



## **CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE NEWS.**

### **OKLAHOMA CITY, OK: [COVID Causes Unexpected Dip in OKCPD's Mental Health Calls:](#)**

Despite projections, Oklahoma City Police responded to fewer mental health calls in 2020 than the previous year. Police were on track to answer a record number of mental health calls last year. But mental health calls dipped slightly in 2020, according to reports requested by Oklahoma Watch. Capt. Jeffery Pierce, commander of Oklahoma City PD's mental health unit, said people spent more time at home in response to COVID-19, which likely resulted in fewer calls.

### **ROSELLE, IL: [Police receive \\$100K grant to provide mental health services for crime victims and department employees:](#)**

The grant from the Bloomingdale Township Mental Health Board is the third of its kind since 2019 and will help expand services to ensure a counselor is on duty seven days a week. It also allows officials to increase counselor availability from 40 hours per week to 60.

### **WI: [Wisconsin awards nearly \\$9M for drug treatment services:](#)** The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has awarded nearly \$9 million to provide treatment services to combat opioid and stimulant drug use in the state, Gov. Tony Evers announced Thursday, Jan. 14.

Twenty-three county health agencies and five tribal nations will receive portions of the \$8.9 million distribution. Each recipient received funding based on the level of need for treatment services. More than 2,100 people are expected to receive treatment services as a result of these grant awards.

**VIGO COUNTY, IN: [New mental health program aims to limit incarcerations:](#)** The relationship between substance abuse, mental illness and incarceration is well known to those who work day to day in the criminal justice system. A new program in Vigo County is aimed at helping those inmates with the dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance use to stay out of jail and move forward into a stable and healthy future. Established through the work release program at Vigo County Community Corrections, the new therapeutic program accepts qualified participants coming out of the Vigo County Jail.

## **NATIONAL**

### **[HHS Removes Some Requirements for Opioid Treatment](#)**

In the decision announced January 14, 2021, HHS issued an exemption to the X-waiver requirement for physicians registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) who

wish to prescribe buprenorphine and other MAT. The X-waiver presents a major obstacle to “legitimate” patient access to buprenorphine and other MAT.

## **WEEKEND READING**

**LACONIA DAILY SUN**: COVID’s impact on people with serious mental illness

**USA TODAY**: Am I OK? How to do a mental health check

**FORBES**: Nearly Half Of ICU Staff Working Through Pandemic Have Mental Health Issues, U.K. Study Shows

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**: A Workout for Your Mental Health

**NPR**: Pandemic Worsens Child Mental Health Crisis

**\*\*The information compiled in this email originated from the following news sources: EMS World, The Daily Herald, FOX 6 Milwaukee, Oklahoma Watch\*\***