**OSMA News Now**

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**Drastic Medicaid Cuts Averted**

A state budget that minimizes cuts to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) passed the House and Senate this afternoon. The governor has indicated she will sign it, marking the end to a tumultuous legislative session. OHCA’s funding will increase about $36 million. Unfortunately, that still leaves it about $33 million short of funds needed for current services and reimbursement. As of this writing (2:30 p.m., Friday), OHCA stated it hopes to keep provider rates cuts to 3.5% or less and is working to make internal cuts before resorting to provider rate cuts.

A $1.50 cigarette fee, advocated for by OSMA, provides a significant portion of the funding needed. Since it is a revenue-raising measure passed within the last five days of the legislative session, its constitutionality will likely be challenged. State law prohibits such action late in the session.

No matter what lies ahead, increasing the cost of cigarettes to fund healthcare has to be part of solving this shortage,” said Kevin Taubman, M.D., president. “Healthcare to the 20 percent of our state’s citizens who rely on this for basic healthcare services must be protected.”

“Taubman called the passage of an increase in the cigarette fee a ‘home run’ for Oklahomans’ health. The price for cigarettes is the single largest predictor of the likelihood of minors to take up the tobacco habit. Very simply, it will save lives.” Citing Oklahoma’s cigarette pricing in comparison to other states, Taubman said he believes further increases should be considered and will advocate for that. “We need to expand this to smokeless tobacco as well, he added.”

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**President Taubman Addresses Trump’s Budget Proposal**

OSMA President Kevin Taubman, M.D., issued this statement in response to Tuesday’s federal budget proposal: “On May 7, 2015, then-candidate Donald Trump said he was ‘the first & only potential GOP candidate to state there will be no cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.’ Just two years later, President Trump is proposing a budget that would cut more than $800
million and eliminate Medicaid eligibility for more than 10 million Americans.

While we are sadly well-versed in politicians failing to keep their campaign promises, seldom have we seen a broken vow with such disastrous consequences for Oklahoma patients. More than 20 percent of Oklahomans receive basic health care services through Medicaid. Nearly 60 percent of Oklahoma babies have their prenatal and delivery costs covered with Medicaid dollars. This draconian budget proposal would place the health care of thousands of our fellow citizens at risk.

Are there savings to be had in the Medicaid system? Perhaps. Are there reforms needed to the Medicaid components of the Affordable Care Act? Probably. But this budget proposal does none of those, choosing instead to simply cut off thousands of our state’s most vulnerable citizens from the health care they need. We urge our congressional delegation to reject President Trump’s budget proposal and pass a budget that achieves meaningful reforms while preserving the safety net that protects so many Oklahomans.

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**Showcase Your Hard Work**

Physician practices continue to make great strides in providing reliable preventive services by using health information technology and effective care management methods. We think these practices should be recognized for their hard work. The Oklahoma State Medical Association, Oklahoma Osteopathic Association and TMF® Health Quality Institute have partnered to offer the Physician Practice Quality Improvement Award program to physician practices in Oklahoma.

View the [application](https://www.tmf.org/Health-Care-Providers/Physicians/Physician-Quality-Award) or enter [https://www.tmf.org/Health-Care-Providers/Physicians/Physician-Quality-Award](https://www.tmf.org/Health-Care-Providers/Physicians/Physician-Quality-Award).

**NOTE:** You have the option to submit 12 months of data for the full year of 2016, or quarterly data for April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017. Download the [program overview](https://www.tmf.org/Health-Care-Providers/Physicians/Physician-Quality-Award) (PDF) and [criteria](https://www.tmf.org/Health-Care-Providers/Physicians/Physician-Quality-Award) (PDF) to learn what your practice needs to do to prepare to complete an online application by June 10, 2017. Award-winning practices will receive commemorative items to display and will be recognized through a media campaign. Announcements will also be made at meetings and in journals by the Oklahoma State Medical Association and the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association. Learn more and view the list of previous award recipients.

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**Streamline Medicare Payments:**

Authorizes Signatures Required on EDI Enrollment Forms

Oklahoma’s Medicare administrator Novitas Solutions EDI requires that the Authorized Official or Delegated Official, as listed on the CMS-855, sign the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) enrollment form, Novitasphere Portal enrollment form, and other EDI provider forms.

Any EDI provider forms submitted that are not signed by an authorized or delegated official are being rejected, and a corrected form must be submitted. This is the number one reason forms are being rejected.

**Unsure who your authorized or delegated official(s) on file are?** Access it in the “Managing Control” section via this form: [Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System (PECOS)](https://www.tmf.org/Health-Care-Providers/Physicians/Physician-Quality-Award). For more information on this, visit [CMS PECOS Info site](https://www.tmf.org/Health-Care-Providers/Physicians/Physician-Quality-Award).

**NOTE:** No action is needed for existing customers who are not making a change.

For questions regarding EDI or Novitasphere enrollment, please contact an EDI Analyst:

1-855-252-8782, Option 3 (JH) or 1-855-880-8424 (Novitasphere)
Awards $30K to Schools for Healthy Lifestyles

Thanks to contributions from the OSMA board of trustees and members, the OSMA Foundation recently provided $30,000 to Schools for Healthy Lifestyles. As a best-practice school health model for the state of Oklahoma it reaches 69 elementary schools in 20 counties.

Even though school is out, Schools for Healthy Lifestyles stays busy with a hands-on conference and training for all school coordinators and principals. Nationally renowned speakers are brought in to conduct clinics and trainings with the latest in physical and health education. The focus includes physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use prevention, safety and injury prevention and oral health.

OSMA Foundation President Michael Crutcher, M.D., encouraged all members to support the Foundation as a great investment in the future of our state’s health. “Beyond the lives we reach directly as physicians, we see so much that needs to be done. Through gifts to the OSMA Foundation, we have the power to support programs like this one. This enhances our state’s health status for decades to come. And, it wouldn’t happen without physician contributions.”

To all who have served or who have family members in the armed forces - past or present, we deeply thank you!

Those who are gone are not forgotten. We may not know them all, but we OWE them all.
Opportunity for Primary Care Providers in North & South Central Oklahoma
Make Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Gratifying and Efficient!

Are you concerned about the devastating effect of opioid use disorder (OUD) on your patients and communities but overwhelmed at the prospect of offering treatment for OUD in your own practice? American Institutes for Research (AIR) is currently recruiting 45 providers practicing in these north central and south central Oklahoma:


The Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project aims to support PCPs in 39 rural Oklahoma counties as they learn how to deliver and expand access to MAT services for persons with OUD. MAT is an evidence-based strategy for treating persons with OUD that combines the use of medications with counseling and behavior therapies to provide a whole-patient approach to treatment. AIR offers practical, hands-on assistance to you and your office team through training, case-based consultations with addiction specialists, and mentoring by experienced MAT providers. Practices will receive a stipend to facilitate data collection for a planned evaluation of the project. PCPs should either currently hold or desire to obtain a DATA 2000 or CARA 2016 authorized waiver for buprenorphine for the treatment of OUD.

Benefits of Participation

- PCPs will receive education to enable them to obtain a Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) or Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA 2016) authorized waiver for prescribing buprenorphine in office-based settings.
- PCPs can earn continuing medical education (CME) credits for a variety of offered trainings, with an option to complete the requirements of the new ASAM Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine 40-Hour Program.
- PCPs and their staff will receive practical, case-based teaching and mentorship on treating patients with OUD. Webcams are provided for remote ECHO-model consultations with peers and addiction specialists.

Recruitment ends September 1, 2017.

- Selected providers will implement the program from December 2017 to September 2019.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) is conducting this project in partnership with the state of Oklahoma, the ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). Complete a brief eligibility form at http://OklahomaMAT.org.

Email the AIR team at OklahomaMAT@air.org or call 866-236-4285.