

eHealth Commission February 2023 News Highlights

Health IT-

- **(National Systemic Review) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)-Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Improving Rural Health Through Telehealth—Guided Provider-to-Provider Communication Systemic Review (12/26/22)-** *As taken from the executive summary, the purpose of this review is to identify, summarize, and evaluate research available on whether telehealth supporting provider-to-provider communication and collaboration can contribute to addressing health disparities for people living in rural areas.* [Retrieved* at: <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/rural-telehealth/research>]
- **(National Systemic Review) HHS-AHRQ, Use of Telehealth During the COVID-19 Era Systemic Review (1/3/23)-** *The systemic review examines characteristics of telehealth users, benefits and harms of telehealth, successful telehealth interventions, and strategies used to implement telehealth interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic era.* [Retrieved at: <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/virtual-health-covid/research>]
- **(Research Article) Health Affairs, Telerehabilitation Has Potential, But More Research, Funding, And Advocacy Are Needed (1/5/23)-** *The article reviews evidence on the use of telerehabilitation, identifying effective implementation barriers and possible areas for advocacy and policy.* [Retrieved at: https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/telerehabilitation-has-potential-but-more-research-funding-and-advocacy-needed?utm_medium=email&utm_source=hat&utm_campaign=HAT+1+5+2022&utm_content=forefront&vgo_ee=87ujquMv8wezP1EM0tpmglmB94D%2BVwJcBJ%2BS%2BvtBwuyH3bTKp4IZ86OoXQR8RzEq]
- **(Research Article) TechTarget-Telehealth News, Telehealth Can Support Care of Young Children with Developmental Delay (1/27/23)-** *This article discusses a study published in the JAMA Network Open, to which a hyperlink is provided. The study indicated that telehealth lowered levels of externalizing behavior problems and improved levels of compliance with caregiver direction.* [Retrieved at: https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/telehealth-can-support-care-of-young-children-with-developmental-delay?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter]
- **(National Health Data Brief) HHS-Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances and Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs Among Office-Based Physicians, 2019-2021: ONC Data Brief No. 63 (1/2023)-** *This ONC brief estimates the use of electronic prescribing of controlled substances and prescription drug monitoring programs by physicians and explores related use variations.* [Retrieved at: <https://www.healthit.gov/data/data-briefs/electronic-prescribing-controlled-substances-and-use-prescription-drug-monitoring>]
- **(National Health Data Brief) HHS-ONC, Interoperability and Methods of Exchange among Hospitals in 2021: ONC Data Brief No. 64 (1/2023)-** *The data brief provides trends on information exchange among hospitals in 2021, point-of-care availability and use, and illuminates key barriers to interoperability.* [Retrieved at: <https://www.healthit.gov/data/data-briefs/interoperability-and-methods-exchange-among-hospitals-2021>]

Broadband-

- **(Issue Brief/Federal Funding) The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), What States Need to Know About Federal BEAD Funding for High-Speed internet Expansion (1/9/23)-** *This issue brief discusses the phases of the BEAD Program and funding requirements for jurisdictions and federal agencies.* [Retrieved at: https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2023/01/what-states-need-to-know-about-federal-bead-funding-for-high-speed-internet-expansion?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletters]
- **(Federal Notice of Public Comment) FCC, FCC Asks Consumers to Share Their Broadband Access Experiences press release (1/25/23)-** *The FCC Task Force to Prevent Digital Discrimination is offering consumers ability to comment and share their experiences about obtaining broadband internet access, with a link to an online form.* [Retrieved at: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-asks-consumers-share-their-broadband-access-experiences>]

*All sites retrieved 2/1/23.

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and Health Equity-

- **(National Data Analyses) HHS-Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Health, United States Annual Report (1/2023)***- *This report includes selected analyses on health trends reported by the Health, United States program, with particular focus on health disparities.* [Retrieved at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/report.htm?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_379-DM97543&ACSTrackingLabel=New%20Release%3A%20Health%2C%20United%20States%2C%20Annual%20Perspective%2020-2021&deliveryName=USCDC_379-DM97543]
- **(Jurisdictional Toolkit) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, *Health Equity Policy Toolkit (12/20/22)***- *This toolkit provides public health leaders background information on health equity, intersectionality, and social determinants of health; policy levers to advance health equity; and an overview of the policy development process.* [Retrieved at: https://www.astho.org/topic/health-equity/health-equity-policy-toolkit/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=asthophw&utm_content=HealthEquity&utm_term=HEPolicyToolkit]
- **(Federal Notice of Public Comment) U.S. Department of Commerce-National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), *Privacy, Equity, and Civil Rights Request for Comment (Federal Register notice, 1/21/23)***- *In this formal notice, NTIA requests comment on how private companies' data practices impose harm on marginalized and underserved communities. Comments are due by March 6th.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-01-20/pdf/2023-01088.pdf>]
- **(Federal Roadmap/Policy) The White House, *FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Releases First-Ever Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity (1/24/23)***- *The federal administration released a roadmap for federal agencies to ensure they are collecting data and evidence needed to further advance progress on full inclusion and equal protection for LGBTQI+ individuals.* [Retrieved at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2023/01/24/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-releases-first-ever-federal-evidence-agenda-on-lgbtqi-equity/>]
- **(State Spotlights) National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), *Supporting Older Adults with Approaches Spanning Multiple Policy Areas (1/18/23)***- *This article discusses social drivers of health for older adults and highlights state actions.* [Retrieved at: <https://www.ncsl.org/state-legislatures-news/details/supporting-older-adults-with-approaches-spanning-multiple-policy-areas>]
- **(Practice Guidance/Lessons Learned) Health Affairs, *Working with ACOs to Address Social Determinants of Health (1/10/23)***- *The article provides lessons learned from managers of Accountable Care Organizations on their efforts to integrate medical and social care.* [Retrieved at: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/working-acos-address-social-determinants-health>]
- **(Data Dashboard) Department of Population Health at New York University Grossman School of Medicine (with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), *Congressional District Health Dashboard website (1/2023)***- *This new dashboard organizes health, drivers of health, and health equity data by congressional district.* [Retrieved at: https://www.congressionaldistricthealthdashboard.org/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top]

Medicaid-

- **(Federal Policy/Guidance) FCC, *FCC Provides Guidance to Enable Critical Health Care Coverage Calls press release (1/23/23)***- *In the press release, the FCC formally releases the Declaratory Ruling responding to the letter from the HHS Secretary regarding Medicaid enrollment calls and text messages.* [Retrieved at: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-provides-guidance-enable-critical-health-care-coverage-calls>]
- **(Federal Policy/Guidance) HHS-Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), *State Medicaid Director letter, SMD#23-001, Additional Guidance on Use of In Lieu of Services and Settings in Medicaid Managed Care (1/4/23)***- *This letter/guidance outlines innovative options state can pursue in Medicaid managed care programs to reduce health disparities and address unmet health-related social needs.* [Retrieved at: <https://www.medicare.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/smd23001.pdf>]
- **(Federal Policy, State Spotlights) The Commonwealth Fund, *CMS' New Policy Framework for Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstrations (1/10/23)***- *This blog reviews recent state Medicaid waiver approvals indicating the current federal administration's waiver policies and priorities, namely health-related social needs (HRSN).* [Retrieved at: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2023/cms-new-policy-framework-section-1115-medicare-demonstrations?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Improving+Health+Care+Quality]