

From: [APA Communications](#)
To: lpmastaff@apma.net
Subject: APA Headlines: Obama Defends ACA As "First Step," Calls For Adding Public Option
Date: Friday, October 21, 2016 7:25:22 AM

If you are unable to see the message or images below, [click here to view](#)

Please add Headlines@psych.custombriefings.com to your address book



Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

October 21, 2016

Leading The News

Obama Defends ACA As "First Step," Calls For Adding Public Option.

President Obama defended the Affordable Care Act in a visit to Miami, in an address which the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/20, Chang, Mazzei) calls "vigorous" and [Politico](#) (10/20, Demko) terms "robust." Obama called the ACA a "first step," akin to "buying a starter home." The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Goldstein) characterized it as a reiteration of "a position he has adopted this year that consumers would be helped if the government allowed a public insurance alternative in parts of the country that lack enough private companies selling ACA health plans to create market competition." [USA Today](#) (10/20, Korte) notes Obama also likened the ACA "to the Samsung Galaxy Note 7, a smartphone recalled last month after they started catching fire." Obama argues that "even with the phone's problems...you don't go back to using a rotary phone."

Psychiatric News Alert



[Why Isn't Naltrexone Used More Often for Alcohol Use Disorder?](#)

[Folinic Acid May Improve Verbal Skills in Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

CMS Issues Final Rule on MACRA

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued its [final rule](#) implementing payment reforms in the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). MACRA establishes new quality reporting programs aimed at encouraging value-based care. APA is creating a number of resources to help you transition. [Learn more](#) and read a related [blog](#) by APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A.



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Low Vitamin D Levels May Be Associated With Increased Negative And Depressive Symptoms In Patients With Psychotic Disorders, Study Suggests.

[Medical Daily](#) (10/20, Glowatz) reports that "low levels of vitamin D are 'associated with increased negative and depressive symptoms' in" patients with psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia, researchers found in a study including 225 patients and 159 controls. For that reason, "people with psychotic disorders...might experience some relief if they spend more time in the sun," investigators from the University of Oslo concluded during the annual International Early Psychosis Association's annual conference.

NIMH To Provide \$21M In Funding For Study On Development Of Mental Disorders That Develop Following Trauma.

[Healio](#) (10/20) reports that recently, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) “announced it will provide \$21 million in funding over five years for a study on the development of mental disorders that develop following trauma.” In a press release, NIMH director Joshua A. Gordon, MD, PhD, said, “In the relatively short term, this project is expected to deliver tools for clinicians to make informed decisions about risk and follow-up care soon after trauma.” Additionally, the “research resource to be created will fuel a new generation of analyses on the underlying causes of disorders, identify new intervention targets, and in turn give rise to mechanism-informed treatments based on individual needs.”

Taurine May Significantly Benefit Patients With Psychosis, Small Study Suggests.

[Medical Daily](#) (10/20, Borrelli) reports that “taurine, an additive in energy drinks, can significantly help with psychosis,” researchers found. The findings of the 86-patient study were scheduled for presentation this week at the annual meeting of the International Early Psychosis Association.

Government and Psychiatry

Data Show More Than 326,000 Have Enrolled In Louisiana’s Expanded Medicaid Program So Far.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (10/20, Crisp) reports officials said on Thursday that enrollment in Louisiana’s expanded Medicaid program has exceeded 326,000, “leaving the state just 50,000 shy of the goal it aims to reach by July.” Data show that among new enrollees, “nearly 25,000 people have already had preventive care visits with health care providers; 288 adults have been newly-diagnosed with diabetes; and 676 patients have been diagnosed with hypertension.”

Psychiatry and Public Health

Nearly 75% Of Patients Prescribed Opiate Pain Relievers Following Major Injury, Trauma Get Off The Medication Almost A Month After Discharge, Researchers Say.

[Medical Daily](#) (10/20, Chabba) reports that nearly “75 percent of patients who are prescribed opiate pain relievers following a major injury or trauma get off the medication almost a month after discharge,” researchers found after analyzing data from the “2007 to 2013 database of the Department of Defense health care system with patients between the ages of 18 and 64 years who suffered from severe injuries.” The findings were presented at the 2016 Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons.



APA in the News

Lane: Euthanasia Of People Suffering From Mental Illness Is “A Global Moral Crisis For Psychiatry.”

Charles Lane writes in his column for the [Washington Post](#) (10/19) that euthanasia of people suffering from “mental illnesses or cognitive disorders, including dementia, is now a common occurrence in Belgium and the Netherlands.” A recent report for the government on the matter, apparently in response to a recent call by “65 Belgian mental-health professionals, ethicists and physicians” to prohibit it, argues that “all is well.” Lane points out that both inside and outside of the country, questions are being raised about the practice, and the American Psychiatric Association may adopt “a declaration that it is unethical for any psychiatrist to participate in the euthanasia of a

non-terminal patient." The World Psychiatric Association may also revisit its position, and may consider a prohibition on "psychiatric participation in euthanasia." Lane says the situation in Belgium is "a global moral crisis for psychiatry, and all of medicine, that can no longer be ignored."

Advertisement



Mouse Study Examines How Lithium Affects The Brain.

In a greater than 1,100-word piece, [The Atlantic](#) (10/20, Frankel) reports that even though "the description of bipolar disorder in the various editions of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) – the American Psychiatric Association's sometimes maligned guide to psychiatric diagnosis – has changed over the years, lithium has remained a standby treatment." To find out just how lithium affects the brain, investigators found that mice lacking "a key gene in a pathway in the brain that seems to determine how neurons grow and form connections with one another" and which were treated with lithium "developed more connections" in their brains. The [findings](#) were published online Oct. 18 in *Molecular Psychiatry*.

Psychiatric Medication Update

Currently Available Antidepressants May Aggravate Sexual Dysfunction, Make Depression Worse, Industry-Sponsored Survey Reveals.

[Medscape](#) (10/20, Brooks) reports, "Currently available antidepressants may aggravate sexual dysfunction and make depression worse," researchers found after surveying some "1,000 US adults currently receiving antidepressant...therapy for" major depressive disorder. The [findings](#) of the Sexual Symptoms and Side Effects in Depression (SEXSED) survey were announced in an Oct. 13 press release by "Fabre-Kramer Pharmaceuticals, the developer of gepirone extended-release (Travivo), a still experimental and somewhat controversial antidepressant that has a unique mechanism of action that may avert the sexual side effects of currently available antidepressants."

Other News

New York City Mayor, Police Commissioner Condemn Fatal Police Shooting Of A Bronx Woman With Schizophrenia.

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (10/19, A1, Rosenberg, Southall, Subscription Publication) reports on the shooting Tuesday by a New York City police officer of 66-year-old Deborah Danner, a Bronx woman with schizophrenia, a "confrontation...condemned in swift and striking terms by Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill." Both de Blasio and O'Neill "said the officer had failed to follow the Police Department's protocol for dealing with an emotionally disturbed person." The mayor faulted the officer for not waiting for "more specialized officers from the department's elite Emergency Service Unit to arrive." De Blasio "also noted that Sergeant Barry was equipped with a stun gun that he could have used to try to subdue Ms. Danner." Even though New York City has started "providing its rank-and-file officers with more advanced training on dealing with people with mental illness," only "about 4,400 of the" NYPD's "roughly 36,000 officers" have received Crisis Intervention Training.

The [New York Times](#) (10/20, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication) reports New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said on Thursday that his office would not investigate the fatal police shooting of a mentally ill woman this week in the Bronx. The attorney general's power to act as a special prosecutor in a police shooting is generally limited to cases in which the victim was unarmed, and initial police accounts said that Bronx woman who was fatally shot was armed with a baseball bat. Schneiderman said the woman's death was a "tragedy that never should have happened," and stressed that "I believe there is no question this case must be investigated," but said that the "legally empowered prosecutor must take the lead."

NYTimes Analysis: De Blasio Balances Competing Interests In Wake Of Bronx Shooting. The [New York Times](#) (10/20, Goodman, Subscription Publication) reports New York Mayor Bill de Blasio on Thursday attended a ceremony marking the dedication of a new memorial to 18 police officers who died in the line of duty. This is in sharp contrast to de Blasio's comments on Wednesday when he condemned the fatal police shooting of Deborah Danner, the 66-year-old Bronx woman with a history of mental illness. Danner's death "thrust Mr. de Blasio again onto the tightrope between a community angered by a seemingly avoidable killing by the police, and rank-and-file officers who have been skeptical of his leadership since he ran on a reform agenda." Police union officials deplored the treatment of Sgt. Hugh Barry, who fatally shot Danner, accusing top police officials and de Blasio of rushing to judgment before an investigation had even begun.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) writes that as a result of the shooting on Tuesday by a New York City police officer of a person with schizophrenia, Deborah Danner "now joins a tragic group of people whose mental illness leads them into a dangerous, often fatal, collision with the police." The Times observes, "It is hard to see how a group of officers with Tasers could have ended up using lethal force against a sick woman. Hard to see, and yet entirely predictable." The Times concludes that while the police officer's innocence will be presumed during the investigation into the shooting, "no such mercy will ever be available for the late Deborah Danner."

Thursday's Lead Stories

- **Report Finds 56% Of US Adults With A Mental Illness Do Not Receive Treatment.**
- **Researchers Find Further Evidence Of Associations Between Neurofibromatosis Type 1 And ASD.**
- **Burwell Predicts 13.8 Million Will Sign Up For ACA Coverage.**
- **Professor Discusses The “Goldwater Rule.”**

Subscriber Tools

- [Change Email Address](#)
- [Send Feedback](#)
- [Unsubscribe](#)
- [Email Help](#)
- [Archives](#)

Advertise with BulletinHealthcare: Reach key professionals every morning

APA Headlines is a morning news briefing on psychiatry and mental health selected from thousands of sources by the editors of BulletinHealthcare. The goal of APA Headlines is to expand the number of news sources available to APA members and alert them of mental health-related information as it is reported in the media. The appearance of a news item in Headlines does not imply that the APA agrees with, approves, or otherwise endorses any research finding, statement or position reported within the news item. Any research finding, statement or position expressed within the briefing is solely that of the originally cited source. The appearance of advertising does not represent endorsement by the APA.

This complimentary copy of APA Headlines was sent to lpmastaff@lpma.net as part of your APA membership. View BulletinHealthcare [privacy policy](#).

For information about other member benefits, please visit the [APA Member Relations](#) website or you may also call the APA at 1-888-35PSYCH.

American Psychiatric Association | 1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1825 | Arlington, VA 22209

Copyright © 2016 by BulletinHealthcare | 11190 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 20 | Reston, VA 20191