Did you know?

In 2014, 32 million more Americans will be covered by health insurance because of changes under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Between 20% and 30% (6 to 10 million) will have a mental health or substance use disorder.[1, 2]

More than half of all prison and jail inmates meet criteria for a mental health problem; nearly two-thirds meet criteria for a substance use problem; and more than a third meet criteria for both.[3]

Fewer than half of behavioral health and human service providers possess fully implemented clinical electronic health record (EHR) systems.[4]

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In this issue of *ASI-MV Connect*

What are the most pressing issues for behavioral health providers right now? Albert Villapiano, EdD, vice president of clinical development at Inflexxion, attended the recent NIATx Summit/SAAS National Conference and NASADAD Annual Meeting and came away with three key themes:

Collaboration and integration between and among behavioral health and primary care providers and the judicial system.

Adoption and use of data in electronic health records (EHRs).

Educating providers about, and gaining acceptance for, medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

In this issue of *ASI-MV Connect*, we'll hear from Dr. Villapiano about how organizations and clinicians are embracing these challenges and preparing for the future of behavioral health under healthcare reform.

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ASI-MV online version launches!

Throughout August, we're rolling out the online version of *ASI-MV*. Current customers who have the desktop version of the program can upgrade free of charge; following the upgrade, your ASI-MV

program will be accessible from any computer with an Internet connection. [To see a demo of the online version, visit the *ASI-MV* website](#).
For more information or for technical support, contact the *ASI-MV* team at 800-848-3895, extension 4.
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Preparing for the future of behavioral healthcare

At this summer's major meetings for leaders of substance abuse treatment organizations, the focus was on preparing for requirements and opportunities under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

Annual meetings of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc. (NASADAD), NIATx (formerly the Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment) and the State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS) were dedicated to "looking at ways that behavioral health agencies and providers need to position themselves to better respond to the changing environment under healthcare reform," observed Albert Villapiano, EdD, vice president of clinical development at Inflexxion, Inc. "Some of the best sessions were based on elements of the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) strategic action plan, *Leading Change: A Plan for SAMHSA's Roles and Actions 2011–2014*," Dr. Villapiano said.

Conference attendees were most concerned with four issues:

The ACA mandate to integrate behavioral with primary care

SAMHSA's focus on integration with the judicial system.

Implementing an electronic health record (EHR) that can communicate with EHRs across the system.

Extending the acceptance of medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

Providers also explored ways in which these issues overlap.

For example, MAT protocols combine the use of prescription medication with behavioral therapies, which offers the potential to make effective treatment more accessible through collaboration with primary care. In one delivery model, office-based physicians would identify patients with substance-use issues and prescribe any treatment medications that they might require, while substance abuse counselors would provide the behavioral component. To coordinate care seamlessly, both clinicians would need access to the patient's chart, which must be kept current in real time from the initial assessment onward — best accomplished with electronic record-keeping. The larger vision of a system that is more responsive and effective in treating substance abuse disorders depends in part on getting an EHR in place today.

According to Dr. Villapiano, "All of these issues are important for facilitating the shift to a system of care that recognizes behavioral health as an essential component of the overall health of both individuals and their communities, provides treatments supported by science, and is accountable for its outcomes. But each also represents a fundamental change in the way that behavioral health providers have operated in the past.

"While the NASADAD meeting framed the view from 50,000 feet in

terms of federal policy and how states are responding, the NIATx Summit/SAAS National Conference showcased providers around the country that have been successful in implementing change in their systems to respond to healthcare reform. For organizations contemplating these changes, the presentations gave concrete examples of what the process involves and the paths other providers have taken."

Presentations from both conferences are available online.
[NASADAD Annual Meeting](#)
[NIATx Summit and SAAS National Conference](#)
SAMHSA Administrator Pam Hyde's presentations at these conferences are available for viewing on SAMHSA's website.
[Staying Focused in Changing Times — Challenges and Opportunities](#)
from NASADAD/NPN/NTN Annual Conference on June 9, 2011
[Shaping the Future: Challenges and Opportunities](#) from NIATx Summit/SAAS National Conference on July 12, 2011
SAMHSA's strategic plan is also available as a free download:
[Leading Change: A Plan for SAMHSA's Roles and Actions 2011-2014](#)
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Kentucky River Community Care takes home two iAwards

At the NIATx Summit and SAAS National Conference, *ASI-MV* client Kentucky River Community Care (KRCC) of Jackson, Kentucky, received not one but *two* Innovations in Behavioral Health Service Awards, known as iAwards. NIATx and SAAS jointly confer the iAwards to highlight "innovations in process improvement practices that position an organization to meet the challenges of future

service delivery." The awards are granted in two categories, Process Improvement and Management. KRCC was recognized in both.

KRCC's Executive Change Team was recognized for meeting its goal "to make process improvement part of its organizational culture" through a team of six process-improvement coaches and 15 NIATx-certified Change Leaders who meet weekly to monitor the sustainability of more than 20 change projects.

In the Management category, KRCC was recognized for innovations in technology and communications that have reduced barriers to treatment and improved affordability and access. KRCC used technology to improve information-sharing among all stakeholders, and increased client use of electronic media in accessing behavioral healthcare services. As a result, "Consumer satisfaction and performance measurement systems rank KRCC at the top for behavioral health services in Kentucky."

Among the technology solutions that KRCC adopted is the *ASI-MV*. Congratulations, KRCC, for successfully embracing technology and change to improve care!
[Learn more about the iAwards](#).
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References

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Join us on LinkedIn!

Join other substance abuse professionals on LinkedIn to discuss the innovative use of technology in clinical practice. The *ASI-MV Connect* LinkedIn group is a source of new contacts and connections among behavioral health researchers, technology developers, and clinicians who are using technology to enhance their practices.

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About this newsletter

The *ASI-MV Connect* newsletter is a free bimonthly publication for professionals in the substance abuse field. It will keep you updated

on addiction and assessment research, *ASI–MV* product developments and features, and ways to make the most of the online version of *ASI–MV*.

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to your colleagues.

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