



CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE NEWS

MA: [Massachusetts attorney general's office has awarded \\$1.5 million in grants to 16 organizations across the state to address racial disparities in opioid addiction treatment and recovery services:](#) The grant program supports treatment and recovery programs committed to standards that serve Black, Indigenous, and people of color, Attorney General Maura Healey said in a statement this week “The opioid epidemic is far from over, and the COVID-19 crisis has only exacerbated barriers to care that have systemically and disproportionately harmed communities of color for far too long,” she said in a statement. “We have prioritized equity in our grant programs and awarded these funds to organizations that are committed to providing accessible recovery and treatment services to diverse patients across our state.”

WATERLOO, IA: [Social workers partner with Waterloo police for mental health crisis calls:](#) Officials in Waterloo announced on Monday a new partnership between social workers and the Waterloo Police Department in responding to those experiencing mental health crises. Officials said the program will embed social workers with Elevate Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in the Waterloo Police Department to provide mental health crisis intervention training to officers. Staff from Elevate will also respond alongside police to those in need.

PORTLAND, OR: [Portland launches new response team for homeless and mental health calls:](#) After more than a year of planning, the City of Portland has launched Portland Street Response, a new team tasked with responding to people experiencing homelessness or mental health crises. The pilot program will feature a team made up of an EMT paramedic, a mental health counselor, and two community health workers. The team will respond to calls for service normally routed to a police officer.

NATIONAL

[Black Maternal Health Disparities Bill Gets Renewed Push in 2021](#)

Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Booker have introduced the Black Maternal Momnibus Act of 2021 into the Senate. The bicameral legislation would address black maternal health disparities by driving investments in social determinants of health, community health, and health equity data collection.

The legislative package, which builds on similar bills introduced last year, adds language to address disparities and health impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Democrats Unveil Biden Administration's Immigration Plan](#)



Highlights

- Sponsored by Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., in the House of Representatives and by Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., in the Senate
- Eight-year pathway to citizenship for the country's 11 million undocumented immigrants
- A shorter process to legal status for agriculture workers and recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program
- New enforcement measures that would deploy technology to patrol the border.

WEEKEND READING

The New York Times: ‘What’s the Point?’ Young People’s Despair Deepens as Covid-19 Crisis Drags On

ABC: Doctors say they're facing increasing threats of violence for refusing to prescribe opioids or trying to wean patients off the addictive painkillers

PopSugar: How the Media Treated Britney Spears in 2007 Made Me Scared to Come to Terms With My Own Mental Health

Forbes: 5 Ways To Prioritize Your Mental Health And Achieve Work-Life Balance

Richland Source: Amid COVID and racial unrest, Black churches put faith in mental health care

NBC News: Biden wants to fix racial inequality. Mental health access is an important place to start.

The Hill: Drug overdose crisis worsens in shadow of COVID-19 pandemic

****The information compiled in this email originated from the following news sources: US News, KCRG-TV, KPTV, USA Today, Patient Engagement News****