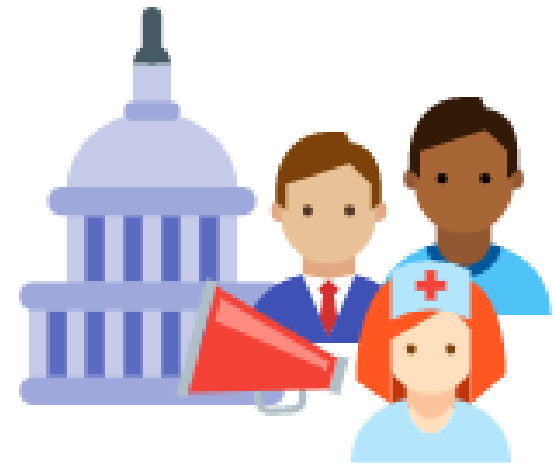


National Council Assertive Public Policy Priorities for 2021

The Purpose Statement of the National Council for Behavioral Health

Our mission is to ensure all people have access to comprehensive, high-quality behavioral health care that affords every opportunity for recovery.



Political and Policy Successes from 2020

\$3 Billion in CCBHC Investments!

- 2020 funding create more CCBHC grantees with up to 400 CCBHCs in total in 2021. CCBHC Success Center launched to support sustainability at the state level, aligning and competing with others in the market

988 & Crisis Stabilization Support Passed!

- Legislation passed with sweeping support, but funding and coordination are needed at the federal level. States are looking for support and coordination with other mental health and addiction supports

Changes in Administration & Congress!

- Biden-Harris administration elected with supports for CCBHCs, MHFA, and other mental health and addiction policies. Unified control in Congress with legislators signaling for robust policy change



Innovative Models for Treatment (NCBH Goals 1, 2 & 4)



Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

Supporting state leaders to convert clinics to CCBHCs through CMS-supported efforts and championing continued funding and innovation at the federal level



Telehealth & Information Sharing

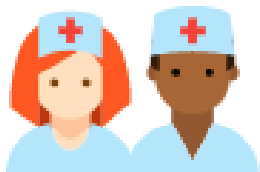
Ensuring telehealth service flexibilities are continued for providers and patients beyond COVID-19 to deliver care and reduce social isolation while navigating privacy policies



Covering & Integrating Services

Through National Councils' Center of Excellence, BHECON, Delta Center and other projects, ensure payment alternatives and system changes meet patients' and providers' needs

Evidence-Based Care Delivery (NCBH Goals 1, 3 & 4)



Staffing & Workforce Needs

Strengthening retention and recruitment efforts for providers and staff while ensuring training and education need are met for network adequacy and high-quality care



Safe Prescribing of Medications

Access to FDA-approved controlled substances for mental health and addiction needs through policy changes with CMS and DEA, particularly Ryan Haight



Parity Implementation & Enforcement

Destigmatizing mental health and addictions care needs with primary care providers and payers to ensure that all clinics can meet client needs without systemic barriers

Access to High Quality Services (NCBH Goals 2, 3 & 5)



Mental Health First Aid

Identifying mental health and addictions needs and destigmatizing care, particularly for young adults, through skills-based trainings



Crisis Response

Responding to the high rates of suicidal ideation and overdose through 9-8-8 and other services designed to connect people to immediate care



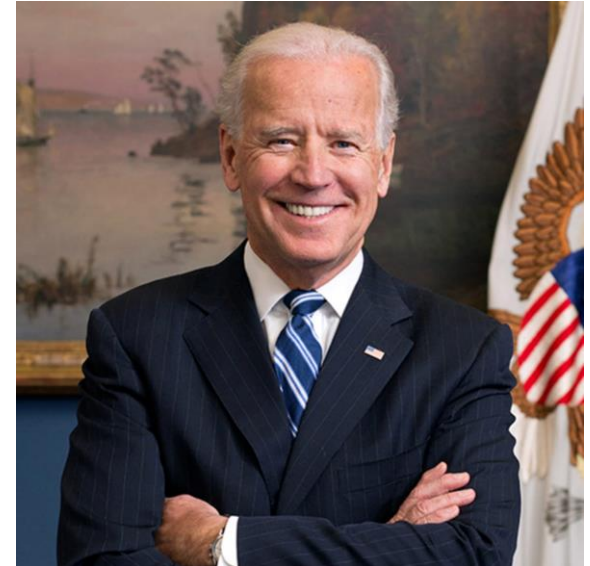
Health Equity

Ensuring equitable access to care for underserved populations (e.g., people of color, uninsured, children and youth, LGBTQ+, rural, and justice involved)

The Biden-Harris Administration and Behavioral Health

The Biden Plan to End the Opioid Crisis

- Hold Big Pharma accountable
- Increase availability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services to all through \$125 Billion federal investment
- Stop overprescribing, improve access to effective and needed pain management
- Reform the criminal legal system, reducing incarceration rates for non-violent drug offenses
- Stem the flow of illicit drugs into the U.S., particularly from China and Mexico



Health & Human Services Secretary: Xavier Becerra

- Served as Attorney General of California since 2017
- Tenured history of serving clients with mental health needs
- Co-sponsored the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2007 ([H.R.3430](#)) which advocated for the Public Health Service Act to make changes to the program that would apply a public health approach to mental health services
- Requested information from Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield of California, Health Net of California, and Kaiser Permanente, that would determine if they are providing coverage for mental health benefits and services without putting limitation or conditions on the coverage
- Argued before the Supreme Court in defense of the Affordable Care Act
- Joined a multi-state amicus brief in support of safe injection sites



Assistant Secretary for Health: Dr. Rachel Levine

- Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Penn State College of Medicine
- Pennsylvania Secretary of Health from 2017-2021
- Pennsylvania Physician General from 2015-2017
- Signed an order allowing law enforcement officers to carry the anti-overdose medication naloxone
- Founded the adolescent medicine division and eating disorders clinic at Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- Advocate for bridging gaps in health equity, with a focus on mental healthcare and the LGBTQIA+ community
- Potential ally for substance abuse and mental health groups, working to combat the opioid crisis and public health misinformation



U.S. Surgeon General: Dr. Vivek Murthy

- United States Surgeon General from 2014-2017
- Co-founder of VISIONS, a peer-to-peer HIV/AIDS education program in India and the United States
- Co-founder of Doctors for America, a nonprofit dedicated to creating a high quality, affordable health care system
- Published several pieces calling for better access to care and strategies for coping with mental illness
- Published the first United States Surgeon General report about addiction in 2016



Acting Administrator for Center for Medicaid & Medicare Services:

Elizabeth Richter

- Former Deputy Center Director of the Center for Medicare at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) where she led the staff that develops policies and manages the operations of the fee-for-service portion of the Medicare Program
- Served with CMS since 1990 in the Bureau of Policy Development, Office of Financial Management, and Center for Medicare Management
- Richter's appointment signals future health care policy changes, given Biden's promise to reform the industry by expanding access and strengthening the Affordable Care Act



CDC Director: Dr. Rochelle Walensky

- Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital from 2017-2020
- Professor of Medicine at Harvard University from 2012-2020
- Member of the US Department of Health and Human Services Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents since 2011
- Regarded as a highly-skilled, media-savvy communicator who is expected to restore public trust within the CDC
- *“We know that the opioid crisis has only gotten worse and I know we've lost ground in the HIV epidemic, and mental health and suicide—there are so many things that the CDC needs to tackle.”*



Acting Director and Deputy White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

- Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) during the Obama Administration
- Co-authored and helped to implement the Obama Administration's plan to address the opioid epidemic.
- Former program director of the Addiction and Public Policy Initiative at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown Law
- Wants to shift focus "from rescue to recovery" by improving access to treatment for those with the highest risk of overdose
- Advocate for family-centered, holistic treatment paths that would remove barriers to care, including addiction treatment programs for incarcerated individuals



Acting Deputy Secretary, SAMHSA: Tom Coderre

- SAMHSA Region I Administrator (New England) after serving as the Senior Advisor to the Governor of Rhode Island, where he has played an integral role in leading efforts to combat the state's opioid crisis. Mr. Coderre previously served as the Chief of Staff at SAMHSA.
- He led the team that produced "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health," the first report from a U.S. Surgeon General dedicated to this public health crisis.
- He also has an extensive background in government, serving as a member of the Rhode Island Senate from 1995-2003 and as Chief of Staff to the Senate President from 2009-2014.



Other Cabinet Members Connection to Behavioral Health



- Secretary of the Interior: Deb Haaland
 - Person in Long Term Recovery
 - One of the first two Native American women in Congress
 - Champion of the role of peers in recovery



- Secretary of Labor: Marty Walsh
 - Person in Long Term Recovery
 - Former Mayor of Boston and as such created many of the crisis care and care coordination services that are used nationally



- Secretary of Agriculture: Tom Vilsack
 - Person with a parent with alcohol use disorder
 - Ensured rural communities were supported in the opioid crisis with innovative models for care delivery and funding for specific needs

National Council Discussion with Transition Team

- Revising SAMHSA's guidance on recovery housing
- Impact of alcohol use
- Harm reduction as an evidence-based practice