

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

Ron Manderscheid, Executive Director

National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors

December 14, 2015

[Our outrage can drive a decarceration movement](#)

with mental and substance use conditions. Urgent action is essential today!

November 30, 2015

[Encore for our baby boomers](#)

Cheers, not fears or tears, seem in order for the future!

November 19, 2015

[Carefully crafting consensus on mental health legislation](#)

A major chasm in positions between Democrats and Republicans on mental health policy...

November 16, 2015

[Rosalynn Carter takes a fresh look at human resources](#)

Annual Symposium. We already are looking forward to the 32nd.

November 6, 2015

[Gaining perspective on Secretary Burwell's 'value purchasing' initiative](#)

will be both exciting and challenging

October 28, 2015

[Congressional briefing: Behavioral health matters to counties](#)

Key issues for the Congress to address in the short term.

October 20, 2015

[Reconsider the definition of serious mental illness](#)

Journey into the realm of well-being.

October 5, 2015

[NACBHDD's initiative to decarcerate persons with mental illness and SUD](#)

Recently, NACBHDD unveiled a new initiative to work with county behavioral health systems....

September 20, 2015

[We must address the threats to SSI and SSDI](#)

The Supplemental Security Income and the Social Security Disability Insurance Program have been an essential part of the safety net for persons with disabilities. Both programs will begin running out of funds at the end of 2016.

August 30, 2015

[The issue is gun control](#)

Mental health should never be confused with other pressing social issues. A case in point is the confusion of mental health with the urgent need for national gun control legislation.

August 26, 2015

[Our destination is dignity](#)

With the clarion cry, "Our destination is dignity," they set out across the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The Destination Dignity March proved to be a landmark event in the annals of American mental health.

August 25, 2015

[Community initiatives to promote health and wellbeing](#)

There are roles that communities must play in altering the calculus through which the negative social and physical determinants of health cause disease and disability in community members.

August 7, 2015

[Awake! The day for important advocacy is upon us](#)

As the waning days of summer float away, it will be very important that we actually state and act on our "must" principles--those mental lines in the sand we definitely do not want to cross.

July 23, 2015

[Medicaid at 50](#)

As Medicaid approaches two score and ten, we have a heartfelt birthday greeting: "You are even more attractive today than you were a quarter-century ago. In fact, you simply are magnetic."

July 8, 2015

[Well-being: moving deliberately from deficit- to strength-based thinking](#)

Frequently, we marvel at the effects of the parity act and the Affordable Care Act. But do these legislative landmarks also have much more subtle effects?

June 25, 2015

[The Supreme Court has decided in favor of the American people](#)

This Court decision is a great victory for social justice. It is essential that the poor and near poor have access to health coverage. Such coverage, with sliding subsidies, has been made available through ACA.

June 10, 2015

[Patrick Kennedy convenes Kennedy Forum II in Boston](#)

Former Representative Patrick Kennedy has emerged as a singular national leader who is urgently seeking fundamental change in our national mental health and addiction calculus.

May 29, 2015

[Enhancing workplace productivity and mitigating disability through a culture of wellbeing](#)

Workplace disability became the subject of an important, forward-looking Summit recently.

May 8, 2015

[Defending essential equity to ensure equality as SCOTUS takes up ACA again](#)

It would be inappropriate to provide the federal tax subsidy to some Americans, yet deny it to others in the same circumstances. In fact, this would violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

April 30, 2015

[Peers present the case for peer support services on Capitol Hill](#)

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance hosted Congressional Briefings for the House and another for the Senate—a first!

April 19, 2015

[Stigma Kills! Defeat Stigma!](#)

Defeating stigma must be an urgent priority for all of us, as former First Lady Rosalynn Carter has stated so eloquently.

April 7, 2015

[Draft parity rule for Medicaid and CHIP does not disappoint](#)

Intended to extend parity of medical and behavioral health benefits and treatment limitations to Medicaid managed care programs, alternative benefit plans and the CHIP, it will bring parity protection to an estimated 22 million additional Americans.

April 3, 2015

[Seeking to peer through an opaque window](#)

If you attempt to see through an opaque window, you will be confronted with a reflected image. This is the dilemma facing behavioral health as it attempts to peer beyond disease and health to questions of general well-being.

March 27, 2015

[Behaving, becoming, and being healthy: The 2015 ACMHA Annual Summit](#)

The 2015 ACMHA Summit offered ideas on community health literacy and activation which is essential if one is to achieve and maintain good health.

March 15, 2015

[The frontier of peer support moves to our jails and courts](#)

Over the past decade, peer support has become essential for mental health and substance use care. Research shows that its key features are effective.

March 11, 2015

[South African group leads effort to improve national substance abuse services](#)

The South African drug epidemic continues to grow rapidly, yet the country continues to struggle to implement a much-needed national system to assess the quality and effectiveness of drug abuse services.

March 2, 2015

[HHS Sec Sylvia Burwell meets with Behavioral Health Stakeholders and invites an agenda for the final two Obama years](#)

On Friday, February 27, our Behavioral Health Stakeholder Group met with HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell and SAMHSA Administrator Pam Hyde.

February 16, 2015

**[Helping the Supreme Court
decide King v. Burwell](#)**

These personal stories should energize each of us to be unequivocal and clear in our support of the ACA and support federal premium subsidies paid to those who received insurance through the marketplace operated by HHS.

February 6, 2015

[Recovery, not defeat](#)

The most powerful word in our behavioral health lexicon is recovery. Why? Because it creates real lives and promotes future hope.

January 26, 2015

**[Should we tolerate an increase
in preventable deaths? No!](#)**

January 23, 2015

**[Health activation to prevent
infectious diseases](#)**

Health activation also extends to disarming the triggers for other health conditions as well, such as other chronic diseases and infectious diseases themselves.

January 7, 2015

**[Turning over a new leaf in 2015
to prevent debilitating disease](#)**

Efforts to prevent disease and to promote good health always are preferred strategies over efforts to treat disease. Yet, we spend far too little time, attention, and effort on either of these strategies.