



# Washington Weekly!

July 15, 2022

## Administration

### **U.S. Transitions to New Mental Health Call Number *Tomorrow***

On Saturday, the United States will transition the 10-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to 988 – an easy-to-remember three-digit number for 24/7 crisis care. The lifeline, which also links to the Veterans Crisis Line, follows a three-year joint effort by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to put crisis care more in reach for people in need.

The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, signed into law after the passage of bipartisan legislation in 2020 authorized 988 as a new three-digit number for suicide and mental health crisis. All telephone service and text providers in the United States and the five major U.S. territories are required by the FCC to activate 988 no later than July 16. Since January 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration has made unprecedented investments to support the 988 transition, investing \$432 million to scale crisis center capacity and ensure all Americans have access to help during mental health crises. The funding included \$105 million in grant funding to States and territories provided by the American Rescue Plan in order to improve response rates, increase capacity to meet future demand, and ensure calls initiated in their States or territories are first routed to local, regional, or State crisis call centers. Prior to this investment, the Lifeline, which has existed since 2005, had been long unfunded and under-resourced.

**The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** is a network of more than 200 State and local call centers supported by HHS through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). FCC staff first **proposed** 988 in a report to Congress in August 2019 as the nationwide, easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code for individuals in crisis to connect to suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. On July 16, 2020, the FCC adopted rules designating 988 for this purpose and adopted additional rules in November 2021 to expand access to this service by establishing the ability to also text 988.

VA administers the **Veterans Crisis Line** through the Lifeline's national network. Because of VA's partnership with the Lifeline, the Veterans Crisis Line is affected by this transition to a new number. Veterans and their loved ones can now Dial 988, then Press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one death every eleven minutes occurred in 2020. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for young people aged 10-14 and age 25-34. From April 2020 to 2021, more than 100,000 people died from drug overdoses. Studies have shown that after speaking with a trained crisis counselor, most Lifeline callers are significantly more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful. More information on 988 is available [here](#) and [here](#) for FAQs.

**White House to Update Reports on Addressing Long-Term Effects of COVID-19 Today**

The White House Office of Public Engagement is holding a briefing today, Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm (ET), to share an update on the status of two reports with nongovernmental experts, organizations, and interested parties, including individuals affected directly by the long-term effects of COVID-19. Featured speakers include Admiral Rachel L. Levine, MD, Assistant Secretary for Health and Rear Admiral Michael F. Iademarco, MD, MPH, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Medicine (OASH), and other members of the Long COVID workgroups and team.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been developing the two reports in response to the [Presidential Memorandum](#) on *Addressing the Long-Term Effects of COVID-19*. This call is closed press, open registration, and ASL and CART will be provided. [Register here](#).

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## Reports and Resources

### **National Educational Outcomes Center Publishes Toolkit on Assessment**

The [National Center on Educational Outcomes \(NCEO\)](#) recently published [What New Special Education Directors Need to Know About Academic Assessments](#). The purpose of this toolkit is to provide easy access to information that will help State special education directors fulfill their role in ensuring the participation of students with disabilities in assessments. The highlighted information and resources can help support special education directors in ensuring that all students with disabilities are included in State, district, and school assessments and accountability systems in a manner that is appropriate for each student based on their specific instructional and assessment needs.

### **OH DV Network Offers Training to DV Programs on Brain Injury**

[The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury](#), Ohio Domestic Violence Network, has developed for the domestic violence field and others who work with survivors of partner-inflicted brain injury. This is free and available for anyone and was designed to provide training to DV programs on brain injury and help them better understand why this issue is important in their work. Click [here](#) to launch the online portal, where you can watch the new 7-part series on “Strangulation, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Domestic Violence.” Each course is 10-15 minutes -- designed for the work reality of a busy advocate. You will need to register for a free account if you don't have one already. On the portal, to find the course, you can search for 'Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury'.

### **ADA Live! Reflects on History with Judy Heumann**

ADA Live!, the podcast of the NIDILRR-funded [Southeast ADA Regional Center](#), hosted disability rights leader Judy Heumann for [Breaking Barriers for Disability Rights: Historical Reflections with Judy Heumann](#). Ms. Heumann is the co-founder of the World Institute on Disability, served as the first Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the Department of State, and is featured in the award-winning documentary *Crip Camp*, among many other achievements. She joined Principal Investigator Peter Blanck, PhD, JD, to discuss the barrier-breaking history of the disability rights movement in the US.

### **HUD's Fair Housing Accessibility First Office Publishes Training Events Calendar**

The [Fair Housing Accessibility First office](#) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published its [Training Events Calendar for Fiscal Year 2022](#). From July 26th through September 27th, Fair Housing Accessibility First will provide comprehensive virtual training on kitchens, bathrooms, accessible routes, making housing accessible, and accessible areas. The final session will provide an overview of the Fair Housing Act. Subject matter experts will be available to answer questions during the training events. Registration is free and required for each event.

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## Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

### **LTQA Offers Webinar on Direct Care Workforce Solutions**

The Long-Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) is offering a webinar, "A Fresh Look at Caregiving: Direct Care Workforce Solutions," July 26, 2022, from 2:00pm – 3:00pm (ET). A crisis in the supply of direct care workers, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, accompanied by increased need and demand for home care services, is fueling a long-term care workforce shortage. This impacts those who need to access services, and organizations who deliver needed care and support. This webinar will explore how we can think differently about the compensation, skills development, mobility and value placed on this workforce which provides critical services to a diverse and complex population. This interactive panel discussion will focus on potential solutions to direct care workforce shortages, including promising practices and areas for stakeholder collaboration. Speakers Carol Raphael (Manatt Health), Carrie Amero (AARP), Robyn Stone (LeadingAge), and Joe MacBeth (National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals) will discuss best practices and collaboration among stakeholders. Register [here](#).

### **BIA of KS and Greater KC Schedule 14th Annual Conference**

On August 4-5, 2022, at the KU Edwards Campus, the Brain Injury Association of Kansas & Greater Kansas City will present the 14<sup>th</sup> annual conference, "Beyond Rehab: Succeeding at Life Conference on Brain Injury." The 2-day event will provide up to 13 CEUs. Keynote speakers include Dr. Al Condeluci, a leader in community building, human services and inclusive advocacy work; and Dr. Gordon Horn, a neuropsychologist specializing in neurologic rehabilitation treatment and programming, Florida State University College of Medicine. Also speaking will be Thomas Whittaker, M.D. & J.D., one of the few Neuro-Ophthalmologist in Kansas and Missouri. Register [here](#).

### **ARCH Publishes Respite Conference Agenda**

ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center has published the full [Respite Reimagine](#) conference schedule, including breakout sessions, and is now available on the conference [website](#). The conference is hosted by the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin and co-hosted by the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center. The conference will be held September 13-15, 2022, at the Madison Concourse Hotel, Madison Wisconsin. Register [here](#).

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The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

**Support States. Grow Leaders. Connect Partners.**

