



CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE NEWS

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

FREDERICK, MD: [Frederick launches 'crisis response car' sending mental health professionals, EMTs with police to certain calls](#): A new program in the City of Frederick, Maryland, aims to better de-escalate emergency mental health calls. It's called the Crisis Response Car, and the new unmarked vehicle will have a mental health professional from Sheppard Pratt, an EMT or paramedic and a Frederick police officer on board. The goal? "To improve outcomes, decrease the need to use force and mitigate the need to use the criminal justice system as a means for dealing with people in crisis," Frederick Police Chief Jason Lando said.

IA: [Iowa is creating a new mental health center to help schools, using \\$20 million in federal relief funds](#): The state of Iowa will use \$20 million in federal relief dollars to fund a new center for school mental health that will provide resources to Iowa schools for the upcoming school year, Gov. Kim Reynolds announced Wednesday. "This new center will help teachers and schools across the state meet the mental and behavioral health needs of K-12 students, a role that's increasingly important in the post-pandemic world that we live in," Reynolds said during a news conference Wednesday. The Iowa Center for School Mental Health will be a partnership between the Iowa Department of Education and the University of Iowa.

MD: [Mental health law named for Rep. Raskin's late son takes effect in Md.](#): Nearly six months after Rep. Jamie B. Raskin lost his son to suicide, the Maryland congressman joined Gov. Larry Hogan and state lawmakers Monday to unveil the state's new mental health support program named in the young man's memory. The Thomas Bloom Raskin Act, which takes effect July 1, expands the state's 211 crisis call center so trained counselors can periodically check in with people who need mental health support, rather than waiting for them to call while in crisis. The goal, lawmakers said, is to more proactively offer community mental health services to prevent crises, particularly at a time when state psychiatric hospital beds are at acutely high capacity and as the pandemic exacts a bruising toll on mental health nationwide.

MOBILE, AL: [Mobile's First Black Women-Owned Community-Focused Mental Health Center Opens](#): Two Black women entrepreneurs are on a mission to eradicate the stigma surrounding mental health in the Black community and are making history in the process. According to NBC 15, Afiya Hooker and Joanna Johnson recently opened Mobile's first Black-owned community mental health center. The center—dubbed Yin Yang Wellness Center—opened its doors in May. Aware of the disparities regarding the accessibility to mental health resources that disproportionately impact the Black community Johnson and Hooker, both



licensed professional counselors, wanted to cultivate a safe space for people to embark on their journeys towards restoration.

***NEW YORK, NY: [New Mental Health Response Team Piloted at Fort Greene Park:](#)** A new person-centered mental health response pilot program being rolled out at Fort Greene Park will see two dedicated teams giving support services to those in need in the park. The Person-Centered Intervention Training (PCIT) Mental Health Response Pilot is being led by the Fort Greene Park Conservancy in partnership with NYC Parks and Fountain House, and it is being funded through a multi-year grant from the van Ameringen Foundation.

***ULSTER COUNTY, NY: [Ulster County's first mental health urgent care facility opens:](#)** Ulster County's first mental health urgent care is now open in Midtown Kingston. Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan says the county is stepping up its response to addiction and mental health issues. Since the pandemic started, suicides in the county doubled from year-to-year and fatal overdoses increased 93%. "We're getting calls every single day from individuals and family members that are trying to deal with opioid addiction, or dealing with mental health issues that have really been exasperated by the pandemic," Ryan said.

NATIONAL

[Overnight Health Care: Medicaid enrollment reaches new high | White House gives allocation plan for 55M doses | Schumer backs dental, vision, hearing in Medicare](#)

Medicaid enrollment is up, the White House is making plans to share more vaccine doses with the world, and Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer backs adding dental, vision, and hearing benefits to Medicare.

READING FROM THE WEEK

[The Hill:](#) Excellence Act will expand mental health and substance use treatment access to millions

[The Hill:](#) Drag Race's Gigi Goode speaks on LGBTQ+ mental health for Pride Month

[Mental Health Today:](#) Workplace racism and its undeniable impact on mental health

[Forbes:](#) It's Time To Prioritize Children's Mental Health In U.S. Foreign Assistance

[Essence:](#) Bill to End Criminalization of Students Reintroduced in Congress



[CNBC:](#) 'Domino effect of discrimination': Polling shows mental health and career impacts of anti-Asian hate

[Vox:](#) The doctors are not all right

[NPR:](#) Kids In Mental Health Crisis Can Languish For Days Inside Ers

[Forbes:](#) Queer During Quarantine: A Spotlight On LGBTQ Youth Mental Health Amidst COVID-19

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Washington Post, NewsOne, The Hill, Spectrum News, Des Moines Register, BK Reader****