



## **CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE NEWS**

**BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD:** [Baltimore County's Emergency Crisis Response Programs To Expand](#): Plans are in the works to expand Baltimore County's emergency crisis response programs to provide additional interventions to support residents experiencing behavioral health crises. "This pandemic has challenged all us in unimaginable ways and government must do all we can to provide thoughtful, informed and compassionate service to our residents in need," said Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski. "This expansion is an important step forward that will help Baltimore County better provide those in crisis with the help they need while continuing to help our first responders to strengthen communities and save lives." In addition to notable public health and economic impacts, the coronavirus pandemic has had a growing and significant effect on residents' mental and behavioral health, Olszewski said.

**CHESTER COUNTY, PA:** [Chester County launches Teen Talk line to promote mental health](#): Chester County teens now have a new tool for mental health and wellness. A Teen Talk Line, targeting 12- to 18-year-olds, is now taking calls and texts to support young people who are feeling overwhelmed, stressed, sad, isolated, or confused. The National Institute of Mental Health notes that young people may be more vulnerable to stress and developing mental health conditions, such as anxiety or depression. Teen Talk and Text lines are effective tools in supporting youth across the country. Chester County's Teen Talk Line is contracted through the county's office of Mental Health and will be provided by Access Services, a non-profit organization that runs other mental health programs, including a Teen Talk Line in Montgomery County.

**KENDALL COUNTY, IL:** [Kendall County Mental Health Court To Begin Operating](#): Chief Judge Robert Pilmer, of the 23rd Judicial Circuit Court, and Eric Weis, state's attorney for Kendall County, announced last week that the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts has certified the Kendall County Mental Health Court to begin operating. The court is designed to help people with mental health needs who have become involved in the criminal justice system as a result. According to a release, history has shown that incarceration and convictions alone do not address mental health symptoms, leaving an individual with unmet needs and a greater chance of ongoing legal issues. The court, which also will have a veterans treatment court track, will offer those in the program frequent contact with the judge and the mental health court team, while also getting their treatment needs addressed.

**OH:** [Ohio Medicaid program to expand access to behavioral health services for children](#): Gov. Mike DeWine announced a program called OhioRise through the Ohio Department of Medicaid Monday. The nearly \$1 billion dollar program would connect families with much-needed behavioral health services. Whether it's a developmental disability, mental health or

behavioral health, program will coordinate services and connect them with families in their homes and communities.

## **NATIONAL**

### **[Biden Pledges Assertive Action to Address Opioid Crisis](#)**

Acknowledging that addiction is a crisis that “touches families in every community in red states and blue states, across all races and creeds,” President Joe Biden told Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit attendees in an address presented Monday that his administration is committed to facing the challenge head-on. “The crisis is national, but the struggle is personal—deeply personal,” he said. Biden became the third sitting U.S. president to address the Rx Summit, joining President Donald Trump in 2019 and President Barack Obama in 2016. Former President Bill Clinton also spoke at the Rx Summit in 2018.

## **WEEKEND READING**

**[NPR:](#)** In The Rise And Fall Of The Sacklers' Opioid Empire, An American Dream Turns Toxic

**[Kaiser Health News:](#)** Opioid Epidemic May Have Killed 90,000 In 2020

**[Politico:](#)** Opioid abuse spiked during the pandemic. What can Congress do?

**[Politico:](#)** Understaffed and overtaxed, Capitol Police reeling from trauma of body and mind

**[WebMD:](#)** 1 in 3 Have Neurological, Psychiatric Problems Post-COVID

**[Scientific American:](#)** The Pandemic Doesn't Mean We Have to Choose between Physical and Mental Health

**\*\*The information compiled in this email originated from the following news sources:  
Daily Local News, Patch, WDTN . Psych Congress \*\***