



CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE NEWS

MI: Michigan Opioids Task Force Releases Annual Report: The Michigan Opioids Task Force and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have released the 2020 annual report that highlights the state's efforts to respond to the opioid crisis. Efforts such as launching a statewide naloxone portal that has distributed over 100,000 kits containing the lifesaving overdose reversal medication. Another is starting a public media campaign focused on elevating the voice of those who lived through their experiences to share the effect of opioids and to increase awareness of harm reduction services.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Ballmer Group gifts \$38 million to address behavioral health: The University of Washington today announced that the School of Social Work and Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and the Behavioral Health Institute at Harborview Medical Center are part of a transformational \$38 million set of gifts from Ballmer Group to support a broad, collaborative response to the state's behavioral health crisis. The gifts aim to address the state of Washington's serious workforce shortage in the community behavioral health system, in large part by supporting statewide education and training innovations at partner institutions developed through the University of Washington.

SPRINGFIELD, MO: 'It's done wonders': Ozarks Counseling Center provides mental health services, counseling: Located at 614 South Ave., The Betty and Bobby Allison Ozarks Counseling Center provides quality, affordable counseling services on a sliding fee scale, as well as what is covered by insurance, Medicare and child Medicaid. The nonprofit center was established in 1952 and is a partner of the United Way of the Ozarks.

WASHINGTON, DC: D.C. to divert some mental health calls away from police: Starting in June, D.C. police will not be the first responders to some mental health calls in the city. Under a new pilot program, 911 operators will instead send unarmed teams of behavioral health experts and peers to the scene. The move was recommended last month by the city's police reform commission, part of local and national efforts in the wake of George Floyd's killing to reduce violent contact between the public and law enforcement.

NATIONAL

Congress Passes Bill To Counter The Rise In Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

The House of Representatives passed a bill Tuesday to address the increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans during the coronavirus pandemic, clearing the legislation for President Biden to sign. The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act passed by a 364-62 vote; all 62 votes against the bill were from Republicans. The Senate approved the legislation last month. A rise in

COVID-19 cases, the first instances of which were reported in China, has been linked to an increase in attacks on Asian Americans. Democrats have pointed to former President Donald Trump's frequent use of racist phrases such as "kung flu" to describe the coronavirus as a link to the increase in anti-Asian sentiment.

[Free Health Care for All Troops Is Key Priority, National Guard General Tells Congress](#)

Lack of easy access to mental health services may be compounding the suicide issue in the National Guard, its top officer told lawmakers, pointing out that some troops do not get free health care. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, on Tuesday called delivering health care to all Guardsmen his "No. 1 legislative priority."

WEEKEND READING

[The Hill](#): A full pandemic recovery demands mental health support

[The Hill](#): New trial reveals pharma executives mocking opioid users as 'pillbillies'

[Sandy Hook Promise](#): How To Support Youth Mental Health

[US News](#): Helpline Provides Faster Mental Health Care Around Pregnancy

[Employee Benefit News](#): Why Black employees aren't comfortable asking for mental health support

[NBC](#): Olympian Raven Saunders looks toward Tokyo, with a focus on mental health

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