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Statements of Support for The Bowman Family Foundation Study

A new patient release study shows a stark disparity in access between mental and physical health; organizations across the spectrum support the recommendations from the report

Today, The Bowman Family Foundation released [**Equitable Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Care: An Urgent Need**](#), an important study on the disparities in access to mental and physical health for people of all ages and levels of insurance. Organizations and employer groups across the spectrum support the recommendations from the report, including continued coverage of virtual services, enforcement of state and national parity laws, and integration of mental health services into primary care visits.

Supporters of the recommendations offered the following quotes:

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies

Dr. Jill Ehrenreich-May, President

“We have known for years that the vast majority of children and adults with mental and behavioral health concerns, particularly those most in need and/or marginalized, are unlikely to receive any psychotherapy or similar care. This is hugely problematic, as these concerns can be drastically reduced via brief and evidence-based therapies, such as cognitive behavior therapy. While the systemic barriers underlying the lack of available workforce to address this ‘mental health pandemic’ are complex, commitment to collaborating on realistic solutions doesn’t have to be.”

Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value

President and CEO

“The Florida Alliance for Healthcare Value strongly supports each of the recommendations outlined in the Bowman Family Foundation Report. As a Regional Employer Stakeholder Engagement Team for the Path Forward for Mental Health and Substance Use, the Florida Alliance is a key player in advocating for and advancing these recommended solutions to behavioral health services for Florida’s employers and their covered members on multiple fronts. The Florida Alliance has been actively engaged with our members in an employer learning collaborative (ELC) since August 2022 focusing on redesigning behavioral health benefit plans, policies, and networks to address ongoing issues in mental health and substance use treatment in addition to adhering to the requirements for mental health parity under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.”

The Goodness Web

Mark Verdi, Co-Founder & President

"The Goodness Web is grateful for the work of the Bowman Foundation in conducting this study. It provides compelling evidence for what the families of the The Goodness Web and indeed, most families across America know too well. The lack of adequate and equitable access to mental healthcare is an urgent crisis in this country - especially for our nation's youth. The Goodness Web wholeheartedly endorses expanding providers within networks, collaborative care, implementation of telehealth, and enforcing parity laws. We will continue to do our part in partnering with organizations like the Path Forward that are dedicated to seeing these priorities become a reality."

The Jed Foundation

John MacPhee, CEO

"We know that suicide is preventable. Through our work with more than 500 institutions to strengthen their suicide prevention programs and systems, we have learned that access to mental health support is a vital component of creating a community of care for young people--right where they are. That's why we're excited to share the Bowman Family Foundation's new report, Equitable Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Care: An Urgent Need, which explores strategies for bridging the gap in access to mental health and substance use care. This resource is an important step as we work to create more accessible and comprehensive health care for all, especially our nation's young people."

Mental Health America

Schroeder Stribling, President and CEO

"While individuals are becoming more empowered to seek care and support for mental health and substance use disorders before a crisis arises, it's disheartening to see that most youth seeking mental health and substance use services still do not receive it. These findings illustrate the great challenges families face across the nation in connecting to early interventions, and they prove the great deal of work we must do to expand and provide accurate listings of provider networks to ensure equal access to mental health treatment. Mental health is health. Period."

Mental Health Association of Maryland

Dan Martin, Senior Director of Public Policy

"Demand for mental health and substance use care is at an all-time high. Maryland is taking steps to address the demand and progress is being made, but the fact remains, as evidenced by this new report, most individuals still cannot access mental health and substance use care when and where needed. This report includes several commonsense solutions that can be taken to address this inequity in access to care and we call on all stakeholders – payers, providers, regulators, and legislators – to heed the call and move quickly to implement these strategies."

MidAtlantic Business Group on Health

John Miller, Executive Director

“Our employer members have said that their biggest challenge is getting access to in-network mental health support for their employees and dependents. This survey confirms that from the patient perspective.”

NAMI

Daniel (Dan) H. Gillison Jr., CEO

“There is no health without mental health, but The Bowman Family Foundation report lays bare just how many barriers Americans continue to face in getting the mental health services they desperately need. The disparities we continue to see between people’s inability to access mental health services compared to physical health services are not acceptable. Amidst a mental health crisis in this country, the current situation puts lives at risk.”

National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

Michael Thompson, President and CEO

“We’ve got a long way to go to ensure that Americans have access to timely, affordable, effective and equitable mental health care as evidenced by this NORC research. This mirrors the findings in our recent survey of employers and other purchasers where only 31% were satisfied with their network access for behavioral health services. Employers and other plan sponsors expect their intermediaries and providers to take ownership of this issue to meet the needs of employees and their families.”

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers

Dr. Annie Peters, Director of Research and Education

“This report provides a very clear look at the current problems in behavioral healthcare coverage. It is heartbreaking to see these numbers, knowing what they represent about people’s experiences. This was an important study to allow us to see so clearly the discrepancies between behavioral and physical health coverage.”

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Shawn Coughlin, President and CEO

“This year marks 15 years since Congress passed the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), and this report proves what we know: the law has yet to be implemented fully. NABH strongly supports the report’s recommendation for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Treasury to issue additional guidance on detailed templates for MHPAEA compliance data reporting as guidance to employer group plans, third party administrators, and insurance issuers that indicates what data they should be prepared to submit upon request.”

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

Chuck Ingoglia, President and CEO

“It is too difficult for people to receive the treatment and care they need, and the Bowman Family Foundation should be applauded for its new report that sheds light on this crisis in care. People of all backgrounds have said repeatedly that they are unable to overcome barriers to access. Once we begin to make meaningful steps to eliminate those barriers, we’ll be better able to address the mental health and substance use crisis.”

Shatterproof

Gary Mendell, founder and CEO

“Substance use disorders (SUDs) impact more than 46 million people ages 12 and older. Additionally, only one out of 10 seeks treatment. Medical providers must recognize that SUDs should be treated as chronic medical conditions with evidence-based care and with tolerance and compassion. Addiction has devastated countless families but with enhanced education, we can better address the ongoing addiction crisis.”