



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

### **\*notes member of the Cities Thrive Coalition**

#### **\*ALBANY COUNTY, NY: [Albany County launches mental health crises pilot program:](#)**

Albany County is launching their new Crisis Officials Responding and Diverting (ACCORD) program. County Chairman Andrew Joyce and members of the Albany County Legislature will be joined by County Executive Daniel McCoy, Sheriff Craig Apple, Department of Mental Health Commissioner Stephen Giordano and UAlbany officials to make the announcement. “We are not defunding police in Albany County. What we are doing is raising the discussion around policing and public safety in our communities and taking action to help our law enforcement agencies be better equipped and responsive to the communities they serve,” said Chairman Joyce. “With ACCORD, we will be able to utilize our resources appropriately by having a team specially trained to handle issues of mental health and other non-violent emergencies, which allows our police to focus on what they do best, tackling crime.”

#### **MI: Gov. [Whitmer signs bipartisan bills to improve access to mental health services](#)**

Governor Whitmer signed House Bill 4043 and House Bill 4044, which ensures that callers to the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) have access to information about availability of psychiatric beds. Governor Whitmer says these bills will improve access to mental health services. “Mental health is key to maintaining one’s overall health,” Governor Whitmer said in a statement. “I’m proud to sign these bipartisan bills that build on the successful rollout of the Michigan Crisis and Access Line earlier this year, further improving access to mental health services.” MiCAL is a crisis line that is available for anyone in the state who needs behavioral health or crisis response services. MiCAL is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provides Michiganders with crisis services and non-crisis “warm line” services, informational resources, and facilitated coordination with local systems of care.

#### **\*ORANGE COUNTY, CA: [Orange County schools join with Children’s Hospital to address student mental health needs:](#)**

Faced with rates of adolescent suicide and self-harm that have been among the fastest-rising in the country, schools in Orange County have teamed up with a local hospital to boost mental health services on campuses. The partnership between Children’s Hospital of Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education will include a streamlined connection between the schools and the hospital system, and “well spaces” on every campus where students can visit counselors, do yoga or meditate, and generally relax. “This is a passion for us. We get teary-eyed on a daily basis about this project,” said Mayu Iwatani, manager of mental health and wellness for the Orange County Department of Education. “We truly believe every child should have access to something like this.” The youth suicide rate in Orange County increased by 11% from 2010 to 2018, the sharpest increase among the 20 most populous counties in the U.S., according to the Community Suicide Prevention Initiative.



**\*SAN FRANCISCO, CA:** [Answering the call: Changing how 911 responds to mental health crises](#): San Francisco's roughest neighborhoods can seem dominated by the homeless, the mentally disturbed, and those openly using drugs. But San Francisco Mayor London Breed is cutting the police budget. Correspondent John Blackstone asked, "Don't you need more police on the street to change that?" "We gotta look at things differently," she replied. "The challenges that people face are not what they used to be. And a police response doesn't solve all of these issues." So now, in San Francisco many calls to 911 no longer bring armed police officers; instead, dispatchers send what the city calls a Street Crisis Response Team trained to deal with mental health issues.

**SPRINGFIELD, MO:** [Prevention program aims to teach kids the dangers of misusing drugs](#): The COVID-19 pandemic is subsiding but one thing that is not is the opioid crisis. In 2020 there was a 15% increase in drug overdoses in Southwest Missouri. However, Missouri is utilizing a certain prevention program to keep these numbers from rising. The Discovery Center in Springfield received \$250,000 for its Science Behind Opioids program. Science can be a fun subject for students since especially when it comes to experiments. However, Jack Belvins is learning about a specific topic and that topic is opioids. "Kids don't really how heavy or important a topic is," said Rob Blevins, executive director of the Discovery Center.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Democrats Push Bill Aimed at Family That Owns Purdue Pharma**

A congressional committee heard grievances Tuesday against the owners of OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma as it considered longshot legislation that would keep them from using a corporate bankruptcy as a shield for personal liability. Rep. Carolyn Maloney called two state attorneys general, opioid activists and an author to lay out the case against members of the Sackler family who own the Connecticut-based pharmaceutical giant, which has twice pleaded guilty to criminal charges related to marketing OxyContin. Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, a Republican, said the Sacklers are standing in the way of seeking justice for the victims of opioid addiction and their families. "The Sacklers are using Purdue's corporate bankruptcy as a tactic to hide behind and protect themselves from personal liability and accountability," he told members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, addressing them remotely. "They have kept my case away from an Idaho judge and an Idaho jury."



## **WEEKEND READING**

**Scientific American:** News about Racial Violence Harms Black People's Mental Health

**Spectrum news:** Helping loved ones with post-pandemic mental health struggles

**The Hill:** Naomi Osaka is raising awareness of mental health issues in professional sports

**NAMI:** Osaka Opened Up About Her Mental Health — Now The Ball's In Our Court

**\*\*The information compiled in this email originated from the following news sources:WTVB, CBS News, Ed Source, KOLR, News 10, U.S. News\*\***