

MPS NEWS

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Editor: Meagan Floyd

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please email jhritz@mdpsych.org.
MPS News Design & Layout
Jora Hritz

President's Column

Where Did my Dues Go This Year?

As the Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS) concludes another year, it is worth highlighting how member dues have been used to strengthen our organization and advance psychiatry across Maryland. Of course, dues pay the salaries of our awesome staff members, Jora and Meagan. Their work is essential to coordinating the day-to-day operations of MPS and ensuring that programs, committees, and communications run smoothly throughout the year. Dues also cover organizational overhead, including rent, accounting services, lobbying efforts, insurance, and equipment and technology needs. But what does that provide for each member?

Education

Throughout the year, MPS has been able to offer multiple CME programs, most of which are provided free to members. This year in addition to the annual psychopharmacology CME, we also had a CME focused on the psychiatric impacts of climate change and a panel that included major psychiatric leaders – our first ever State of Psychiatry in Maryland meeting.

Members also benefited from ongoing communication and shared expertise. MPS publishes a [monthly newsletter](#) as well as advocacy alerts and updates on regulatory changes affecting psychiatric practice. Considering the volatility of the current political environment, doing so was considerable effort this year. In addition, we facilitate topic-specific consultations with member experts.

Committee Work and Advocacy

Our committees remained highly active

this year. The Ethics Committee continued to provide curbside consultation for ethical questions. The Community Psychiatry and Diversity Coalition worked to ensure that our organization remains focused on meeting the needs of our most vulnerable patient populations while supporting efforts to diversify our membership.

The Legislative Committee remained particularly impactful, reviewing nearly every piece of behavioral health legislation introduced during the year. Committee members provided both written and oral testimony in Annapolis, ensuring that the perspective of psychiatry was consistently represented in state policymaking. This advocacy was critical this year as we addressed legislation that would have allowed psychologists to prescribe medications and other scope of practice expansions for non-physicians. Members of the Executive Committee met regularly with key state partners to both advocate for the needs of psychiatrists and stay informed about emerging issues. These partners included the Maryland Hospital Association, the Mental Health Association of Maryland, the Behavioral Health Administration, and others. MPS leaders also participated in APA-led meetings with other district branches, allowing us to learn from colleagues nationwide while bringing attention to issues unique to Maryland.

Connection

It remains critical that MPS plays a role in creating and supporting a community of psychiatrists across the state. This year, we hosted several opportunities for connection and community, including social and

The MPS Council will meet via Zoom on April 14 at 7:30 PM. All members welcome!

President's Column Cont.

professional events such as the baseball outing, and trainee-focused events. We are all anxiously anticipating the [Annual Meeting](#) (April 30) during which we will enjoy good music, community and food as we celebrate the accomplishments of the year and individuals who deserve special recognition.

Looking Ahead with Pride

Together, these accomplishments reflect a year marked by energy, collaboration, and meaningful impact. While no summary can capture everything achieved, this review highlights how member dues directly support the work of MPS and help move our profession forward. In my final President's Column, I extend my sincere thanks to our members, committee leaders, and staff for making this a year worth celebrating and for helping position MPS for continued success in the year ahead. I look forward to seeing everyone at the [Annual Meeting](#) and toasting to a wonderful year.

Ronald Means, M.D.
MPS President

MPS Paper Competition Winners

The MPS Academic Psychiatry Committee "[best paper](#)" award recognizes outstanding manuscripts authored by young psychiatrists that are published or in press in the immediately preceding year. The selection subcommittee reviewed several submissions of excellent papers. Congratulations to this year's winners who will receive cash prizes and be recognized at the [April 30 annual meeting](#):

Medical Student Members (MSMs)

(Tie)

Erin Wildermuth (UMSM) [A single-cell genomic atlas for the effects of chronic ethanol exposure in the mouse dorsal striatum](#)

Caroline Yi (UMSM) [Confidence, Consciousness, and Compressions: Navigating a Medical Student's First Resuscitation Attempt](#)

Resident-Fellow Members (RFMs)

Hiroe Hu, D.O. (NIMH) [Can ketamine and other glutamate receptor modulators be considered entactogens?](#)

Early Career Psychiatrist (ECP)

Chris Morrow, M.D. (JH) [Neuropsychiatric symptoms cluster and fluctuate over time in behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia](#)

CONGRATULATIONS



MPS Council voted to award

Anita Everett, M.D.

2026 MPS Lifetime of Service Award

This award is given annually to a senior MPS member who has shown a consistent, career-long pattern of unwavering dedication, commitment, and leadership to the organization.

Please join us at our Annual Meeting on April 30 to honor Dr. Everett for this achievement.

See page 8 for more information.

Robin Weiss, M.D. to Receive MFP Anti-Stigma Advocacy Award

The 2026 Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry (MFP) Anti-Stigma Advocacy Prize will be awarded to Robin Weiss, MD for her extraordinary generosity of spirit, humility, and courage in openly sharing her personal journey of struggle with addiction and success in recovery as a young physician.

The Anti-Stigma Advocacy Award will be formally presented at the [Maryland Psychiatric Society Annual Dinner on April 30](#).

The Foundation established this annual prize for a worthy media piece, preferably local or regional, that accomplishes one or more of the following:

- Shares with the public their experience with mental illness in themselves, a family member, or simply in the community.
- Helps others to overcome their inability to talk about mental illness or their own mental illness.
- Imparts particularly insightful observations on the general subject of mental illness.

[Click here](#) for information about past winners.

March 10 Council Minutes

Dr. Balis called the Council meeting to order at 7:35. She asked for anyone with a new conflict of interest to disclose it, and no one noted any conflict.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Balis noted the Council Minutes for the February meeting, the trivia night report and the Executive Director's Report were included in the consent agenda. After a few moments of review, Dr. Balis asked if there were any concerns or comments. Hearing none, the consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Support for Strategic Priorities

Dr. Balis provided an update on activities that support MPS Strategic Priorities. She reported that since February MPS has:

- Made extensive retention efforts for members who still owe MPS and/or APA dues
- Emailed March *MPS News* to recruits asking that they join or donate to advocacy
- Hosted Advocacy Day in Annapolis, met with close to 40 Senators and Delegates
- Sent an Action Alert on important legislation to all non-members with donation link
- Secured supporters to help fund annual meeting
- Held RFM Trivia Night with food, drinks and prizes was a great free event. Approximately 38 attendees competed in 6 teams. Thanks to our meeting supports PRMS and Mind Works.

Executive Committee Report

Dr. Means presented the Executive Committee report. Regarding member support, he reported that planning for the 2026 Annual Meeting and dinner is well underway with multiple vendors secured and ticket sales are open. MPS staff and leadership have sent out extensive communication with members on the MPS/APA drop list, and the MPS has published advocacy alerts, Medicare fee schedules, fellowship opportunities and more in the MPS News.

Dr. Means next identified MPS work within promoting leadership opportunities & member recognition. The MPS Executive Committee identified the recipient of the 2026 Wonodi Award as Dr. Deborah Rose, and the winner of the MFP Anti-Stigma Award as Robin Weiss, M.D. Committee Chair appointments for 2026-27 are almost completed and the 2026 MPS election has begun, and the deadline to submit ballots is March 31st. The MPS recognized winners of the 2025 Best Paper and Poster Contests and continued to publish member spotlights, shoutouts (new) and publication announcements in MPS News. He concluded by reporting that the MPS Distinguished Fellowship Committee will meet in March to begin the nomination process for 2026.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Dr. Young presented the 2025 year-end financial statements

and form 990 for Council review. He began by reminding Council that the financial statements were reviewed, not audited, by Norman Feldman, CPA, PA.

Statement of Financial Position

- Total assets are \$520K, \$18K lower than last year. The difference is because of \$88.5K less cash, \$1K more accounts receivable and \$700 more prepaid expenses, which are offset by \$70K more investment reserves.
- Liabilities total \$148K, 10k lower than 2024, which mainly reflects \$10K less prepaid dues.
- Net assets (or equity) of \$372K are 8k less than last year and include \$3600 that are temporarily restricted for legal advocacy and the Wonodi fund.

Statement of Activity compared to 2024

- Total Support and Revenue of \$296K is down \$50K from 2024. Dues are down \$9K; meetings are down \$6k, and advertising/package offers are down \$15k. Dues, advertising, and meetings remain the largest categories of income.
- Total expenses of \$305K are down \$40K from 2024. Some costs decreased including salaries and health insurance and decreased website project costs.
- The change in net assets is an \$8K in the red, down from \$800 overage in 2024. Interest and investment income contributed positively in 2025.

Statements of Cash Flows

- Operations during 2025 resulted in an \$88K decrease in cash, mainly due to moving \$70K to investment accounts and \$8K less in prepaid membership dues.
- The purchase of new laptops in 2023 (and nothing purchased new in 2025) and the lack of equipment disposal as was seen in 2024 accounts for a total net change of -\$88,000 compared with -\$11,000 last year.

In-House Statement of Activities vs. Budget

- Total income of \$296K is \$28K less than budget. Dues income was \$5K under budget, despite over 30 member drops in the spring of 2025. Notably, all advertising lines including MPSN classified, homepage and display advertising were short by a total \$21K. Interest and investments generated \$2K more than expected. Meetings brought in \$1K less than projected and costs were on target.
- Total expenses are \$305K, \$7K under budget. The largest variances are reduced travel, lower/fewer subscriptions, and reduced taxes due to lower than anticipated ad sales. Other notable budget savings are in health care and phone/internet.
- The \$9K deficit is \$21K worse than the \$12K profit that was budgeted.

*Council Minutes Cont.*Form 990

- The 990 includes amounts from the financial statements, but with different categories, as well as governance questions, policies, leadership, lobbying expenses, a description of program and services (separate document), and other information.
- The 990-T (p.30 of the PDF) shows \$13K of "unrelated" taxable ad income and \$2800 federal taxes.
- Per MPS policy, Council will review form 990 and suggest changes needed before it is filed with IRS. Questions and/or suggestions?

The MPS is very well positioned going forward. The staff transition continued in 2024 and early 2025. Member retention as well as advertising and other vendor funding are priorities for continued financial success.

After a brief discussion, the motion to approve the Secretary Treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee Report

Drs. Young and Lewis present a brief update on the work done thus far by the MPS Legislative Committee. Dr. Young reported that several Committee members provided oral testimony in support of Prohibited Possession of Firearms - Assisted Outpatient Treatment Respondents and in opposition of the psychologist prescribing bill. The Committee continues to meet weekly or as needed and so far, has reviewed over 130 bills and taken a position on close to 40 bills.

Membership Committee Report

Ms. Floyd presented the Membership Committee report. She asked Council to review the drop roster and encouraged attendees to contact any colleagues they know and ask them to pay their outstanding dues; both MPS and APA. Members who have not paid MPS/APA dues or enroll in a payment plan will be dropped from membership on March 31st. Drop letters were sent via USPS to those on the list, and invoices are being sent weekly. The Membership Committee is diligently working to contact members – the list is high, around 180 members – and processing that number of drops would have dire consequences to the MPS bottom line. A Google doc will be shared with Council, which will contain real time updates, and notes regarding the drop list. Next, Council reviewed two requests for dues relief – and voted to approve both and staff will send Council's recommendation to the APA.

Join the MPS Listserv

MPS members are encouraged to join the listserv to easily share information with colleagues. An email message sent to the listserv goes to all members who have joined. Posts can be questions, information, thought-provoking articles and more. To join the listserv, please email mps@mdpsych.org. The listserv is open to members only so you will have to wait for membership approval and will be notified by email.

Southern Psychiatric Association Resident Research Award

The Southern Psychiatric Association (SPA) offers an annual award for an original manuscript concerning basic or clinical research on a topic pertinent to psychiatry.

ELIGIBILITY

- Psychiatric Residents or Fellows that are currently in training at an approved and accredited graduated medical education program at the time of the Annual Meeting.
- The applicant must attend and present their research at the September 2026 Annual Meeting in Baltimore in order to receive the award.
- All submissions must be original and not previously published.
- One manuscript per applicant.
- PowerPoint not accepted.
- Literature reviews are excluded from acceptable manuscripts.

AWARD WINNER RECEIVES

- Travel expenses up to \$1,000 to SPA's Annual Meeting, September 16 – 19 in Baltimore, MD.
- Presentation of research at the Annual Meeting
- \$500 honorarium for presenting.
- Meeting Registration Fee Waived
- Recognition of the winner's training program

DEADLINE

- June 15, 2026
- Applicants are encouraged to submit manuscripts as early as possible for consideration.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

Email Submissions to: Janet Bryan at janet.bryan@sheppardpratt.org.

All submissions will receive an email confirmation of receipt, and must include:

- Cover sheet with contact information of applicant (name, residency program, email, phone, mailing address) and all other authors
- Abstract: 2-page limit
- Completed manuscript:
 - Typed, 12pt font, double spaced, 15-page limit
 - Enough information for a 30-minute presentation, if selected as winner
 - Formatted as follows: Introduction, Purpose, Methods, Results, Discussion/Conclusion, and at least 3 references

Strong consideration will be given to the timeliness of the topic, applicability to a general psychiatric audience, and originality of the paper.

Ikwunga Wonodi Social Justice and Health Equity in Psychiatry Award Winner

Annually, the Ikwunga Wonodi Social Justice and Health Equity in Psychiatry Award honors a Resident, Fellow, or Early-Career Psychiatrist who has demonstrated distinction in advocating for human rights and equity in psychiatric care for people with severe mental illness from historically marginalized and underserved communities through teaching, research, clinical work, and/or public health advocacy. The honor is designed to reflect Dr. Wonodi's values and contributions to psychiatry and the community.

This year, the Community Psychiatry & Diversity Coalition has selected **Dr. Deborah Rose** as the 2026 recipient of the award.

Dr. Deborah Rose is a Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry Fellow at Johns Hopkins. She cares for patients with neuropsychiatric disorders and severe mental illness. Through a Physicians Foundation Fellowship, she led a project to incorporate social drivers of health screening into clinical care and connect patients to local resources. She volunteers with the Alzheimer's Association in West Baltimore to expand access to dementia-related psychiatric care in underserved communities. She is honored to receive the 2026 Ikwunga Wonodi Award and is committed to carrying forward Dr. Wonodi's dedication to reducing stigma and advancing equitable, dignified care for all patients.

Help us celebrate Dr. Rose at the [2026 MPS Annual Dinner](#), see you there!

Member Publications

Paul Nestadt, M.D. wrote a perspective for *Helio* regarding a study that looked at how self-harm among adolescents increased post-pandemic in Ireland. Dr. Nestadt compared the results of the Irish study to factors that also exist in the U.S. Read the study and Dr. Nestadt's commentary [here](#).

Robert Schloesser, M.D. authored a study that analyzed methods to increase patient reach and clinical adoption of an electronic patient-reported outcome (ePRO) intervention, identified barriers and facilitators to ePRO implementation, and applied iterative modifications in psychiatric urgent care. Read about their findings [here](#).

Max Spaderna, M.D. wrote a commentary piece for *Journal of Addiction Medicine* titled "Detecting Suicidality in Opioid Use Disorder Requires an Understanding of Intentional Opioid Overdose." It discusses the importance of understanding intentional opioid overdose for understanding suicidality in opioid use disorder as well as the importance of developing screening tools for it. [Click here to access](#).

Call for Volunteers!

ALL members are invited to step up with MPS and make a difference in how psychiatry is practiced in Maryland

The MPS offers multiple ways for members to be involved, including volunteering for [committees](#), joining an email [interest group](#) and other ways that members request. MPS President Tyler Hightower, M.D., MPH., will appoint FY27 committees next month so please sign up NOW!

Engage with us to represent psychiatry. This is your chance to have a say! Your energy and ideas can help the MPS effectively focus on issues that are important to you! Participation from members is essential to accomplishing our goals. To review the options and sign up, [please click here](#).



Ikwunga Wonodi Award 2025 Donors

With gratitude we acknowledge the following 2025 donors to the

Ikwunga Wonodi Social Justice and Health Equity in Psychiatry Award

Up to \$99

Sue E. Kim, M.D.

\$100 - \$249

Adegboyega A. Oyemade, M.D.

Elaine E. Weiner, M.D.

\$250 - \$499

Tyler C. Hightower M.D., M.P.H.

\$500 - \$999

Adora Wonodi

Springfield Hospital Medical Staff

MPS Membership

The following individuals have applied for membership Unless any current members have evidence that an applicant does not meet the criteria for ethical and professional standards, these actions will be approved 14 days after publication.

Reinstatement

Ajay Bhandari, M.D.
David C. Mancini, M.D.
Bikash Sharma, M.D.

Out & About

Harsh Trivedi, M.D., MBA was interviewed for a *Health Leaders Media* article in which he discusses how health systems are working to meet the growing demand of behavioral health service needs. He highlights the need for accessible behavioral health care in closer proximity to where patients live as well as the financial structure of behavioral health. Read the article [here](#).

THE MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

2026 Annual Meeting

April 30, 2026

6:00 until 9:00

AT THE MT WASHINGTON TAVERN

Help us turn over the gavel to Tyler Hightower, M.D., MPH, incoming MPS President and welcome Michael Young, M.D. as the MPS President-Elect and Rachna Raisinghani, M.D. as Treasurer.

[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#)

GENERAL MEMBER: \$85 | EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRIST (ECP): \$50 | RESIDENT-FELLOW: \$35

Special Recognitions:

Lifetime of Service Award

Anita Everett, M.D.

MFP Anti-Stigma Advocacy Award

Robin Weiss, M.D.

Ikwunga Wonodi Award

Deborah Rose, M.D.

MPS Best Paper Award

ECP Winner: Christopher Morrow, M.D.

RFM Winner: Hiroe Hu, D.O.

Medical Student Winner (Tie):

Erin Wildermuth and Caroline Yi

Thank You to Our Sponsors

•Medical Mutual•

•Avesta Ketamine & Wellness• •Sheppard Pratt•

•Dr. Jimmy Potash• •Harris Jones & Malone• •NAMI Maryland•

•MindWork Group• •Johnson & Johnson•

Maryland News

Maryland Takes Action Against Unlawful Insurance Downcoding

In a recent enforcement action, the Maryland Insurance Administration found that Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company improperly “downcoded” evaluation and management (E/M) claims submitted by physicians, reducing reimbursement levels without following Maryland law. The investigation determined that the insurer altered billing codes to lower-paying levels and forced physicians to appeal to receive proper reimbursement.

The MIA concluded that these practices violated Maryland’s insurance statutes governing claim payment and processing and imposed an administrative penalty on the company while ordering the practice to cease. Downcoding is not a harmless administrative adjustment. It undermines physician judgment, delays payment for legitimate care, and ultimately harms patients by destabilizing the physician practices that care for them.

Evaluation and management codes reflect the complexity of a patient visit and are determined by the physician based on the clinical work performed. Altering those codes without following proper procedures can reduce payment for already delivered care and create administrative burdens that take time away from patients.

New Proposed Templates for Mental Health Parity

The Maryland Insurance Administration (the MIA) has released a new set of mental health and substance use disorder data reports to evaluate the required comparative analysis of certain nonquantitative treatment limitations (NQTLs). The proposed data templates are posted below, and comments will be accepted for 30 days following the date of the posting. The date of the original posting was March 18, 2026. Comments should be sent to mhpaea.mia@maryland.gov with the subject line “Comments on NQTL Data Supplements.” The MIA will post the final data templates to the MIA website after considering the comments received. Data supplements are required to be filed with the NQTL reports by July 1, 2026.

- [Overview of claims data](#)
- [In-Network and single case/gap exception reimbursements](#)
- [Crisis and emergency services](#)
- [Experimental/Unproven/Investigational](#)
- [ASAM criteria for SUD benefits](#)
- [MDRF denial rates](#)

Maryland Loan Repayment Program 2026 Application Cycle

We are pleased to announce opening of the [Maryland Loan Repayment Program \(MLRP\)](#) 2026 application cycle! MLRP applications will be accepted from eligible applicants from March 1 — April 15, 2026. Applications will be completed utilizing tools available on the Application [section of the program website](#). You can find program eligibility criteria, application instructions, and all application documentation on the site. If you plan to apply, we strongly encourage you to read the application instructions and connect with your application contributors (employer and professional references) well in advance of application deadlines.

Psychotropic Medication Oversight and Monitoring

Psychotropic Medication Oversight and Monitoring for Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Care:
On February 18, 2026, the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) released a letter to prescribers. This letter is to inform providers that Maryland has implemented updates to the psychotropic medication oversight and monitoring process for children and youth in out-of-home care (inpatient and outpatient), including a structured Psychotropic Medication Review Process to support Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) when LDSS is the legally designated Health Care Decision Maker (HCDM).

As a part of this process, prescribers are required to complete Section A of the [Psychotropic Medication Informed Consent Packet](#) when prescribing psychotropic medications for children/youth and may be contacted by the clinical review team (licensed pharmacist and/or child and adolescent psychiatrist) for additional clinical context. LDSS will follow up to communicate the decision related to the medication recommendation.

To read the full letter and FAQs, please select [this link](#).

Overdose Prevention Program Inventory Update

The Maryland Overdose Prevention Team Substance Use Program Inventory has been updated. The inventory details the status of 118 local-level programs across Maryland that seek to reduce overdoses and increase access to substance-use care. This update also includes a summary of our annual qualitative survey of OPT partners. You can find the updated inventory at StopOverdose.Maryland.gov/Overdose-Prevention-Teams

Maryland News

MedChi Museum Videos Now Online

MedChi celebrated 225 years of service in 2024. Located in a historic building in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood, MedChi is home to more than 55,000 books; numerous portraits, some dating back to the late 1700s; antique medical equipment; and even a ghost. They have recently opened the MedChi Museum of Maryland Medical History, visits by appointment only. More information may be found at www.medchiarchives.blogspot.com. [Click here to visit](#) the MedChi's Museum's YouTube page, which has all the History videos. Each video is approximately 5 minutes long.

Free Collaborative Behavioral Health Model CME

Primary Care Innovation: Connected Primary Care and Collaborative Behavioral Health

Date: April 9th

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), Spring Symposium focuses on MedStar Health's Connected Primary Care and Collaborative Behavioral Health models, which aims to improve patient care by integrating primary care, behavioral health services, and technology-enabled support systems.

Register Here: [Zoom](#)

Risk Management Resolutions & New Blog Post

Risk Management Resolutions

PRMS is pleased to announce that PRMS' Risk Managers have composed a [series of resolutions](#) for psychiatrists to consider throughout the year. These resolutions offer 12 easy-to-implement steps in the areas of: patient safety, technology, documentation, and communication.

PRMS Blog: "Risk Management: I've Been Sued, Now What! Part 4"

One of our [newest blogs](#), written by PRMS Associate Director of Risk Management Justin Pope, JD, is an excerpt from the Innovations in Clinical Neuroscience journal on the litigation process from a risk management perspective. Catch up on the latest blogs at PRMS.com/blog.

SAMHSA Announces Grants to Expand Serious Mental Health Illness Services

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has announced \$69.1 million in new grant funding opportunities to expand services for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) and strengthen suicide prevention efforts nationwide. These programs may present partnership and leadership opportunities for psychiatrists working in health systems, community mental health programs, and state or local initiatives. Applications are due **April 20, 2026**.

Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI)

Supports comprehensive community-based mental health systems for children, youth, and young adults (birth–21) with serious emotional disturbance (SED). Programs focus on coordinated care across behavioral health, primary care, schools, and social services, creating opportunities for psychiatrists to contribute to system design, clinical leadership, and integrated care models.

Eligible applicants: State governments (including DC and U.S. territories), governmental units within political subdivisions of a state (e.g., counties or cities), and federally recognized tribes or tribal organizations.

Implementing Zero Suicide in Health Systems

Funds health systems to implement the Zero Suicide framework, an evidence-based approach to improving suicide prevention practices and care for adults at risk of suicide. Psychiatrists may help develop clinical protocols, lead care teams, and implement best practices across healthcare settings.

Eligible applicants: Community-based primary care or behavioral health settings, emergency departments, state mental health agencies, public health agencies, U.S. territories, and tribes or tribal organizations.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Supports the implementation and expansion of assisted outpatient treatment programs for adults with serious mental illness who meet civil commitment criteria in their state. Psychiatrists are often central to clinical evaluation, treatment planning, and program oversight in AOT programs.

Eligible applicants: Counties, cities, mental health systems or authorities, mental health courts, or other entities authorized under state law to implement, monitor, and oversee AOT programs.

New ADHD Blog

Mindful Choices for ADHD is excited to announce the launch of our new blog, [The Mindful Conversation](#)! Check out the [first blog](#) post which highlights critical gaps in care as young adults with ADHD transition to independence. The blog underscores the need for stronger clinical guidance, better care continuity, and policy solutions to support effective, evidence-based ADHD management during this pivotal stage of life.

APA News & Information

MPS Members Presenting at the APA Annual Meeting

Many of our MPS members will be giving talks, presenting posters, and participating in panels at the upcoming 2026 APA Annual Meeting. See the following list of members who will be part of the APA Annual Meeting's sessions.

James Aluri, M.D.
David Goodman, M.D.
David Gorelick, M.D., Ph.D.
Vedrana Hodzic, M.D.
Zofia Kozak, M.D.
David McDuff, M.D.
Ronald Means, M.D.
William Narrow, M.D., MPH
Paul Nestadt, M.D.
Brandon Newsome, M.D.
Anne Ruble, M.D., MPH
Elizabeth Ryznar, M.D., M.Sc.
Akira Sawa, M.D.
Steven Sharfstein, M.D.
Jonathan Shepherd, M.D.
Harsh Trivedi, M.D., MBA
Michael Young, M.D.

Register for the 2026 Annual Meeting

APA's Annual Meeting is returning to **San Francisco, May 16-20**, bringing together psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, and allied professionals for 4.5 days of collaboration and clinical growth.

With **400+ sessions** across **40+ topic areas**, attendees have an array of opportunities to earn CME or CE credits while connecting with colleagues who bring diverse perspectives to mental health practice.

Expect new experiences such as the **Biological Sciences Hub**, returning favorites like the **Community Psychiatry Hub**, and relevant educational sessions like these AM25 highlights:

- [ADHD Across the Lifespan](#)
- [New Vistas in Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders](#)
- [Sleep: From Childhood to Aging](#)

FREE APA Course of the Month

Each month, APA members have free access to an on-demand CME course on a popular topic. [Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)

New APA Communities App

The APA is excited to announce the launch of the new APA Communities app! This app provides a more streamlined, user-friendly mobile experience that complements existing email and web access, making it easier than ever to connect, collaborate, and stay engaged. It is intentionally focused on Communities, and is not a broader, all-purpose APA app.

While the current version centers on community interaction, we are exploring ways to expand its capabilities in the future. How to Download:

1. Search for "APA Communities" in your device's app store:
 - Apple App Store
 - Google Play Store

2. Log in using your existing APA credentials (the same ones used for my.psychiatry.org).

If you need help navigating Communities, check out the FAQ page: <https://community.psychiatry.org/help/faq>

District Branch Gala Challenge

Purchase a ticket to the 2026 APA Foundation Gala and [help your District Branch compete](#) to direct a \$10,000 charitable donation. The APA needs your help to make our **2026 APA Foundation Gala** the most successful on record so we can continue our work supporting the mental health of communities everywhere. **Join us at San Francisco City Hall on Monday, May 18, 2026.** [Purchase a ticket](#) and enjoy a fantastic evening with fine food, beverage, dancing, and our silent auction featuring trips to exciting destinations, exclusive signed memorabilia, and much more. The District Branch with the highest percentage of tickets purchased (relative to size) wins: **So please spread the word to your colleagues, family and friends.**

Psychiatrists with Immediate Patient Openings Available

The MPS maintains a list of members who can see new patients quickly. An *updated* "[MPS Members Actively Taking New Patients: Appointments Within 1-2 Weeks](#)" will appear on <https://mdpsych.org/> later this month. Please email mflloyd@mdpsych.org to be included (include name, patient types, insurances accepted, phone number/email, etc.) and/or consider referring patients to this resource. Patients can also try [Find a Psychiatrist](#), but the wait time may be longer.

Medicare Updates

HHS Finalizes Rule

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is making our shareholders aware of the "Adoption of Standards for Health Care Claims Attachments Transactions and Electronic Signatures (CMS-0053-F)" [Final Rule](#).

This groundbreaking final rule establishes the first-ever Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-adopted standards for health care claims attachments, enabling the secure electronic submission of supporting clinical documentation for claims such as: medical records, x-rays and imaging, clinical notes, telemedicine visit documentation, and laboratory results.

Published in the Federal Register, this final rule implements requirements outlined in the Administrative Simplification subtitle of HIPAA and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, enacted on March 30, 2010. It introduces new standards to streamline administrative transactions, reduce manual processes, and support improvements in administrative efficiency and patient care.

Key details of the final rule include:

- **Health Care Claims Attachments Standards:** Adopts standards for the secure electronic submission of supporting documentation, such as medical records, x-rays, and clinical notes for health care claims.
- **Electronic Signatures Standards:** Establishes secure, authenticated electronic signatures for claims attachment transactions, ensuring document integrity and enhancing identity verification through the Health Level Seven® ([HL7® Digital Signatures Guide](#)).

These updates aim to reduce manual processes like faxing and mailing, saving time and resources for health care providers and payers while improving administrative efficiency and supporting improvements in patient care.

Compliance Timeline:

Stakeholders must comply with all requirements in the rule within 24 months from the effective date of the final rule. This compliance period allows covered entities to adopt the new standards and transition from current processes. For more information on the final rule, please visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-05676>

2026 MIPS Annual Call for Quality and Cost Measures

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) encourages you to submit quality and cost measures for consideration for future years of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). The MIPS Annual Call for Quality and Cost Measures process allows clinicians, professional associations, and medical societies that represent clinicians, researchers, consumer groups, and others to identify and submit measures. Currently, we're accepting submissions for:

- Measures for the quality performance category; and
- Measures for the cost performance category.

The 2026 MIPS Annual Call for Quality and Cost Measures is from **March 19, 2026**, to **May 7, 2026**. Measure developers can submit quality and cost measures for CMS's consideration by completing the required fields and submitting applicable measure specifications and all supporting data files via the [CMS Measures Under Consideration Entry/Review Information Tool \(MERIT\)](#) by **8 p.m. ET on May 7, 2026**. Candidate measures that are submitted via CMS MERIT will be considered for potential inclusion on the Measures Under Consideration (MUC) List, which is part of the pre-rulemaking process. The timeframe for candidate measures to be considered for inclusion in MIPS is a 2-year process. Only candidate quality and cost measures submitted by **May 7, 2026**, will be considered for inclusion in the MIPS quality or cost performance categories. Measures selected for inclusion on the MUC List would be considered for MIPS implementation in PY2028.

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- Assisted Outpatient Treatment as Alternative to Involuntary Hospitalization

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For questions or additional information, please contact:

Jora Hritz
Maryland Psychiatric Society
JHritz@mdpsych.org

Janet Bryan
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