



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

**CLARK COUNTY, IN:** [Program reinstated to help police identify people who need mental health attention](#): A recently-seated Clark County judge is bringing back a program to address how police respond to people who may need mental health attention. Clark County Circuit Court No. 1 Judge Dan Moore announced last week the reinstatement of the Crisis Intervention Team, a partnership between local law enforcement agencies and mental health providers. It will be led by program director Amanda Beam. Training offered through Wellstone will be aimed at helping officers determine if in certain situations a non-violent person may be better served by going to a mental health facility rather than booked into jail simply because there aren't other options.

**MONROE COUNTY, NY:** [Monroe County More Than Doubles Mental Health Response Team](#): Monroe County officials say they're adding more staff to a mental health team which assists local law enforcement responding to calls for people in distress. Several recent high-profile incidents prompted the move. The death of Daniel Prude prompted Monroe County's look at overhauling police response to mental health-related calls. "The answers to the issues facing our community are not simple," said Monroe County Executive Adam Bello. "There is not a quick fix one size fits all approach." Bello says one change will include more than doubling the number of full-time clinicians on the county's Forensic Intervention Team, or FIT.

**OK:** [Oklahoma is 1st state to cover opioid addiction drugs, therapy with Medicaid](#): The federal government has approved the expansion of Medicaid coverage in Oklahoma to pay for different treatments. Oklahoma is now the first state in the entire country to offer this coverage and state leaders said it's a big help. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority said this federal approval allows for Medicaid coverage and reimbursement for prescriptions that treat opioid addiction like methadone, naltrexone and others. It also covers opioid use disorder treatment services like counseling and behavior therapy.

## **NATIONAL**

### [Sacklers offer \\$1.5 billion more than planned to settle thousands of opioid lawsuits](#)

In a bid to resolve thousands of lawsuits stemming from the opioid epidemic, members of the Sackler family pledged to contribute \$1.5 billion more than previously promised, roughly \$4.3 billion paid out over nine years from their personal fortune.

After months of negotiations, Purdue Pharma agreed late Monday to a milestone plan to reform the OxyContin maker into a public trust company overseen by an independent board no longer controlled by members of the billionaire Sackler family.



### [House reshapes approach to mental health and addiction](#)

House lawmakers are restructuring their bipartisan task forces dedicated to combating the drug epidemic and expect the chamber to consider behavioral health legislation this year, members told CQ Roll Call. The push is spearheaded by four lawmakers in an effort to broaden the scope of legislative efforts beyond opioids to include all forms of addiction and mental health. House lawmakers are pivoting to a more holistic approach to behavioral health and addiction policy.

### [House Democrats Push To Revive ‘Medicare For All’ Efforts](#)

Their efforts face an uphill battle in a divided Congress and without strong White House support. House Democrats renewed their effort to enact Medicare-for-all, arguing the year-long pandemic was a “wake-up call” to replace the nation’s fragmented health insurance system — and betting they can pressure President Biden to embrace a government-run program that he famously rejected

## **WEEKEND READING**

[Healthline](#): [Anti-Asian Racism, Violence, and Virus-Blaming During the Pandemic: We Need to Talk About This](#)

[The Hill](#): [How COVID could reshape mental health policy](#)

[Vox](#): [College students needed spring break for their mental health. Covid-19 took that away.](#)

[Documented](#): [Chinese Truck Drivers Face Extra Barriers Finding Mental Health Care](#)

[CNN](#): [Nearly half of parents said teens face new or worsening mental health issues during pandemic, poll says](#)

[HCP Live](#): [CDC Report Shows Troubling Opioid Overdose Trends](#)

[Employee Benefit News](#): [Employees are demanding greater mental health support](#)

**\*\*The information compiled in this email originated from the following news sources:  
News and Tribune, Washington Post, Roll Call, News 9, Kaiser Health News\*\***