



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

**BOSTON, MA:** [State public health officials award \\$720,000 for support services for young adults in recovery](#): The Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Health announced a \$720,000 grant award to the national organization Young People in Recovery for the development of statewide support programs for young adults recovering from substance addiction. With this funding, Young People in Recovery will develop, build, and maintain seven recovery support networks strategically positioned in areas of critical need throughout the Commonwealth, providing young people ages 18-25 the life skills and peer supports they need to recover from opioid use, stimulant use, or other substance use disorders and co-occurring substance use and mental illness. The program launches in April 2021 with the capacity to serve approximately 1,400 people annually.

**TULSA, OK:** [Muscogee \(Creek\) Nation breaks ground on new behavioral health facility in Okmulgee](#): The Nation says the 6,000-square-foot facility, located at US 62 and OK 56 Loop, will offer a variety of services dedicated to mental health and substance abuse. “The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need for more services to address mental health issues,” said Shawn Terry, Secretary of Health in a press release. “Numerous studies have shown a substantial increase in symptoms of anxiety and fear, particularly among young people. Access to providers appears to be the biggest barrier for those that need care. This new facility will allow us to expand our programs and services and improve a patient’s ability to find the care they need.” It’s scheduled to open in March of 2022.

**PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, MD:** [New mental health facility breaks ground in Prince George’s County](#): Officials in Prince George’s County, Maryland, broke ground Monday to turn a building on the grounds of Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham into a mental health facility. County Executive Angela Alsobrooks said creating a new facility was “a need long gone underserved,” claiming the county has been “a behavior health desert” for years. According to a news release, the county, which has a population of nearly 1 million, has only two acute inpatient psychiatry units.

**SANTA FE, NM:** [New unit to respond to mental health, substance abuses crises in Santa Fe](#): The City of Santa Fe is changing the way it responds to people suffering from a mental health or substance abuse crisis. During a news conference Monday, Mayor Alan Webber announced the city’s new Alternative Response Unit. It will consist of a police officer, a paramedic and a social worker trained in crisis intervention. “It’s an awareness that there are people in our community who have behavioral health needs, mental health needs, social issues,

that really don't rise to the level of being a matter of law enforcement. They're a matter of public health," said Webber.

## **NATIONAL**

### **[House votes to extend ban on fentanyl-like substances](#)**

The House easily passed legislation on Wednesday to extend a ban on copycats of fentanyl, a highly addictive synthetic opioid, that is set to expire on May 6 without congressional action. Lawmakers passed the bill by voice vote to extend through Oct. 22 the federal government's ability to regulate fentanyl analogues as one of the most strictly controlled drugs with no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. Synthetic opioids — including fentanyl, which is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine — are the most common drugs involved in overdose deaths in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported more than 50,000 deaths involving all synthetic opioids in a 12-month period ending in July 2020.

## **WEEKEND READING**

**[Healthline](#)**: [Climate Change Is Affecting Mental Health — Here's What You Can Do About It](#)

**[CNN](#)**: [Ask a Black therapist: 4 ways to support Black people's mental health](#)

**[The Press Enterprise](#)**: [How surge in hate crimes is pushing Asian Americans to stand up for mental health](#)

**[US News](#)**: [High-Profile Police Brutality Cases Harm Black Americans' Mental Health: Study](#)

**[Daily News](#)**: [Healing invisible scars: How to tend to COVID- and shutdown-induced mental health wounds](#)

**[The HR Director](#)**: [Important workplace mental health lessons learned from lockdown](#)

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