

## **Comprehensive Behavioral Health and Recovery Act of 2016 Fact Sheet**

**The Comprehensive Behavioral Health and Recovery Act bolsters our ability to serve individuals with mental health conditions and substance use disorders across the full continuum of care.**

- It includes comprehensive reform that will improve the U.S. behavioral health care system.
- It focuses on the full continuum of care from early intervention and prevention, to crisis intervention, to supporting treatment and recovery.
- It focuses on improving the entire behavioral health system to ensure that individuals with mental illness, including serious mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring conditions get the services and supports that they need to recover.

**Comprehensive reform must represent the best ideas on improving our behavioral health care system.**

- It includes ideas from legislation such as the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, the Mental Health Reform Act of 2015, the Strengthening Mental Health in Our Communities Act, and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015.
- It incorporates ideas and proposals generated from numerous meetings with stakeholder groups to better understand the behavioral health system and how to improve it.

**True mental health reform fills in gaps by providing new funding for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders.**

- It bolsters the behavioral health workforce by investing in education and training programs such as a new peer professional workforce development grant program, a new grant program for the development and implementation of curricula for continuing education on serious mental illness, and a new grant program on health professions competencies to address racial, ethnic, sexual, and gender minority behavioral health disparities.
- It fills in much needed gaps in the federal investment in behavioral health programs including creating a new adult trauma program and adult suicide prevention program.
- It strengthens access to care by strengthening parity enforcement, investing in primary and behavioral health care integration, investing in the development of behavioral health crisis system, investing in improving mental and behavioral health services on college campuses, and by investing in assertive community treatment programs for individuals with serious mental illness while preserving patient privacy rights and enhancing education and clarity on HIPAA.
- It includes provisions that build on the Administration's efforts to responsibly update the use of Medicaid inpatient psychiatric care, improve the benefits people receive in these facilities, and remove outdated statutory barriers to home and community based mental health services in the Medicaid program.
- It tackles the upstream and downstream problems spurring the opioid epidemic by focusing on prescriber education, substance abuse treatment, and recovery services.