

From: [APA Communications](#)
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Subject: APA Headlines: Congress May Not Have Enough Time During Lame-Duck Session To Pass Mental Healthcare Reform Legislation
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

October 10, 2016

Leading The News

Congress May Not Have Enough Time During Lame-Duck Session To Pass Mental Healthcare Reform Legislation.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (10/8, Meyer, Subscription Publication) reported Congressional “lawmakers are poised to pass a sweeping package of mental healthcare reforms during the lame-duck session next month, following enactment in July of legislation to address the epidemic of opioid addiction.” But, “the big question” remains “whether Congress will have enough time during the 20 days of the lame-duck session following the November election to pass the legislation.” Depending on November’s election results, bipartisan rancor may also get in the way of passage.

Psychiatric News Alert



[Refugees’ Mental Stresses Similar Regardless of Country of Origin, Say Experts](#)

[NYC First Lady Describes ThriveNYC, Urges Psychiatrists to Be Advocates](#)

Award Nominations Due Soon: Distinguished Service and Carol Davis Ethics

The APA Distinguished Service Award honors an individual or organization of exceptional meritorious service to the field of psychiatry. APA members, nonmembers, and organizations are eligible, and the award will be presented during Convocation at the Annual Meeting. **Deadline for nominations is Oct. 31.** [More information.](#)

The Carol Davis Ethics Award promotes the educational role of the ethics process and is presented to an APA member who has authored an outstanding publication on ethics. The **deadline for nominations is Nov. 15**, and the award will be presented at the Annual Meeting. [More information.](#)



Government and Psychiatry

Government May Select Plans For Many ACA Customers Whose Insurers Have Left Marketplace.

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Pear, Subscription Publication) reported that the federal government will select health insurance plans “for hundreds of thousands of consumers whose insurers have left the Affordable Care Act marketplace unless those people opt out of the law’s exchanges or select plans on their own, under a new policy to make sure consumers maintain coverage in 2017.” The Times says the news “may make for a jarring start to the health law’s fourth annual open enrollment period” as consumers “may be surprised to learn that they have been placed in a health plan offered by a different insurance company” than they anticipated.

Psychiatry and Public Health

US Torture Program Left Legacy Of Mental Illness, Analysis Suggests.

In a more than 5,700-word front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (10/9, A1, Apuzzo, Fink, Risen, Subscription Publication) discussed the long term psychological harm that “extraordinary interrogation” methods have caused for terrorism suspects at CIA and military prisons around the world, including Guantánamo Bay. According to the Times, in the post-9/11 period, Americans debated whether some of these interrogation techniques amounted to torture, but that in this debate the “human toll has gone largely uncalculated.” The article pointed out that dozens of detainees have reported “persistent mental health problems” resulting from “enduring agonizing treatment.”

Stigma Of Mental Illness Especially Hard To Overcome In Medical School Setting, Psychiatry Resident Says.

In a special piece for the [Washington Post](#) (10/9) “Health & Science” blog, Nathaniel Morris, MD, a resident physician in psychiatry at the Stanford University of Medicine, who has personally struggled with depression, wrote that “suicide is a major issue for medical schools.” Surveys have found that approximately “10 percent of medical students have reported having thoughts of killing themselves within the past year.” What’s more, instead of “receiving support in these situations, these students often suffer humiliation from senior clinicians.” The “stigma of mental illness” has been “especially hard to overcome” in the medical school setting, Dr. Morris asserted.

APA in the News

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Rapunzel Syndrome A Complication Of Trichotillomania, Psychiatrist Explains.

The [CBS News](#) (10/7, Marcus) website reported on “Rapunzel syndrome,” a condition in which people eat hair and end up over time with a hairball in their digestive tract. American Psychiatric Association member and “Yale child psychiatrist” Robert King, MD, “said it’s a complication of trichotillomania” that is “mostly seen in children and adolescents.” Rapunzel syndrome “can involve hair on any part of the body, including the scalp, eyebrows and eyelashes.”

Other News

General Bolduc An “Evangelist” For Raising Awareness Of PTSD.

In a more than 1,400-word “Saturday Profile,” the [New York Times](#) (10/8, A3, Searcey, Subscription Publication) discussed how 54-year-old Brigadier General Donald Bolduc, who was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) 12 years after his tour in Afghanistan, “has become an evangelist for letting soldiers know that it is all right to get help for brain injuries and mental health problems.” Bolduc, who is headquartered in Stuttgart and “commands Special Operations fighters battling the Islamic State, Boko Haram, the Shabab and other terrorist groups in Africa,” is seeking to raise awareness among his soldiers that reaching out for “help with not hurt their careers.”

Friday's Lead Stories

- [Women In Midlife With A History Of Depression Appear To Be At Greater Risk For Heart Disease, Study Indicates.](#)
- [ACA Customers Whose Policies Are Discontinued Will Be Matched To Alternative Policies.](#)
- [Police Officers Specially Trained To Help In Mental Health Crises In Short Supply.](#)
- [Small Scan Study Finds Disrupted Prediction Error Signaling During Decision Making In Patients With GAD.](#)
- [Brain's Ability To Process Speech Declines With Age, Small Scan Study Reveals.](#)

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