

From: [APA Communications](#)
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

December 5, 2016

Leading The News

Advertisement

President Obama Calls For Senate To Pass 21st Century Cures Act.

[The Hill](#) (12/3, Vladimirov) reported President Barack Obama praised the 21st Century Cures Act and encouraged the Senate to pass the bill. Obama said the bill represented “an opportunity to save lives, and an opportunity we just can’t miss.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/3, Antle) reported the President praised the funding for medical research in the bill as a “chance to put our best minds to work one more time – and in a big way.” The President additionally pledged to sign the legislation “as soon as it reaches my desk because like a lot of you, I’ve lost people I love to cancer. ... I believe we should seize every chance we have to find cures as soon as possible. When it’s your family, hope can’t come soon enough.”

21st Century Cures Act Includes “Major Mental Health Overhaul.”

The [Connecticut Post](#) (12/4, Freedman) reports the 21st Century Cures Act legislation includes “a major mental health overhaul,” which was co-sponsored by Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA). The article explains that Murphy and some of the families who lost children in the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre have called for improved mental healthcare, which may have prevented the mass shooting, but they have also called for gun control measures, which are not part of the bill.



Psychiatric News Alert



[Court Ruling May Increase Role of Mental Health Professionals in Evaluating Gun Rights](#)

[House Passes Major Mental Health Legislation](#)

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Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Patients With Alzheimer's Who Present With Hallucinations May Be More Likely To Relapse After Discontinuing Antipsychotic Treatment, Small Study Indicates.

[Healio](#) (12/2, Oldt) reports, "Individuals with Alzheimer's disease who presented with hallucinations, particularly auditory, were more likely to relapse after discontinuing antipsychotic treatment," researchers found in a 180-patient study. The [findings](#) were published online Nov. 18 in the American Journal of Psychiatry, a publication of the American Psychiatric Association.

Personal Growth Program Eschewing Medication "Unique" Approach For Addressing Combat-Related PTSD, Program Founders Say.

In "Health & Science," the [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Miller) reported the founders of the Boulder Crest "post-deployment retreat for service members...say they believe they have hit upon a unique approach for addressing" post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from combat, and that is "a program aimed at encouraging personal growth that eschews medication." The program's founders "say they believe it is superior to the classical psychological interventions typically practiced by the Department of Veterans Affairs."

Government and Psychiatry

Trial Set To Begin In Lawsuit Alleging Inadequate Mental Healthcare In The Alabama State Prison System.

[Alabama Live](#) (12/4, Yurkanin) reported that on Dec. 5, "a non-jury trial will begin in a lawsuit alleging inadequate mental health care in the" Alabama "state prison system." The trial's outcome could possibly affect "not just 25,000 inmates in Alabama, but also those across the country, housed in prisons that are absorbing an increasing number of people with schizophrenia and other illnesses." The lawsuit contains allegations that the Alabama Department of Corrections "has not funded an adequate number of psychiatrists, psychologists and nurses – and often relies on unlicensed mental health workers to provide care." As a consequence, "inmates receive little more than prescription" medicines, the suit contends.

Ryan Says GOP's Top Priority In January Will Be ACA Repeal.

During a [CBS' 60 Minutes](#) (12/4) interview, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) said once President-elect Donald Trump takes office, "the first bill we're going to be working on is our Obamacare legislation." Asked if the 20 million people who gained access to healthcare coverage because of the ACA would lose it, Ryan insisted, "No, we want to make sure that we have a good transition period, so that people can get better coverage at a better price." He added that it was impossible to predict how long the transition will last, saying, "We're still working on that."

Obama Urges Americans To Oppose ACA Repeal. The [Washington Post](#) (12/2, Goldstein) reported that during a Facebook Live appearance on Friday, President Obama urged Americans "to press the Republican-led Congress not to abandon gains in insurance coverage and access to health care that the Affordable Care Act has brought during the past six years."

Some GOP Lawmakers Worried About Ryan's Plans To Overhaul Medicare. The [Washington Post](#) (12/2, Debonis) reported "key GOP lawmakers" are "nervous about overshooting their electoral mandate" after House Speaker Ryan (R-WI) "made clear Thursday that he is willing to pursue a major overhaul of Medicare, including changes that could eventually put private companies in charge of the health care for tens of millions of American seniors." Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, said, "Save Medicare for another day," and instead focus on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Alexander added, "Trying to deal with the solvency issues with Medicare at the same time falls into the category of biting off more than you can chew. ... We can't do everything at once, and we shouldn't try." HHS Secretary-designate Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) "also has Medicare's defenders nervous about a push for premium support," the Post said.

Nelson Calls For FTC Inquiry Into "Surprise" Medical Bills.

The [New York Times](#) (12/3, Sanger-Katz, Abelson, Subscription Publication) "The Upshot" blog reports Sen. Bill Nelson, the ranking member of the Commerce Committee, has sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission asking for an investigation into the "unfair and deceptive" practice of in-network hospitals charging emergency room patients with large out-of-network rates due to disputed physician costs. Nelson asserted, "Consumers in such cases have little choice over who provides their medical care and are led to believe that all services provided in that facility are covered by their insurance plan." According to the Times, his letter "cannot compel" a FTC probe, but "the commission often honors the requests of the Commerce Committee and can undertake investigations at its own behest."

Psychiatry and Public Health

Number Of Americans Who Attempted Suicide And Wound Up In The ED Has Remained Steady In The Past Decade, Researchers Find.

[HealthDay](#) (12/2, Dotinga) reported, "The number of Americans who attempted suicide and wound up in the emergency" department (ED) "has remained steady in the past decade," researchers found after focusing on data on some "3.5 million" ED visits "prompted by suicide attempts." The [findings](#) were published online Nov. 17 in Epidemiology and Psychiatric Sciences.

APA in the News

Orthorexia Developing In Increasing Numbers Of People Due To Popular Ideas About Healthy Eating.

[Medical Daily](#) (12/2, Glowatz) reported that people do not “have to completely starve themselves or vomit up every meal in order to have a serious eating problem.” A “fixation on healthy eating,” even though “not officially recognized as an eating disorder or a different category of mental illness,” has been [described](#) by the American Psychiatric Association “as a ‘dietary pattern in which an individual restricts intake to include only ‘healthy’ foods, such as vegetables or organic foods, but in doing so develops significant problems, such as an obsession with food and severe weight loss.’” While orthorexia “can start as a simple commitment to a better lifestyle, the behavior spirals out of control.” What’s more, “it is developing in more and more people because of popular ideas about healthy eating.”

Other News

US Health Spending Averaged Nearly \$10,000 Per Person In 2015.

The [New York Times](#) (12/2, Pear, Subscription Publication) reports the Department of Health and Human Services announced Friday that healthcare spending in the US “increased last year at the fastest rate since the 2008 recession, reaching \$3.2 trillion, or an average of nearly \$10,000 a person.” The HHS report, which was published online in the journal Health Affairs, attributed “the increase in federal spending...mainly [to] the expansion of Medicaid eligibility and enrollment.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication) reports spending also grew faster than expected, with national health expenditures increasing 5.8 percent compared with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ projected growth of 5.5 percent.

Many Older People Skip Vaccinations.

The [New York Times](#) (12/2, Span, Subscription Publication) “New Old Age” blog reported on “an ongoing and vexing public health problem: People once vigilant about vaccinating their children aren’t nearly as careful about protecting themselves as they age, even though diseases like influenza, pneumonia and shingles...are particularly dangerous for older people.” Dr. Carolyn Bridges, associate director for adult immunization at the CDC, said, “Trying to prevent these common and often debilitating conditions is incredibly important for older adults.”

Study Finds Heart Shows Signs Of Stress After Sleep Deprivation.

[TIME](#) (12/2, Sifferlin) reported on a study presented at a radiology conference finding that “sleep deprivation can cause noticeable changes in the heart.” Researchers examined “professionals in emergency medical care,” both “before and after a 24-hour shift where they got an average of three hours of sleep.” They found signs of “increases in heart strain,” including higher “blood pressure, heart rate and thyroid hormones.”

[HealthDay](#) (12/2, Preidt) reported lead researcher Dr. Daniel Kuetting, of the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology at the University of Bonn, said, “For the first time, we have shown that short-term sleep deprivation in the context of 24-hour shifts can lead to a significant increase in cardiac contractility, blood pressure and heart rate.”

The [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (12/2, Knapton) reported that just a single night without sleep “is enough to cause strain on the heart.”

Friday's Lead Stories

- [Women Who Have Experienced A Miscarriage Or Ectopic Pregnancy May Be At A Greater Risk For PTSD, Small Study Suggests.](#)
- [Small Scan Study Indicates Sex-Specific Association Between Gray Matter Volume, Future Substance Use In Teens With BD.](#)
- [Minnesota Department Of Health Approves Medical Marijuana As A PTSD Treatment In August 2017.](#)
- [Delay In School Start Time May Lead To Better Mental Health And Focus Among Teens, Study Suggests.](#)
- [21st Century Cures Act, Which Includes Significant Mental Health Components, Passes House.](#)

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