SBIRT may be challenging and time consuming to implement, but the positive impacts are considerable and worthwhile. Delhi Community Health Center in Louisiana has seen the impact SBIRT can have on an adolescent’s life.

While completing an S2BI screening during a medical clinic visit, a male adolescent reported weekly use of marijuana with some tobacco and alcohol use, and was referred to behavioral health services. During follow-up visits, he admitted to marijuana use for coping and to clear his mind. He also revealed using alcohol and tobacco with friends when he was bored. After three months of follow-up visits, his substance use was decreased by utilizing positive coping skills, such as sports involvement, spending more time with family and friends who did not use.

“Children need systems that are inclusive and driven by them, systems that will enable them to respond to their feelings and needs at any time.” – Jeroo Billimoria
substances when bored and occasionally playing video games. Additionally, the patient reported that these provider-recommended interventions decreased his desire to use because he reflected upon their discussions each time he would use a substance.

After the client completed the behavioral health services he reported no substance use in over a month! He noticed an improvement in his behavior at school and with his family, and feels he has positive coping skills and support. He now has plans to complete high school and is thinking about future goals for his career, which were not a focus before the intervention.

Excellent work, Delhi Community Health Center. Your success with SBIRT is making a positive impact in the lives of young people in your community!

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**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT**

**Webinar: Implementation of SBIRT onto Electronic Health Records: From Documentation to Data**

Following our recent electronic health record (EHR) affinity groups, here is an additional resource to help you streamline processes around SBIRT through electronic record keeping. This webinar recording from the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions (IRETA) outlines common models for SBIRT in EHRs, best practices for staff involvement in implementation and case study examples from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on promoting use of EHRs to increase SBIRT utilization. This webinar also serves as an aid for using SBIRT data from your EHR for quality improvement and to strategize around SBIRT delivery.

**Webinar: Integration Improves the Odds: Lessons Learned**

The National Council and Johnson & Johnson, in partnership with Zufall Health Center in Central and Northern New Jersey; Center for Health Care Services in San Antonio, Texas; and Thresholds in Chicago, Ill., highlight what it takes to successfully
integrate primary and behavioral health care within a variety of communities. The three organizations offer practical examples of how they navigated several challenges on the path toward integrated care, including workforce needs, workflows, regulations and more.

**Online Course: Understanding Substance Use Disorders**

To supplement what we covered during the [Substance Use 101 webinar](#) and our upcoming in-person meeting materials, here is a [self-paced online course](#) from IRETA focusing on substance use, substance use disorders and treatment for substance use disorders. This course is specially designed for practitioners who do not have experience working in or special training in addictions, so it is ideal for your primary care staff. Eligible clinicians can also receive two continuing education credits.

**NOTEWORTHY NEWS**

**Making the Connection: Trauma and Substance Abuse**

The rates of traumatic experience and substance use in adolescents are both significant: one in four children/adolescents have experienced a traumatic event before age 16, and one in five adolescents (12 to 16) have misused drugs or alcohol. Because of these unfortunate realities, we have devoted an entire day of our upcoming midpoint meeting to discuss the complex relationship between substance use and trauma. This resource is a great primer to help you dive into trauma as a risk factor for substance use (and vice versa), addressing these co-occurring issues and overcoming challenges to care delivery for this population.

**Parents Say Teens’ Time Alone with Pediatricians is Important**

Many FaCES sites have experienced challenges regarding confidentiality and parental involvement in conversations about substance use with adolescents. However, many of you have been able to navigate them and see the positive impact of one-on-one conversation. A new study by Reuters Health reveals that 58 percent of parents surveyed said that alone
time with a clinician for adolescent well visits had “a lot of importance” and an additional 27 percent said that it had “quite a bit of importance.”

**Higher Rate of Substance Use among Native American Youth on Reservations**

Monitoring the Future (MTF), a nationwide study funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) reveals that American Indian adolescents in grades eight, 10 and 12 enrolled in schools on or near reservations have significantly higher rates of illicit substance use compared to the general population. Not only does this difference exist in adolescence, it persists; American Indian populations have higher lifetime drug use compared to the general MTF sample. These results highlight the importance in culturally-sensitive, early intervention for this population.

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**SPOTTED & REPORTED**

**Dear Future Me Video**

The power of simple, daily acts of prevention is substantial, especially when we can see measurable differences in our personal health. This SAMHSA-produced video features people of all ages thanking their younger selves for taking good care of their mental health and substance use behaviors, citing early intervention and supports, like mental health and primary care, for helping them make smart choices that lead to a long, healthy life. While National Prevention Week is over, this video is an important reminder that prevention efforts are always worthwhile and make a difference.

**Infographic: The Need for Better Pre-Service Education**

As the health care industry continues to recognize the benefits of integrated care and substance use prevention and treatment in primary care settings, there is an added focus on training health care providers before they even see patients. This infographic from IRETA highlights the current lack of substance use education for medical, nursing and social work students, but also shows how some
programs have begun to adapt their curriculum to add this crucial training.

**SBIRT Twitter Digest**

The Twittersphere is buzzing with SBIRT news! Check out a recent tweet from the Hilton Foundation about making SBIRT a part of routine medical care, info on the benefits of using SBIRT in emergency rooms and a tweet from our very own Nick Szubiak from a recent site visit to Community Health of South Florida.

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For more information, email Communications@TheNationalCouncil.org or call 202.684.7457.