



NDBH Taking Action On Our Human Resource Crisis

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The Crisis

Only 1 in 4 of those with behavioral health conditions currently get any care. This is down from 1 in 2 prior to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Retirements, burnout, and COVID-19 have taken a major toll on our workforce.

No major plans currently are being implemented to augment the workforce.

The Biden Proposal

The President has proposed in his State of the Union Address and included in the Administration's FY2023 budget a plan to address this crisis. The plan includes three major steps:

- Train new professional and paraprofessional providers.
- Expand parity to cover all health insurance plans.
- Extend behavioral health services into a range of new settings.

Collectively, this plan calls for the expenditure of \$110 billion in new funds over the next 10 years.

- ▶ For the Biden Plan to be successful, several key features must be added:
 - ▶ A dedicated program staff in SAMHSA focused on human resources.
 - ▶ A White House office to coordinate behavioral health human resource activities across all federal agencies, especially SAMHSA, HRSA, CDC, and CMS.
 - ▶ A panel representing all behavioral healthcare disciplines managed by SAMHSA to prevent cross-purpose activities with the Congress and Administration, and with the field.

What We Must Add to the Biden Plan

Steps We are Taking Now

- ▶ The **College for Behavioral Health Leadership (CBHL)** is organizing advocacy activities around the Biden Plan.
- ▶ CBHL has produced a white paper on human resources and integrated care.
- ▶ CBHL has produced templates for letters to Congressional representatives, as well as talking points for in-person and virtual meetings.
- ▶ CBHL will release its advocacy press release tomorrow.
- ▶ All materials are available at: <https://www.leaders4health.org/resources/national-behavioral-health-strategy-advocacy/>

- ▶ Shortly after Thanksgiving, the Congress will conduct a Lame Duck Session that could include some major steps on behavioral health:
 - ▶ The Senate is working on a Major Mental Health Package including human resources and integrated care.
 - ▶ The House has passed a series of behavioral health bills that are awaiting action in the Senate, including a bill to appropriate \$136 million of new funds for mental health training.
 - ▶ These opportunities will likely disappear at the end of December.

Why This is So Urgent

How You Can Help

Dr Vivek Murthy, the US Surgeon General, has just declared that “mental health is the worst health problem confronting our country”.



You can join us in this advocacy for behavioral health during the Congressional Lame Duck Session.



Please be in contact with me if you are prepared to step forward and help.



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