



**The Academy**  
Integrating Behavioral Health & Primary Care



**Lauren DeCaporale, PhD**  
Associate Director of the Medical Center  
Communication Coaching & Leadership  
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**Kristopher Ravin, PharmD**  
Executive Clinical Director of Pharmacy,  
Penobscot Community Health Care

**Welcome!**  
NEW National Integration Academy  
Council (NIAC) members

### **The Integration Academy Welcomes New NIAC Members**

The National Integration Academy Council (NIAC) has nominated two new members, Drs. Lauren DeCaporale-Ryan and Kristopher Ravin who began their terms on January 1, 2026.

**Lauren DeCaporale-Ryan, PhD**, is Associate Director of the Medical Center Communication Coaching & Leadership Development Program, at University of Rochester. Dr. DeCarorale-Ryan is an expert in integrated specialty care, geriatrics and family systems, and medical education and coaching.

**Kristopher Ravin, PharmD**, is Executive Clinical Director of Pharmacy at Penobscot Community Health Care where he leads community pharmacy services, primary care pharmacists, infusion services, and accredited residency programs.

[Get to Know the New Members](#)



### Celebrating Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month

January is Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Month! In recognition, the Integration Academy is highlighting resources that support evidence-based approaches to SUD treatment, including the Academy's newly updated **Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Playbook**. The updated playbook features several enhancements, including a new Quick Start Guide with everything primary care practices need to immediately begin prescribing

buprenorphine for OUD.

[Access the Playbook](#)

Below, explore other timely resources on substance use trends, treatment access, and system-level approaches to address opioid-related risks.

- [AMA 2025 Report on Substance Use and Treatment](#) (American Medical Association): An overview of current substance use trends and treatment considerations, highlighting challenges and opportunities within clinical practice and health systems.
- [The Opioid Crisis: Federal Policy Approaches to Reduce Supply, Demand, and Harm](#) (Congressional Budget Office): An analysis of federal policy strategies aimed at addressing the opioid crisis through coordinated approaches to prevention and treatment.
- [Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Access Legal Map](#) (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials): An interactive resource illustrating state-level legal and policy frameworks that affect access to MOUD.

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### News from BHI Ecosystem Members

The BHI [Ecosystem Directory](#) offers an interactive, searchable collection of notable programs and organizations advancing the field of behavioral health integration, with the goal of helping to connect providers and others with partners available to support their integration needs.

Learn more below about a new publication from one of our Ecosystem Members:

[Beyond the Checkbox: Developing Measurement-Based Care as a Clinical Skill in PCBH](#)

This article from the **Collaborative Family Healthcare Association (CFHA)** explores measurement-based care's (MBC's) potential in enhancing the effectiveness of the Primary Care Behavioral Health model, and stresses

that MBC should be considered a core clinical competency.

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## What's New in Integration



### **Policy Strategies for State Medicaid Agencies to Advance Community Health and Well-Being**

A newly released issue brief from the Milbank Memorial Fund (MMF) covers six policy strategies and their potential impacts on Medicaid member priorities. The brief centers on two priority areas: advancing whole-person, integrated care models and services, and strengthening connections to the health care system and access to services. [Access the MMF issue brief >>](#)



### **State Medicaid Coverage of Behavioral Health Therapy for Children and Youth**

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) recently published a brief analyzing state Medicaid coverage of behavioral health services in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This analysis examined state coverage of procedure codes, beneficiary eligibility, and medical necessity

criteria. [Access the NASHP brief >>](#)



### **The Role of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in Improving Outcomes for Children and Families Using the System of Care Approach**

The System of Care framework is an effective, adaptive model for delivering home- and community-based services and support to improve outcomes for children, youth, and their families. Earlier this month, the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) published a brief detailing how certified community behavioral health clinics can apply this framework to support children's behavioral health services. [Access the CHCS brief >>](#)



### **Peer Recovery Support Services in Substance Use Treatment**

This evidence roundup from the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) highlights the value of peer recovery support services and describes how these services are delivered across a range of health care settings. It also compiles research demonstrating the impact of peer recovery services in medical environments and discusses relevant policies that influence how these

services are implemented. [Access the CHCS Evidence Roundup >>](#)



### **Framework Provides Guidance on Strengthening Crisis Response**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released *988 & 911: Strengthening Crisis Response While Managing Risk and Liability*, which offers a framework to enhance crisis response by improving coordination, clarifying roles, reducing legal risk, and strengthening partnerships. [Access the SAMHSA publication >>](#)

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## **AHRQ and HHS Highlights**

### [CMS Announces \\$50 Billion in Awards to Strengthen Rural Health in All 50 States | CMS](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced \$50 billion in awards through the Rural Health Transformation Program to support state-led efforts to expand access, strengthen the workforce, modernize infrastructure, and improve care delivery in rural communities nationwide beginning in 2026.

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### [SAMHSA Announces \\$231M Funding Opportunity to Administer 988 Lifeline | HHS.gov](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a \$231 million funding opportunity to support administration of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which connects people experiencing mental

health or substance use crises to a national network of local crisis centers providing 24/7 support.

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## Upcoming Events



### [CFRI Integrating SUD Prevention with Physical Health Care: Progress in States Webinar](#)

- **Date:** Wed, Jan 28, 2026
- **Time:** 2-3pm EST
- **Host:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)



### [Extending the Behavioral Health Workforce: Innovative Strategies for Integrated Care](#)

- **Date:** Tues, Feb 17, 2026
- **Time:** 1-2pm EST
- **Host:** Workforce Solutions Partnership



### [Annual Behavioral Health Update 2026: ADHD and Substance Use Throughout the Lifespan](#)

- **Date:** Fri, Feb 27 – Sat, Feb 28, 2026
- **Time:** All day
- **Host:** The Waco Guide to Psychopharmacology in Primary Care®

[Access the Full Calendar](#)

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