to integrate prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) information into prescribers’ electronic health record (EHR) systems, share PDMP information across state lines, and provide advanced analytic insights to improve opioid stewardship and help identify, prevent, and manage substance use disorder (SUD) for training and technical assistance (TTA) efforts and collaborates with Bureau of Justice Assistance leadership and fellow TTA providers to support COAP site-based grantees.

The grant will support Owen and Carroll counties through a six-month planning and 18-month implementation phase.

The Institute for Health Innovation at Northern Kentucky University was established in 2018 to encompass teaching, research, outreach, advocacy and policy initiatives around population health. It drives change that directly addresses urgent unmet health needs.
Family and Community Medicine receive national award

The Department of Family and Community Medicine’s Primary Care Training Enhancement (PCTE) grant team was received the Outstanding Educational Program Award from the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR). PCTE is part of the College of Medicine at the University of Kentucky. This award honors an innovative program, department or academic institution for their involvement in advancing undergraduate or graduate medical education in prevention and public health which furthers students’ interest in the discipline.

The PCTE program has been working within the department since 2016. The project exists to improve access to primary care providers who are prepared to practice in and lead transforming healthcare delivery. This project, funded by Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), allows trainees to learn about the integration of health disparities and social determinant factors through the clinic and population-based analyses. Trainees also learn to apply transformational methodologies that will drive improved clinical services accordingly.

The department aims to enhance the patient experience, improve population health, reduce costs and improve the lives of all healthcare providers. This project is in collaboration with the UK Colleges of Nursing and Social Work and trains medical students, family medicine residents, social work students, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and other health professions trainees and will prepare faculty to teach these learners.

Humana to participate in CAQH DirectAssure

Humana has joined other national health benefits companies in the effort to improve the accuracy of healthcare provider directories by participating in CAQH DirectAssure.

In recent years, policymakers and other healthcare industry stakeholders have paid increasing attention to the accuracy of health plan directories that members use to find and contact in-network providers, including physicians, hospitals and specialists.

Studies of online directories for Medicare Advantage plans conducted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) found that as much as half of the information contained in network provider directories may be incorrect.

Recent research conducted by CAQH shed new light on one potential cause: The average physician practice updates directory information for 20 health plan contracts, in varying formats and on different schedules for each plan. Although individual health plans have worked to minimize the burden on providers in their network, this fragmented approach taxes physician practice resources and results in errors in the information providers report to the plans.

To address this problem, CAQH DirectAssure offers a single portal where physician practices can enter, update and verify directory information and share it with all contracted health plans at once.

With a network of more than 425,000 providers nationwide, Humana’s participation in DirectAssure will reduce the burden on physician practices and, over time, contribute to improved directory accuracy for all participating plans. Starting in 2020, Humana will launch CAQH DirectAssure nationwide.

Medical News and Health Enterprises Network bring you HealthConomy, a podcast where the top healthcare leaders in the region share their stories and we explore the history of the development of healthcare businesses in the Louisville, Kentucky region.

Read the interviews at medicalnews.md and listen to the podcasts at healthconomy.podbean.com/.
Baptist Health
Louisville Director of Rehabilitation Services Karen Thompson was appointed to Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy.

Hosparus Health
Tawanda Lewis Owseley has joined as vice president of development. In her new role, she will lead all fund-raising efforts at the not-for-profit hospice and palliative care organization.

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Steven Stack, MD, was selected as the agency’s new Commissioner of the Department for Public Health.

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Dallas Selvy recently joined the Family & Children’s Place Board of Directors and serves on the Board Development Committee.

Stites & Harbison
Demetrias Holloway was appointed to the Kentucky Personnel Board by Governor Andy Beshear.

Blue & Co.
Rob Kester was promoted to director.

Stites & Harbison
Mike Risley has been named Executive Member of the Louisville office. He succeeds David Saffer, who has completed his term.

PELL PEOPLE IN BRIEF

know someone who is on the move?
Email sally@igemedia.com

healthy vitals
ProAssurance has been monitoring risk and protecting healthcare industry professionals for more than 40 years, with key specialists on duty to diagnose complex risk exposures.

Work with a team that understands the importance of delivering flexible healthcare professional liability solutions.

When you are treated fairly you are confident in your coverage • 800.282.6242 • ProAssurance.com/Kentucky
Meet Leslie Schwindel, MD, with Harrison Memorial Hospital in Cynthiana

Medical News: Why did you become a doctor?

Leslie Schwindel, MD: To help people! And I love science and medicine.

MN: Why did you choose this specialty?

LS: I was a high school and collegiate athlete and saw my fair share of injuries. Through contact with my orthopaedic surgeon I saw what a great specialty it was and fell in love with it. Plus, bones are cool.

MN: Is it different than what you thought? How?

LS: The specialty, no. But the day to day practice of medicine involves more paperwork and administrative duties than I’d imagined.

MN: What is the biggest misconception about your field?

LS: That orthopods are dumb jocks or meatheads. We’re a very diverse group that’s becoming more inclusive each year. The practice of orthopedics doesn’t involve brute strength and is wonderfully nuanced and complex. Anyone, from any walk of life can do this, and we need more women!

MN: What is the one thing you wish patients knew or understood about doctors?

LS: We’re regular people too! We have families and interests outside medicine.

MN: What’s one thing your colleagues would be surprised to learn about you?

LS: I was a collegiate softball player. I also drove a forklift at a paper factory during a summer in college.

MN: What’s the best advice you ever received? Who gave it to you?

LS: To always try my best and do what makes me happy. My mom.

MN: Who are your heroes in healthcare?

LS: James Andrews, Buddy Savoie, Robert LaPrade

[Editors’ Note: James Andrews, MD, is the co-founder of the American Sports Medicine Institute (ASMI) a non-profit institute dedicated to injury prevention, education and research in orthopaedic and sports medicine. Felix H. “Buddy” Savoie III, MD, is the chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery and chief of Sports Medicine at Tulane University. Robert F. LaPrade, MD, PhD, is a complex knee and orthopaedic sports medicine surgeon at Twin Cities Orthopedics in Edina, Minnesota.]

HOMETOWN: Hawesville, Ky. in Hancock County

FAMILY: Never married, no children, two cats. Aunt to the cutest nephew, Boone, who is 10 months old.

HOBBIES: Knitting, crocheting, painting, UK football tailgating, roasting coffee beans, trivia nights and reading.

EDUCATION: Undergrad: Transylvania University; Med school: University of Louisville; Transitional intern year (Gen Surg): UIC-Mt. Sinai (Chicago); Residency: University of Illinois at Chicago; Fellowship: Cincinnati Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Center.

THREE ITEMS ON MY DESK: Knee replacement components, picture of family and always a cup of coffee.

OUTSIDE THE OFFICE, YOU’LL LIKELY FIND ME: With family, at a coffee shop or reading a book.

Is lack of insurance or out of pocket expense keeping your patients from getting screened for colon cancer?  

GOOD NEWS!

Your patients may qualify for a FREE screening or surveillance colonoscopy if they are:

Age 45 - 75

Uninsured or Underinsured (high deductible plan) (includes those without Medicare Part B coverage)

A Kentucky Resident  

(includes green card holders, work/school visa and refugees)

“Through contact with my orthopaedic surgeon I saw what a great specialty it was and fell in love with it. Plus, bones are cool.”

MN: How do you go the Extra Mile to improve patient care, community health or hospital operations?

LS: I’ve participated in our community health fair, given talks to the community on joint health, was a guest on a local radio show promoting our hospital, and most recently, hosted a splinting seminar for our emergency department staff.

Is lack of insurance or out of pocket expense keeping your patients from getting screened for colon cancer?

SCREENING SAVES LIVES!

Call Kentucky CancerLink 877-597-4655 to discuss eligibility. Financial guidelines are based on individual income.

This program is funded by the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening Program.

Meet Leslie Schwindel, MD, with Harrison Memorial Hospital in Cynthiana

HOMETOWN: Hawesville, Ky. in Hancock County

FAMILY: Never married, no children, two cats. Aunt to the cutest nephew, Boone, who is 10 months old.

HOBBIES: Knitting, crocheting, painting, UK football tailgating, roasting coffee beans, trivia nights and reading.

EDUCATION: Undergrad: Transylvania University; Med school: University of Louisville; Transitional intern year (Gen Surg): UIC-Mt. Sinai (Chicago); Residency: University of Illinois at Chicago; Fellowship: Cincinnati Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Center.

THREE ITEMS ON MY DESK: Knee replacement components, picture of family and always a cup of coffee.

OUTSIDE THE OFFICE, YOU’LL LIKELY FIND ME: With family, at a coffee shop or reading a book.

Is lack of insurance or out of pocket expense keeping your patients from getting screened for colon cancer?  

GOOD NEWS!

Your patients may qualify for a FREE screening or surveillance colonoscopy if they are:

Age 45 - 75

Uninsured or Underinsured (high deductible plan) (includes those without Medicare Part B coverage)

A Kentucky Resident  

(includes green card holders, work/school visa and refugees)

“Through contact with my orthopaedic surgeon I saw what a great specialty it was and fell in love with it. Plus, bones are cool.”

MN: How do you go the Extra Mile to improve patient care, community health or hospital operations?

LS: I’ve participated in our community health fair, given talks to the community on joint health, was a guest on a local radio show promoting our hospital, and most recently, hosted a splinting seminar for our emergency department staff.

Is lack of insurance or out of pocket expense keeping your patients from getting screened for colon cancer?  

GOOD NEWS!

Your patients may qualify for a FREE screening or surveillance colonoscopy if they are:

Age 45 - 75

Uninsured or Underinsured (high deductible plan) (includes those without Medicare Part B coverage)

A Kentucky Resident  

(includes green card holders, work/school visa and refugees)

“Through contact with my orthopaedic surgeon I saw what a great specialty it was and fell in love with it. Plus, bones are cool.”

MN: How do you go the Extra Mile to improve patient care, community health or hospital operations?

LS: I’ve participated in our community health fair, given talks to the community on joint health, was a guest on a local radio show promoting our hospital, and most recently, hosted a splinting seminar for our emergency department staff.

Is lack of insurance or out of pocket expense keeping your patients from getting screened for colon cancer?  

GOOD NEWS!

Your patients may qualify for a FREE screening or surveillance colonoscopy if they are:

Age 45 - 75

Uninsured or Underinsured (high deductible plan) (includes those without Medicare Part B coverage)

A Kentucky Resident  

(includes green card holders, work/school visa and refugees)

“Through contact with my orthopaedic surgeon I saw what a great specialty it was and fell in love with it. Plus, bones are cool.”

MN: How do you go the Extra Mile to improve patient care, community health or hospital operations?

LS: I’ve participated in our community health fair, given talks to the community on joint health, was a guest on a local radio show promoting our hospital, and most recently, hosted a splinting seminar for our emergency department staff.
**BEST OF LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2020**

**Location:** The Kentucky Center, 501 W. Main St., Louisville, Ky. 40202  
**Info:** Hundreds of leaders will gather for discovery, growth and harnessing the power of connection. bestsummit.org

**KENTUCKY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION QUALITY CONFERENCE**

**Location:** The Campbell House, 1375 S. Broadway, Lexington, Ky. 40504  
**Info:** kyha.com

**PHARMACY ROUND TABLE**

**Time:** Noon to 4 pm  
**Location:** Kentucky Primary Care Association, 651 Comanche Trail, Frankfort Ky., 40601  
**Info:** k pca.net

**Webinar: 340B Regulatory Update**

**Time:** 2 to 3:30 pm  
**Info:** kyha.com

**Kentucky Health Collaborative Conference: Humanizing Healthcare**

**Time:** 5:30 to 7:30 pm on March 10; 7:30 am to 4 pm on March 11  
**Location:** The Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40207  
**Info:** Addresses how to redesign a healthcare system that treats patients and families with respect, optimizes outcomes, addresses social determinants of health and activates patients in a healthcare system with providers energized and engaged in mission-driven work. k hcollaborative.org

**Palliative Care Leadership Centers (PCLC) at Bluegrass Care Navigators**

**Info:** For questions about the availability of specific training dates contact Turner West at twest@hospicebg.org, 859-276-5344 or toll free at 866-476-1878.

**Workforce Connections**

**Time:** 8:30 to 10 am  
**Location:** Gilda’s Club Louisville, 2440 Grinstead Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40204  
**Info:** Addresses how to build and scale internships. Greaterlouisville.com

**Kentucky Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program (KHAMP)**

**Time:** 8 am to 6 pm  
**Location:** UK Center for Rural Excellence, 750 Morton Blvd., Bailey Stumbo Building, Room 214, Hazard, Ky. 41701  
**Info:** Experts in viral hepatitis will discuss HCV management and treatment. Kyrha.org

**KHA Psychiatric/Chemical Dependency Hospital Forum**

**Time:** 11:30 am to 2 pm  
**Info:** KHA Headquarters, 2501 Nelson Miller Pkwy., Louisville, Ky. 40223  
**Info:** kyha.com

**Woman Physician Leadership Series**

**Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Location:** The Signature Club, 3256 Lansdowne Dr., Lexington, Ky. 40502  
**Info:** Sandra Shuffett, MD, Perspectives on Leadership. Lexingtondoctors.org

**Kentucky Health Care and Wellness Conference**

**Location:** Hilton Lexington, 369 W. Vine St., Lexington, Ky. 40507  
**Info:** https://10times.com/annual-kentucky-health-care-and-wellness

**Advisory Council for Medical Assistance**

**Time:** 10 am to 12:30 pm  
**Location:** Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Public Health Building, Meeting room A B, 275 E. Main St., Frankfort, Ky. 40621  
**Info:** K pca.net

---

**HAVE AN EVENT FOR OUR PRINT OR ENEWS CALENDAR?**

Email news@igemedia.com
UK launches first online social work program in state

The College of Social Work (CoSW) at the University of Kentucky is launching an online Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) program to address the critical shortage of social workers across the country, as well as in Kentucky.

A recent study from the Bureau of Labor Statistics found a 16 percent increase in the need for social workers nationwide since 2016. Social work practitioners with advanced training and education are especially in demand.

The first of its kind in the state, the program will successfully prepare students for advanced social work practice, clinical research, administrative leadership and executive roles. The DSW program is designed to prepare students to creatively address society’s most complex social issues.

The growth in child abuse and neglect cases, the opioid epidemic and complex mental health issues are overwhelming social workers with complicated caseloads. To lessen the burden, the DSW program will provide social work practitioners the opportunity to build upon their skills by receiving specialized training in one of three areas: administrative leadership, advanced clinical practice or military behavioral health (MBH).

In a continued effort to make UK programs accessible and attainable, the DSW is fully online and can be completed in two years (full time). There are also part-time options available.

Kentucky lawmakers consider Division of Telehealth Services

Roughly two years after passing a law defining telehealth and establishing payment and coverage parity, Kentucky lawmakers are considering creating a cabinet-level department to oversee connected health programs.

Senate Bill 123, which was passed unanimously by the Senate and has now moved on to the House, would confirm various executive orders relating to the reorganization of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. One of those orders would create a Division of Telehealth Services within the Office of Health Data and Analytics.

The bill follows up on SB 112, the telehealth bill approved by the Legislature in 2018 and signed into law by Governor Matt Bevin. That bill, among other things, established a definition for telehealth that includes asynchronous (store-and-forward) telemedicine technology, allowed the patient’s home to be classified as an originating site for telehealth delivery and created coverage and payment parity for the Medicaid, Medicaid managed care organizations and commercial health plans.

The new law, which went into effect in 2019, also eliminated the requirement that all new telehealth programs covered by Medicaid and commercial health plans originate with the commonwealth’s telehealth network—thereby giving healthcare providers more freedom to pursue their own projects.

Kentucky isn’t the only legislative body looking to coordinate its telehealth efforts. Earlier this month, a bill introduced in Congress aims to take the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT) out from under the purview of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and put it under direct supervision of the Office of the Health and Human Services Secretary.
Legislative update

Continued from cover and research council to make policy recommendations and provide public education. The bill passed the Senate unanimously and is headed to the House for action.

Homeless Youth
Access to mental health services is almost impossible for homeless youths because they do not have a parent or guardian to give permission. Rep. Joni Jenkins’ HB 213 would close this gap by giving these youths the ability to consent for behavioral health treatment on their own. The bill has passed the House and is in the Senate for consideration.

Severely Mentally Ill
The issues of the severely mentally ill in our state have often been neglected and rarely adequately funded. HCR 49, sponsored by Rep. Kim Moser, would create a task force to meet during the interim session to look at issues such as access to medications, lack of supported housing, crisis services, implementation of Tim’s Law and a host of other pressing needs. The resolution has unanimously passed the House and is in the Senate.

Compact States
Rep. Walker Thomas has introduced HB 110 to bring Kentucky into a compact with a growing number of states to make it easier for licensed psychologists to provide services across state lines in other compact states.

This would help increase the pool of psychological expertise for diagnostic testing and treatment in Kentucky, especially through telehealth in rural and underserved areas. The bill is awaiting action in the House.

Promising Budget
The Governor’s budget claims to have no cuts. This is great news to the behavioral health community, which has seen numerous budget cuts to programs over the past dozen years. The biggest budgetary concern is assuring that the community mental health centers (CMHCs) are sustained and kept out of bankruptcy due to skyrocketing pension costs.

The CMHCs, along with other quasi-governmental agencies, had their pension contribution frozen at 49 percent. This budget puts their pension contribution at 84 percent and would give them funding for part of that increase, leaving a shortfall for the CMHCs of $13-14M...which they have no way of paying.

HB 171 filed by Rep. Jim DuPlessis attempts to "find a way out" for CMHCs and other quasi agencies, but this is only a fix if full funding is in the final budget. Executive and legislative leadership must assure the sustainability of the state’s safety net behavioral health system!

— Sheila Schuster, PhD, is a licensed psychologist and executive director of the KY Mental Health Coalition.

TAKE ACTION
Follow the legislative action on KET and on the legislature’s web site legislature.ky.gov and make your voice heard by calling your legislators and committee members at 1-800-372-7181!
When helping your patients see clearly, make each moment matter.

PNC can help.

We’re making business banking easier.
At PNC, our team of dedicated Healthcare Business Bankers understands your business challenges and the important role that cash flow plays in your success. That’s why we offer a range of solutions to help optimize management of your practice’s revenue cycle and payables, so your business can run with less complexity and payments can be received promptly.

Learn more at pnc.com/hcprofessionals or by calling 877-566-1355

©2020 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved. PNC Bank, National Association. Member FDIC.
Leadership profile

Don Rogers with New Vista discusses trends in the behavioral health community.

By Sally McMahon

Behavioral health organizations are changing to meet the increasing need for behavioral health services, with more emphasis on person-centered approaches and outcome-driven services.

We spoke to Don Rogers, chief clinical officer at New Vista. New Vista assists individuals and families in the enhancement of their emotional, mental and physical well-being by providing behavioral health, substance use and intellectual and developmental disability services. Below are the highlights.

Medical News: How has New Vista changed to meet the increasing need for behavioral health services?

Don Rogers: I have worked at this organization since 1994 when I first completed graduate school. I have seen major shifts in clinical philosophy and program design particularly over the last seven or eight years.

As far as clinical philosophy, there is much more emphasis on person-centered approaches and outcome-driven services. With the advent of Medicaid managed care, decrease in individuals without a third-party payer because of Medicaid expansion, and reduction in public funds to support the indigent population, many of the old community-based programs and treatment approaches had to be abandoned or significantly altered so the highest level of efficiency in helping as many clients make as much positive change as quickly as possible has become the focus.

There have been growing pains, but New Vista’s leadership team and clinical providers have stepped up to the challenge. We are stretching our resources in a responsible way to make the biggest difference in our communities.

Medical News: What trends have you seen in the behavioral health community that you have adopted at New Vista?

Don Rogers: One of the trends we were early adopters of is the use of routine outcome monitoring as a clinical feedback system in treatment. This process has been demonstrated to have a significant positive impact on the outcomes of clinical care through multiple randomized clinical trials.

We adopted a feedback model called Partners for Change Outcome Monitoring System (PCOMS) in 2013. Two years ago, The Joint Commission established a standard that requires behavioral health providers to use a routine outcome monitoring system, and we were well prepared to meet that standard.

PCOMS and person-centered recovery philosophy go hand in hand to both ensure that clients have a voice in their own recovery, and that efficiency of treatment is maximized in addition to the overall enhancement of treatment outcomes.

On the horizon is integration of behavioral and physical healthcare. There are more providers trending in this direction and payors are slowly starting to restructure payment models to support this integration. New Vista recently was awarded a grant to pilot an integrated care function in our substance use disorder services.

Also, on the horizon is increased use of telehealth as a mode of treatment. For many years, psychiatry services via telehealth have been reimbursable across most payors in Kentucky, but only last year was there an expansion of coverage of telehealth services for all other behavioral health services by Kentucky Medicaid.

New Vista has started providing routine outpatient therapy services through telehealth and is a partner with the University of Kentucky in a telehealth pilot that will help advance clinical protocols and training for behavioral health clinicians as we advance this mode of service.

Medical News: As it relates to your work, what issues keep you up at night?

Don Rogers: There remains some destabilizing factors in the behavioral health safety net. For example, most of the 14 CMHCs that serve Kentucky participate in the Kentucky Retirement System and are subject to extreme increases in the costs associated with that participation.

Although New Vista is in a strong position to meet the challenges that come with this, some CMHCs and other participating quasi-governmental agencies face significant threats.

Another big disrupter has been workforce challenges. There is a strong market for qualified staff at all levels, but there is a shortage of professional clinical staff and a growing number of provider agencies in Kentucky that are competing for the same staff.

Continued on page 11
Although it is a good thing that our communities have more clinical professionals available, with a constant churn of staff moving from one provider agency to another the full capacity of those providers is never fully met. There are also sometimes major differences in funding resources available to provider agencies resulting in huge ranges of salaries across agencies in the same basic market.

**MN:** What does Kentucky need to do to improve access to behavioral health services in Kentucky?

**DR:** Support the community mental health system through stabilizing the Kentucky Retirement System and providing adequate funding to carry out robust safety net services.

We provide the core safety net services to individuals in our communities. We need robust resources to carry out these functions so that all individuals, including the most vulnerable in our communities, have high quality mental health, substance use and Intellectual and Developmental Disorder services. This requires a full commitment on the part of our communities, legislators and government.

**MN:** If you could change anything about our healthcare system, what would you change?

**DR:** Regarding healthcare, I think there are no losers in a society that has universal healthcare. I have no strong opinions about the model, but almost every advanced society has figured out how to ensure that 100 percent of the people in their communities have healthcare regardless of their financial resources or circumstances.

**MN:** What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

**DR:** I am proud to be part of the team that has successfully led this organization through major systemic changes and to have come out of those changes with improvement in the quality of services we provide.
Trauma and ACEs

Grant shown to mitigate impact of childhood trauma.

By Ben Chandler

Moreover, results of the six-year grant show that adults don’t have to be child health professionals to help kids build the kind of resilience that can mitigate long-term health impacts. “

The Foundation grant funded Bounce training and resilience support strategies and interventions at three Jefferson County elementary schools and for 1,000 YMCA of Greater Louisville staff members who provide before and after-school care.

The success of the program led Jefferson County Public Schools to incorporate Bounce training for district-wide professional development. And Louisville Metro now requires the training for youth care worker certification and externally funded agency executives.

Shift in Thinking

Abuse, neglect, bullying, witnessing violence and parental drug use or incarceration can cause toxic stress that literally rewires a child’s developing brain. This can lead children to adopt risky behaviors, such as drinking, overeating and smoking to manage their emotions.

Recognizing that—understanding that the disruptive behaviors may emanate from trauma—can lead adults to approach youth from a new perspective of “what happened to you?” rather than “what’s wrong with you?” This achieves better results and prevents re-traumatization that could deepen the child’s trauma.

What does this look like in real life? Caring adults who offer a physically and emotionally safe place for the child to play, learn and express what’s going on in their lives. Caring adults who focus on children’s strengths and work to build their confidence. Caring adults who help struggling kids make decisions about better ways to express sadness, frustration and anger. And caring adults who hear children out and give them choices, whenever possible, to help them feel empowered.

That doesn’t mean that kids with a history of trauma should be allowed to misbehave or hurt themselves or others. Clear, consistent and fair expectations are essential. But those expectations must be established and communicated with compassion. Bounce training teaches de-escalation strategies that make everyone feel safer. And the program teaches adults in all kinds of caring professions the importance of self-care to address secondary trauma that often results from on-going exposure to the trauma of others.

Just One Person

Bounce co-leader B.J. Adkins is often heard quoting research demonstrating that every child needs the consistent presence of just one caring adult, the single most effective resilience-building factor.

Now that Bounce has established a successful ACEs program in the urban area of Louisville, the Foundation is funding implementation of the program in rural Kentucky—in the Lake Cumberland region through the district health department and in Russell County Schools.

In addition, training on ACEs is expanding to hospitals, faith communities and businesses—all the places where people who’ve experienced adversity can be better supported through a healing-centered, trauma-informed approach.

Together, these demonstration projects are providing strategies and tools to help children experiencing ACEs to thrive, and giving them an opportunity to live healthier lives. As parents, neighbors, educators and friends, we can build on that work by being one more caring adult for every child we encounter and love in our lives.

— Ben Chandler is president and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.
Filling the gap
Centerstone Kentucky Stabilization Units create better outcomes for people in crisis.

By Shannon White

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed The Community Mental Health Act that shifted funding and services from institutionalized settings to community-based behavioral health services.

It helped people with mental illness who were “warehoused” in hospitals and institutions move back into their communities to seek treatment.

However, one of the unfortunate trends of deinstitutionalization has been a persistent gap in emergency crisis services. This gap in services leaves those in a behavioral health or an addiction crisis to receive treatment in hospital emergency rooms.

Providing behavioral health and addiction crisis assessment and treatment in busy emergency departments that produce long waits for care can be a challenging environment for those in need of immediate treatment for psychological or substance misuse needs.

Centerstone Steps Up

Centerstone Kentucky has built two facilities to fill that gap. The Addiction Stabilization Unit, located at The Addiction Recovery Center (previously JADAC) allows Peer Support Specialists, who are in long-term recovery, to be deployed to local emergency rooms to meet with people suffering from a substance use disorder.

“It’s such an incredible opportunity to meet someone right where they are to offer them immediate treatment,” said Scott Hesseltine, VP, Addiction Services for Centerstone Kentucky.

One Centerstone Kentucky Peer Support Specialist said, “Keep in mind, a lot of these people have no one left, and so to have a stranger show up at their bedside in the hospital to say, ‘Man, I know exactly what that feels like,’ and help them see that there is a better way is awesome. I understand what it’s like to be in the emergency room with one set of clothes. I know what it’s like to be a convicted felon without an address or cellphone, and desperately want to say yes to treatment.”

Once a person agrees to treatment, they are brought to the Addiction Stabilization Unit (ASU) to ensure they are medically stable and then a treatment plan is developed. The ASU uses a person-centered approach making sure the person seeking treatment is actively involved in their process of recovery.

Some people stay in the ASU for as little as 90 minutes, while others can stay for up to 23 hours.

“What we find is that the window of opportunity, what we call a ‘moment of clarity,’ where someone says, ‘Hey, I want help. I want to take action,’ can close very quickly. The ASU allows people who are ready for treatment to be connected to services immediately in a supportive environment,” Hesseltine explained.

Since June, the Centerstone Kentucky Addiction Stabilization Unit has served over 900 people in a substance use crisis. By capitalizing on that critical window of opportunity for treatment, the ASU is offering an alternative to emergency department overcrowding and allowing clients to start their recovery journey in a safe and secure setting.

Focus on Children

Centerstone Kentucky also operates a Crisis Stabilization Unit for youth under 18 who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Often, when children experience a behavioral health crisis, parents and caregivers may not know what to do, or who is available to help meet the family’s needs. The Centerstone Kentucky Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) is an alternative to an emergency room visit or inpatient psychiatric hospitalization and can help families return to a pre-crisis level of functioning.

Children at the CSU receive a combination of individual therapy, family and group therapy, nursing services and psychiatric evaluations with medication management follow-up. The length of stay can vary, but typically is less than five days.

In 2013, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) recognized Crisis Stabilization Services as “not only clinically effective but cost effective as well.”

The Centerstone Crisis Stabilization Unit is specifically designed to meet the needs of children and their parents/caregivers. This allows children to avoid more restrictive and costly interventions while ensuring connection to necessary services and supports.

The CSU is effective at providing suicide prevention services, addressing behavioral health treatment and tackling the distress experienced by families involved in a behavioral health crisis. It allows kids to get back to a place before the crisis and benefits the entire family as well.

A recent 12-year-old CSU client said, “It’s crazy how much I have changed and figured out about myself in five days. I feel much better now.”

Both the Centerstone Kentucky Addiction Stabilization Unit (ASU) and the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) for children are effective at providing immediate substance use disorder treatment, addressing behavioral health issues, and diverting individuals from entering a higher level of care across our community. These programs are filling a gap for patients across the region and allowing them to begin the road to recovery.

“We are seeking experts in the architecture field to share knowledge with our readers in the May issue. Contact sally@igemedia.com for more information.”

— Shannon White is VP of marketing and external affairs at Centerstone.
Healthcare CEOs announce opening of Corporate Innovation Center

The Louisville Healthcare CEO Council (LHCC) announced the opening of the LHCC Corporate Innovation Center.

This collaborative space located on E. Jefferson Street in downtown Louisville is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for the emerging innovation district in NuLu. Both Mayor Fischer and the LHCC member companies share a vision of connecting corporations, innovators and entrepreneurs in one shared collaborative innovation district.

“We chose this initial space because of its proximity to the University of Louisville Life Sciences Campus, the University of Louisville Trager Institute and the Thrive Center,” said LHCC CEO Tammy York Day. “We’ll be able to leverage our partnerships with the University of Louisville, Story Louisville, LEAP and the new Microsoft Workforce Initiative to forge meaningful connections to create and scale healthcare solutions.”

This is the next step in building out a healthcare innovation community and the second major initiative announced late last year as part of the LHCC’s strategic plan to create a strategic investment fund, open a corporate innovation center and leverage the success of the 2019 CareTech Pitch to expand to a top Aging Innovation in Healthcare International Summit in Louisville.

Chairman’s Circle

Led by Randy Bufford, founder, former CEO and current chairman of the board of Trilogy Health Services, the Chairman’s Circle is comprised of former CEOs and founders who have transitioned out of their full time roles and choose to mentor entrepreneurs identified as having the relevant innovations for solutions to healthcare gaps uncovered in the LHCC corporate innovation discovery work.

“As members of the Chairman’s Circle, our roles will be many. We’ll be ambassadors for the Louisville Healthcare CEO Council, and for our great city itself. We’ll serve as mentors, helping to guide and grow entrepreneurs and innovators in the healthcare space. We’ll act as researchers, exploring investment opportunities and ideas that have potential. And importantly, we’ll operate as community connectors, forging crucial links between new companies, their leaders and the resources they need to succeed here in Louisville. I am honored to serve as chair for such a dynamic group of servant leaders, and am humbled to serve the city of Louisville,” said Bufford.

Corporate Innovation Discovery

LHCC’s member companies represent the entire continuum of care. LHCC is using this unique advantage to identify healthcare gaps and business challenges in individual member companies, but also to examine opportunities for high-impact innovation on a systems level; specifically, relative to a growing aging demographic.

This initiative is led by William Altman, former chief strategy officer for Kindred Healthcare and current chief strategist for the LHCC innovation committee. This work will also help inform the call for innovations for the 2020 CareTech Pitch 2.0.

This year, CareTech Pitch 2.0 will take place as part of the Aging Innovation in Healthcare Summit, the third initiative planned by the LHCC in 2020. The invitation only Aging Innovation in Healthcare Summit is set for April 29-30 and includes industry leader keynote and fireside chat events along with the much anticipated CareTech 2.0.

Kiel Dowlin, CEO of HomeHero and early stage innovation winner of CareTech stated, “The CareTech Pitch in 2019 along with access to LHCC CEOs was a launching point for our business and continues to be a driving force behind our significant growth since May of last year. This experience has confirmed my beliefs that Louisville has become one of the greatest drivers of innovation in the aging care space and its community of established companies are committed to continuing to support and invest in local solutions.”

The Corporate Innovation Center and the Aging Innovation Summit are two examples of how Louisville’s healthcare CEO’s are leveraging the healthcare ecosystem in Louisville to produce the solutions that address national healthcare challenges across the entire continuum.

ABOUT LHCC

The Louisville Healthcare CEO Council (LHCC) consists of 12 organizations committed to improving the healthcare ecosystem. The CEOs who make up the LHCC board of directors organized the council to leverage the strength and assets of their organizations to be a powerful voice to transform Louisville’s health economy and position the city as the premier center for aging innovation. The LHCC is a catalyst for growth in the aging innovation healthcare sector, fostering collaboration and facilitating resources for everything from game-changing ideas and start-ups to mature operations and products. Member companies include:

- Anthem BC/BS Kentucky
- Apellis
- Baptist Health
- BrightSpring
- Galen College of Nursing
- Hosparus Health
- Humana
- Kindred Healthcare
- Norton Healthcare
- Passport
- Signature Healthcare
- Trilogy Health Services

News in Brief continued on page 16
Our newest 28-day substance use treatment program is accepting clients from anywhere in Kentucky. At New Vista, we see the good ahead in the lives of our clients. Since 1966, our mission has been to help Kentuckians live their best lives.

We see the good ahead.

24-Hour Helpline
1.800.928.8000
newvista.org

Schwartz Center for Women
3479 Buckhorn Dr.
Lexington, KY 40515
Mayor and public health officials unveil Healthy Louisville 2025

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Dr. Sarah Moyer, director of the Department of Public Health and Wellness and the city’s Chief Health Strategist and community members and partners recently unveiled Healthy Louisville 2025, the city’s five-year community health improvement plan. The community identified four focus areas:
- Build Healthy Neighborhoods
- Ensure Equitable Housing
- Achieve Environmental Equity
- Create Healthy Schools

Healthy Louisville 2025 includes interactive data elements around those priority areas, goals, metrics and evidence-based strategies to achieve them including:
- Creating more “complete streets” that make it safe for people to safely travel by bike, wheelchair, walking or public transportation as well as reducing the number of pedestrian and bike crashes and fatalities.
- Reducing pollution and environmental hazards.
- Creating more equitable, safe housing by increasing the number of Black residents who enjoy home ownership and reducing rental home eviction rates.
- Achieving equitable outcomes in education by assuring every JCPS student has access to health services connected to social and economic supports.

Healthy Louisville 2025 is an online plan where progress will be tracked, and updates made regularly. Learn more about Healthy Louisville 2025 at healthylouisville2025.com.

Health Enterprises Network celebrating 20 years

Health Enterprises Network (HEN) is entering its 20th year of being the champion for healthcare economic growth. In April 1999, David A. Jones, chairman of Humana, invited the health-related community of Greater Louisville to discuss forming an alliance to foster growth and prosperity for existing, relocating, and start-up health-related companies in the community. The invitation was well received and the consensus of the leaders at that meeting was to go forward with a visioning process.

A visioning committee was convened to determine the best methods of creating and sustaining a health-related network. The committee recommended the formation of the Greater Louisville Health Enterprises Network in March 2000.

To highlight contributions and accomplishments from the past 20 years, HEN will be highlighting historical facts throughout the year and planning a celebration later this year.

Arrasmith merges with Indianapolis-based firm

Arrasmith, Judd, Rapp, Chovan Inc. is merging with Indianapolis-based architecture and engineering firm Schmidt Associates.

Under the merger, the Louisville office will be referred to as Arrasmith, a Schmidt Associates Company.

Schmidt opened in 1976 and has been at its location in downtown Indianapolis since 1980, where it has worked on various projects to revitalize the central business district.

The combined firm will collectively employ 110 employees specializing in architecture, engineering, interior design, construction administration, and administrative. Rather than merge office space, however, the respective offices in Louisville and Indianapolis will remain where they are.

Kosair Charities grant for Pikeville Medical Center

Pikeville Medical Center was awarded a $21,000 grant from Kosair Charities to purchase a Panda Warmer for its emergency department. The new warming station will allow the emergency department to treat infants while keeping them warm.

Warmth, especially in infancy, is a key factor in keeping patients comfortable. The Panda Warmer allows the babies to be free of blankets, granting better access to whatever area the department is treating. It also has multiple attachments and positions that allow babies to stay inside instead of being transferred into several machines.

Trilogy Health reorganizes, rebrands subsidiaries

Trilogy Health Services has reorganized and rebranded two subsidiaries under a new corporate umbrella.

PCA Pharmacy, an institutional pharmacy, and Paragon Rehabilitation have been placed under a common parent brand called Synchrony Health Services.

Louisville-based Trilogy has approximately 120 senior living and rehabilitation campuses in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.
Anthem to address health disparities

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield’s Medicaid plan in Kentucky, together with the Anthem Foundation, will invest $2 million in 2020 to address health disparities across the commonwealth, with a heightened focus on school-aged children.

This is the latest investment the company has made in the health of Kentucky residents. Since 2014, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield has invested $1.7 million and the Anthem Foundation an additional $6.4 million, in grants and sponsorships addressing issues such as food insecurity, access to healthcare, fighting the opioid epidemic and homelessness. In addition, Anthem associates have spent 15,840 hours volunteering in their communities.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield’s Medicaid plan will collaborate with Kentucky community organizations to fund innovative health disparity-focused programs that have demonstrated positive results and help educate individuals on topics such as proper nutrition, dental care and mental health awareness.

Institute for Health Innovation launches Health Innovation Accelerator

Northern Kentucky University’s Institute for Health Innovation (IHI) launched SoCap Accelerate, a Health Innovation Accelerator for northern Kentucky.

The six-week program targets companies looking to solve a health problem in an innovative way who have a beta version of their product ready for testing. SoCap Accelerate will help these companies grow and scale their businesses. Structured around the resources in northern Kentucky and the needs of our communities, the goal is to make Kentucky a healthier Commonwealth.

SoCap Accelerate will select up to seven companies to join the inaugural cohort this May. Participants will be mentored on developing customers and building a product as well as marketing, legal and accounting guidance. The program does not offer funding or equity but is designed to help companies grow and consider the region as a destination.

Baptist Health La Grange starts expansion, renovation

Baptist Health La Grange is expanding and renovating with a $5.8 million investment of the Emergency Department (ED) to meet the following goals:
- Increase capacity and maximize patient throughput.
- Enhance the overall patient experience.
- Improve the workflow, efficiency and environment for Emergency Department staff and physicians.

The plan incorporates larger exam rooms, additional restrooms, new furniture and fast-track area for low acuity patients.

Once completed, there will be an additional 4,418 sq. ft. of space, increasing number of treatment rooms from 10 to 12.

Stengel Hill Architecture created the design and LBM Construction Company is the general contractor. Construction is underway and estimated to be completed in summer of 2021.

Baldwin CPA opens East Louisville office

A Richmond, Kentucky-based accounting and consulting firm opened a new office in Louisville.

Baldwin CPAs, which has five offices in Kentucky, has moved its Louisville office to Linn Station Road, next to ATA College. The new space consolidates the downtown and Crestwood, Ky. offices.

Baldwin focuses on non-profit, construction, government, financial institutions and healthcare.

Norton Children’s Hospital unveils final phase of NICU renovations

A newly renovated neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Norton Children’s Hospital was unveiled in mid-February as the culmination of a five-phase, $22.1 million project to update existing NICU space to a development model of care centered around the individual needs of infants and families. The overall project includes $12 million in support from the Norton Children’s Hospital Foundation.

According to the March of Dimes, in 2018, 10 percent of infants nationwide were born prematurely. In Kentucky, that number is 11.3 percent and Indiana slightly better at 10.2 percent. When given proper care in a NICU, many times these infants can overcome their health challenges.

Earlier phases of the project added a family space and family-centered care areas at Norton Hospital and private rooms at Norton Children’s Hospital. In addition, the top floor of the open-air three-story main lobby was filled in to make way for the final phase of construction.

Baptist plans $43 million rehab hospital

Baptist Healthcare System is building a $43.4 million rehabilitation hospital through a partnership with post-acute care company, Encompass Health.

The Louisville-based healthcare system is seeking permission for a $43.4 rehabilitation hospital near Blankenbaker Parkway and Bluegrass Parkway in Louisville.

The inpatient facility, which will have 47,000 square feet and 40 beds, is a joint venture with Alabama-based Encompass Health. The hospital will be called The Rehabilitation Hospital of Louisville. The state must approve Baptist’s certification of need before the project can move forward.

Encompass Health has 133 rehab hospitals in 33 states. This will be the company’s first hospital in Louisville.

Comprehend awarded grant for women’s facility

Comprehend, Inc. has been awarded a $300,000 grant by the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities in partnership with the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy to fund the expansion of treatment and recovery services for individuals with opioid use disorders, officials said Friday.

Comprehend will use the funding to establish a women’s sober living facility, called Harmony House, in Mason County.

Renovations complete at Norton Cancer Institute – Downtown

Norton Healthcare completed a $15 million renovation at Norton Cancer Institute on South Floyd Street and the Medical Towers South on East Gray Street.

The reconstruction started in July. The updated space consolidated cancer services into one location to make it easier for patients to get treatment for different healthcare specialty providers in one location.

The lower level has an added general infusion center, open bay areas, infusion services and a Sickle Cell Disease clinic. The first floor has radiation therapy services. The second floor has additional exam rooms, added space for the head and neck multi-disciplinary clinic, oncodermatology clinic and the lung clinic.

The third floor, originally unfinished space, is now a dedicated and expanded oncology pharmacy.
Mental Health America of Kentucky is growing, getting involved

By Marcie Timmerman

Mental Health America of Kentucky serves to provide health and wellness education, to promote research-based improvements and to create a better mental health system in Kentucky. Here’s how:

Online Screening: Our most frequently used service is our online mental health screenings. You get screened for cancer. You get screened for high blood pressure. Do you get screened for mental health? Our online mental health screenings are based on clinical tools and provide you with a good gauge of when it’s time to see a professional. They’re free, they have self-help tools, and results can be emailed to you. More information can be found at www.mhaky.org under the Mental Health Screenings tab.

Mental Health First Aid: We recently began offering Mental Health First Aid Adult courses. Just as CPR teaches people to handle a physical crisis or situation, Mental Health First Aid helps to handle mental health crises and situations. This evidence-based program is offered several times in 2020 by us, and through other instructors. Contact mtimmerman@mhaky.org to bring a class to your community.

Mental Health Month: May is Mental Health Month. This program has been going strong since the 1940s and has put mental wellness in the spotlight across the United States. More information about our programs, toolkits, and partnerships for Mental Health Month 2020 can be found on our web site under May is Mental Health Month. Employers, libraries and communities—we’re available to provide resources and programming for your own observances.

Podcasts: Not able to connect with us in person or online? How about a podcast? Our Bell Podcast covers a wide range of mental health topics. We’re re-launching in March 2020 with new ideas and interviews to spice it up. Find information on our web site under Bell Podcast and send us suggestions!

Volunteers Needed: Are you a provider looking to make a difference? We offer free mental health services to patients at the Family Community Clinic in Louisville. We’re looking for social workers, counselors and psychiatrists to help meet the needs of this growing service. Volunteer for as little or as much as you want. Contact mtimmerman@mhaky.org to get started.

Quilt Project: Being in a psychiatric hospital is often lonely and depressing. Through our quilt project, quilters can create lap quilts which we will distribute to patients at the state psychiatric hospitals in Kentucky. We also accept donations of clean, unused quilting materials to help others create them. Learn more at our web site at the Quilts for Mental Health tab.

Advocacy Training: Have an experience with the mental health system that should have been different? Want to make it easier for people to access mental health services? We provide advocacy training and tips for improving systems at the local, state and even national level. We’d love to teach you to stand up for mental health rights. Reach out to mtimmerman@mhaky.org.

— Marcie Timmerman is the executive director of Mental Health America of Kentucky.

Continued from page 17

UK College of Health Sciences to offer telehealth certificate

The University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences (CHS) is offering a new graduate certificate program. The Graduate Certificate in Telehealth is the first of its kind among health sciences colleges and is the only telehealth certificate available in the state of Kentucky.

The Graduate Certificate in Telehealth is comprised of three 3-credit courses (nine total credit hours) offered across three consecutive semesters beginning summer of 2020.

Norton to open facility in shuttered Hikes Point Kmart

A 46,000-square-foot Norton Healthcare facility will serve as the anchor tenant for the former Kmart in Hikes Point.

The location will be run by CPA Labs, which provides anatomic and cytopathology services. CPA Lab has outgrown its 15,400-square-foot facility at Hurstbourne Parkway and Taylorsville Road. The plaza will be called the Breckenridge Center. Work is expected to be completed by early 2021, with 18 board-certified pathologists staffed at the location.

“Meaningful services for your meaningful use”

IT Services
- Hosted EMR, email, web sites, productivity tools
- Servers, phones, and desktops
- EMR Vendor neutral
- Onsite, hosted, or both
- Disaster Recovery Services

Benefits
- Fast track implementation
- No upfront costs
- No long term commitment
- Local references and support
- Fixed monthly fee

Tom Haselden
tom@ezoutlook.com
www.ezoutlook.com
800-219-1721 ext. 103
Cancer hits hard in Kentucky. That's why, every day, the team at Markey steps up—with advanced treatments and compassionate care, leading-edge research and innovative clinical trials. Because we're not just treating cancer today. We're working hard to beat it once and for all.

See how at ukhealthcare.com/beatingcancer