

# eHealth Commission April 2023 News Highlights

# Health IT-

- (Practice Framework) Civitas Networks with collaborators, Health Data Utility Framework- A Guide to Implementation (3/2023)- This framework is a guide for jurisdictions, HIEs, and partners in the implementation of a health data utility (HDU) integrating health-related data for public health and care delivery. [Retrieved\* from: <u>https://www.civitasforhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Civitas-HDU-Framework-Final-2023-03-26.pdf]</u>
- (Federal Report) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)- Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), Leveraging Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs and Health Information Technology for Addressing Substance Use Disorder and Opioid Use Disorder (LPASO) (3/2023)- As taken from the report's forward, this report is intended for a wide audience in its examination of prescription drug monitoring programs' (PDMPs) support of substance and opioid misuse identification, prevention, and treatment. The report includes a link to a toolkit related to and aligned with the report that provides implementation information. [Retrieved from: https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/page/2023-03/LPASO\_Landscape\_Assessment\_508.pdf]
- (Federal Agency Report) ONC, 2022 Report to Congress: Update on the Access, Exchange, and Use of Electronic Health Information (2/2022)- This annual report discusses the current state of access, exchange, and use of electronic health information; barriers to progress and actions taken; and ends with recommendations in further support of technology use and health information access. [Retrieved from: https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/page/2023-02/2022\_ONC\_Report\_to\_Congress.pdf]
- (Research) Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), Perspectives of Patients About Immediate Access to Test Results Through an Online Patient Portal (3/20/23)- The objective of this study, highlighted by ONC, was to assess patient and caregiver attitudes and preferences regarding the immediate release of test results through an online patient portal. Ninety-six percent of those surveyed preferred receiving test results immediately even if their health care provider had not yet reviewed the results. [Retrieved from: https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2802672]
- (National Data Brief) ONC Data Brief No. 65, Use of Telemedicine among Office-Based Physicians, 2021 (3/2023)- This data brief documents the rates of physician's telemedicine use, types of tools used, and information about the physicians, including characteristics and satisfaction with telemedicine. [Retrieved from: https://www.healthit.gov/data/data-briefs/use-telemedicine-among-office-based-physicians-2021]
- (Research) The Urban Institute, How Adults with Chronic Health Conditions Experience Telehealth (3/13/23)- The Urban Institute's report presents information and insights into the use of and access to telehealth services during the initial year of the COVID-19 pandemic among adults with chronic health conditions. The report was informed by a nationally representative survey of U.S. adults and qualitative interviews. [Retrieved from: <u>https://www.urban.org/research/publication/how-adults-chronic-health-conditions-experiencetelehealth?&utm\_source=urban\_newsletters&utm\_campaign=HPC&utm\_id=health\_and\_healthcare]
  </u>
- (Research) HHS-National Institutes of Health, Increased use of telehealth services and medications for opioid use disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic associated with reduced risk for fatal overdose (3/29/23)- The press release includes a hyperlink to a newer study indicating that telehealth services and medications during the pandemic were associated with lowered likelihood for fatal drug overdose among Medicare beneficiaries. [Retrieved from: https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/increased-usetelehealth-services-medications-opioid-use-disorder-during-covid-19-pandemic-associated-reduced-risk-fatal-overdose]
- (Federal Programs Report) Federal Communications Commission, WCB Releases Interim Report on Connected Care and COVID-19 Telehealth (3/21/23)- This release includes a 49-page report from the Wireline Competition Bureau analyzing the impact of the cited programs on health providers' use of telehealth, including multiple lessons learned. [Retrieved from: <a href="https://www.fcc.gov/document/wcb-releases-interim-report-connected-care-and-covid-19-telehealth?utm">https://www.fcc.gov/document/wcb-releases-interim-report-connected-care-and-covid-19-telehealth?utm</a> source=sendgrid&utm medium=email&utm campaign=Newsletters]

<sup>\*</sup> All sites retrieved 4/4/23.

### Broadband-

- (Federal Informational Blog) HHS-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (blog), Digital Access: A Super Determinant of Health (3/22/23)- This blog presents evidence of the digital divide intersecting with equity and behavioral health, resulting in a call to action. The blog includes a listing of funding opportunities and resources. [Retrieved from: <u>https://www.samhsa.gov/blog/digital-access-superdeterminant-health?utm\_source=SAMHSA&utm\_campaign=9228c9e99d-</u> <u>EMAIL\_CAMPAIGN\_2023\_03\_20\_04\_25&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_-9228c9e99d-%5BLIST\_EMAIL\_ID%5D]</u>
- (Federally Sponsored Dashboard) U.S. Census Bureau, New Dashboard to Explore Impacts of Federal Broadband Investments on Local Communities (2/28/23)- The press release discusses the launch of the ACCESS BROADBAND Dashboard, an information resource resulting from a partnership between the Census Bureau and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. A link to the dashboard is embedded within the press release. [Retrieved from: https://www.census.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2023/impacts-federal-broadband-

investments.html?utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=Newsletters&utm\_source=sendgrid]

 (Coalition Roadmap) Schools, Health, & Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB), SHLB's 2023 Policy Roadmap Calls for Leveraging Anchor Institutions to Solve the Digital Divide (3/31/23)- The roadmap, accessible through the press release, outlines SHLB's policy priorities for 2023, namely opportunities to promote investment in high-quality broadband for community anchor institutions (CAIs) and their communities. [Retrieved from: <u>https://www.shlb.org/news/shlb/2023/03/SHLBs-2023-Policy-Roadmap-Calls-for-Leveraging-Anchor-Institutions-to-Solve-the-Digital-Divide/]</u>

# Medicaid/CMS-

- (Medicaid Systems) Government Technology, States Upgrade Medicaid Systems to Deliver Modern Health Care (3/2023)- This article provides an update on states' modular approach to Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS). [Retrieved from: <u>https://www.govtech.com/computing/states-upgrade-</u> medicaid-systems-to-deliver-modern-health-care?utm\_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20G7%20-%20GovTech%20Today&utm\_medium=email& hsmi=249245854& hsenc=p2ANqtz-9tsv9DkB7Zz0lvGkEXV2q9gP\_NHDiAtwymJdzdCqJsnrb\_ifQ36djspnMKQ8XVFeDi1zxQYojJz9hK6-RsnnXZ3CrndI6mKoytliDMIGMKKzuR3cZIApu10\_OV\_vdRbmnljHh&utm\_content=249244892&utm\_source=hs\_email]
- (State Waiver Spotlight) Kaiser Health News (KHN), Reentry Programs to Help Former Prisoners Obtain Health Care Are Often Underused (3/8/23)- The article discusses the limited medical discharge planning afforded prisoners and highlights a unique waiver obtained by California attempting to provide more seamless care. [Retrieved from: <u>https://khn.org/news/article/prison-reentry-programs-former-inmates-health-care/]</u>

# Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and Health Equity-

 (National Data Brief) The Commonwealth Fund, Inequities in Health Insurance Coverage and Access for Black and Hispanic Adults: The Impact of Medicaid Expansion and the Pandemic (3/2023)- The data brief updates prior analysis of health coverage and access inequities for Black and Hispanic adults in the U.S. The brief ends with policy implications, most all involving Medicaid. [Retrieved from: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Baumgartner inequities coverage access black hispanic adults db.pdf?utm medium=email& hsmi=251886301& hsenc=p2

ANqtz--kaGtFq5cNVHYwN8x3d793KasAZgTpNKywT-b\_zHmUPHfcSFTm-dPwPaX75lzbdd01vwQuroi3Bk4Vx7xukQ4tTN0THTyRgl\_tKIPJpMqNZCWjvJh4v7IESULuj657kTdPNOY&utm\_content=251886301&utm\_sour ce=hs\_email]

- (National Issue Brief) The Commonwealth Fund issue briefs, Inequities in Health Insurance Coverage and Access for Black and Hispanic Adults (3/16/23)- This is a related issue brief. [Retrieved from: <u>https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2023/mar/inequities-coverage-accessblack-hispanic-adults?utm\_source=alert&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=Health+Equity+C\_I]
  </u>
- (Colorado-Mentioned Article) Health Affairs Forefront (blog from Center for Health Care Strategies), Leveraging Primary Care Population-Based Payments in Medicaid to Advance Health Equity (3/3/23)- This Health Affairs Forefront piece discusses Medicaid payment reform supporting health equity and includes highlights of five states actively pursuing population-based payment models, with helpful links to other informational sources. [Retrieved from: https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/leveraging-primary-carepopulation-based-payments-medicaid-advance-health-equity]
- (Commentary and Analysis) New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) Catalyst, Distinguishing Health Equity and Health Care Equity: A Framework for Measurement (3/7/23)- This commentary discusses an extended framework to measure health care inequities and better equip health care

organizations' internal and community-based actions. [Retrieved from: https://catalyst.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/CAT.22.0442?utm\_medium=email&\_hsmi=250017826&\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-95vJcnyMTFlbPdwPi4808YxhkjPujRs1REU-FNzr3ptUK02fCvjIn\_9dF8icwh8frth-4xN54zxuQ185UPWjMnvsRodk0ZDTNeFswpfK87a1GjhpRo\_UO5EawmIMXHTCUxlH1H&utm\_content=250017826&utm\_source= hs\_email]

- (Research) National Public Radio (NPR), How poverty and racism 'weather' the body, accelerating aging and disease (3/28/23)- This piece, including audio, entails a discussion with a University of Michigan researcher who presents the case that "...marginalized people suffer nearly constant stress from living with poverty and discrimination, which damages their bodies at a cellular level and leads to increasingly serious health problems over time." [Retrieved from: https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/03/28/1166404485/weathering-arline-geronimus-poverty-racism-stress-health?email=467cb6399cb7df64551775e431052b43a775c749&emaila=12a6d4d069cd56cfddaa391c24eb7042&emailb=054528e7403871c79f668e49dd3c44b1ec00c7f611bf9388f76bb2324d6ca5f3&utm\_source=Sailthru&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=03.28%2023%20Health%20Care%20JC]
- (Focus on Medical Issue) KHN, Being 'Socially Frail' Comes with Health Risks for Older Adults (3/23/23)- This piece provides an overview of social frailty for older adults as a SDOH, efforts to understand and address it, and an item index to raise individual awareness about it. [Retrieved from: https://khn.org/news/article/socially-frail-older-adults-health-risks/?utm\_campaign=KHN%3A%20Topicbased&utm\_medium=email&\_hsmi=252411794&\_hsenc=p2ANqtz\_TU\_3dBRJIWwbuJGeMFJt83jO-R\_Ogc9iZBGvndzs-VCIADe3kymO-t3XE1PRi02KmMS6N67a2didll69yDTq1Rd-Yx6NndYHXGdZpSC90G7nS-Cw&utm\_content=252411794&utm\_source=hs\_email]
- (Research) The Urban Institute (UI), Interrupting Structural Racism's Impact on Health and Well-Being (Spring 2023)- The Urban Institute launched this project in March in effort to compile studies that span multiple policy fields to identify study models for structural racism. The intent is to conduct a "...deeper analysis of the mechanism of structural racism and how it operates across policies, systems, structures, and institutions to continually benefit some groups and disadvantage others." The project is expected to release more this Spring. [Retrieved from: <u>https://www.urban.org/projects/interrupting-structural-racismsimpact-health-and-well-being?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=govdelivery</u>]
- (Federal Report) HHS-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Moving Beyond Change Efforts: Evidence and Action to Support and Affirm LGBTQI+ Youth (3/2023)- Concurrent with the Transgender Day of Visibility, SAMHSA released this report geared towards a variety of audiences, including health practitioners, families, educators, policymakers, and researchers, among others. It promotes evidence-based care from knowledgeable health providers without the risk of harm. [Retrieved from: https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/pep22-03-12-001.pdf]

# **Other Health News-**

- (Federal Budget/Policy) Last month, President Biden released his proposed budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2024- While this proposed budget is not expected to pass, it indicates priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration and possible areas of focus in budget negotiations. The following summaries may be helpful resources regarding the health-related provisions of the proposed budget:
  - HHS, Fiscal Year 2024 Budget in Brief (3/9/12) [Retrieved from: <u>https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-</u>2024-budget-in-brief.pdf]
  - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, President Biden Releases FY24 Budget Proposal (3/9/23) [Retrieved from: https://astho1.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/ind/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlaWQ9Mzg2ODEyMiZzdWJzY3J

https://astho1.informz.net/informzdataservice/onlineversion/ind/bWFpbGluZ2luc3RhbmNlaWQ9Mzg2ODEyMiZzdWJzY3J pYmVyaWQ9NDI0MDY0OTEw]

- (Program Highlight) KHN, Fresh Produce Is an Increasingly Popular Prescription for Chronically III Patients (3/23/23)- This article features the Montana Produce Prescription Collaborative and references research pertaining to food and nutritional insecurity. [Retrieved from: <u>https://khn.org/news/article/food-prescriptions-</u> montana-indigenous-nutrition-fast-blackfeetnation/?utm\_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm\_medium=email&\_hsmi=251449311&\_hsenc=p2 ANqtz-9Rs3kIG-NgmDaDwnO6otalZH3p0GQqtz3hEmDw19VELJeXDWWIReDvd1TFbw3VpuywRJkaC-Q0IZA6rgpTW1MNiLOumKL9e6H3j5Gzei-bwBp\_3Js&utm\_content=251449311&utm\_source=hs\_email]
- (National Report) RAND Corporation, America's Opioid Ecosystem (3/2023)- Deemed as buzz worthy, this lengthy report provides "a nuanced assessment of America's opioid ecosystem" and outlines policy opportunities among the multiple components of the ecosystem. [Retrieved from: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\_reports/RRA604-1.html]