

**FEDERAL:** The 21st Century Cures Act was enacted in December. This bipartisan effort for public health and medical research, directs \$6 Billion to address mental health challenges in the criminal justice system and other behavioral health and physical health priorities.

**Behavioral Health Provisions:**

- Authorizes funding for prison and jail-based programs including re-entry services (allows state and local governments to use federal funds for mental health treatment and transitional services such as housing assistance for people returning to their communities after prison or jail);
- Provides for suicide prevention programs (\$31 million a year);
- Enhances mental health services for children (\$119 million for FY 2018-2022) and \$20 million annually for grants with a ten percent match to providers to conduct infant and early childhood mental health promotion intervention and treatment;
- Provides for Court ordered outpatient treatment;
- Authorizes funding for homeless transition assistance grants (\$64.6 million) and grants to aid the treatment and recovery of homeless individuals (\$41.4 million);
- Establishes new position in the US Department of Health and Human Services—the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use—directed to coordinate mental health programs across the federal government;
- Instructs the new Secretary to study PAIMI programs pertaining to how federal funds are being spent;
- Calls for a study on the IMD Exclusion (16-bed limit for in-patient facilities that bill Medicare and Medicaid);
- Increases opioid abuse treatment programs (new funding of \$1 billion);
- Provides funding for Mental Health First Aid;
- Speeds up the development and approval of new drugs and medical devices by the Food and Drug Administration;
- Includes the provisions from the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016;
- Authorizing grants for CIT programs and promotes de-escalation training and diverting people with mental illnesses to treatment instead of incarceration;
- Creates the National Criminal Justice and Mental Health Training Center to identify best practices and provide technical assistance to government agencies implementing these practices;
- Clarifies that federal Medicaid statute permits same-day billing for the provision of mental health and primary care services; and
- Requires federal guidance on compliance with mental health and substance use disorder parity requirements.

*Summary provided by Terezie Bohrer.*