



Dear DBHIDS Team,
The **U.S. Conference of Mayors National Day of Action on Affordable Care Act Repeal** will take place today. Mayor Jim Kenney, along with mayors from across the nation, will stress the grave impact losing healthcare coverage would have on millions of Americans.



More than 50 mayors across the country will join key stakeholders, including residents, small businesses, hospital administrators, and other health care professionals, to emphasize the importance of the patient protections included in the ACA.

Specifically, Mayor Kenney, Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas

Erney, and I will join other elected officials, health care industry leaders and individuals who have personally benefited from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to discuss the immediate and long term negative impact repealing this legislation would have on Philadelphia residents. Today's press conference is part of the U.S. Conference of Mayors National Day of Action.

Furthermore, mayors will oppose the proposal to block grant Medicaid. A “block grant” is a fixed amount of money that the federal government gives to a state for a specific purpose. If Medicaid is turned into a block grant, the federal government could set each state’s Medicaid spending amount in advance. That amount would likely be based on an estimate of state Medicaid spending, but like most block grant proposals, could result in significant cuts for federal Medicaid support. To keep people informed, mayors will use the social media hashtag #MayorsStand4All to spread the message today and beyond. We will continue informing our system on federal, state, and local actions that could potentially impact the healthcare field and the DBHIDS system. During times of uncertainty, staying well-informed can be challenging but it is important to remain engaged. Yesterday, Joan Erney, Chief Executive Officer of Community Behavioral Health, led the monthly Population Health Roundtable meeting, which highlighted strategies and ideas for using Medicaid to support a population health approach to health and wellness. If you have ideas or simply would like to learn more about DBHIDS’ Population Health framework, register for upcoming round table sessions:

- **3/14:** [Dr. Kamilah Jackson, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, CBH](#)
- **3/27:** [Sandy Vasko, Director, Office of Behavioral Health, DBHIDS](#)
- **4/11:** [Jeffrey Orlin, Administrative Services Director, DBHIDS](#)

Weekly Provider Updates

- **KidsPeace**, a large provider of services to children and adolescents, has recently gained state approval for their Pioneer Trauma Center Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) program located in Lehigh Valley, Pa. The mission of this new service is to provide individualized care, treatment, and education for adolescent females (ages 10 to 18) and their families, who have experienced significant traumatic events in their lives. The Pioneer Trauma Center strives to promote healing from trauma, with a focus on the well-being of the individual and the building of strong, supportive families. They will offer specialty care for adolescent females whose trauma includes having been victims of human trafficking, which will keep these individuals from having to travel out-of-state for such specialty care. This is especially timely due to the recent closure of other RTF beds within the CBH provider network. For additional information contact [Andrew Devos](#).

Weekly General Updates

- **"My City, My Place" Brighter Futures Awards** will celebrate 25 years on March 31, 2017! The theme this year is: ***Celebrating Change: That Was Then, This Is Now!*** We will be commemorating all the great strides that have been taken in the advocacy and support of those with intellectual disabilities over the past few decades. The Brighter Futures Awards, hosted by The Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services and the Public Awareness Committee, honors individuals from the community, who are not employed by provider agencies. Awardees exemplify the "Everyday Lives Principles" and support individuals with intellectual disAbilities to live inclusively in the community. For more information about this event visit DBHIDS.ORG
- **Health Promotion:** Check out DBHIDS' brand new online

screening tool. Free, quick, and anonymous, we are introducing a revolutionary, broad-based screening tool for you and the community. It is not meant to diagnose; however, it is only meant to help you learn more about signs and symptoms of behavioral health challenges you or a loved one may be experiencing. Get a checkup from the neck up for a healthier you. [Try the Screening Today](#)

David T. Jones
Acting Commissioner
Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility
Services



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