July 11: The Academy participated in the House of Representatives Black Maternal Health Caucus's Stakeholder Summit chaired by Representatives Alma Adams (D-NC) and Lauren Underwood (D-IL). The Academy offered several broad-based policy recommendations to improve maternal infant health overall, including heightened data collection and research on maternal mortality and preterm births. Read more here.

July 9: The Academy signed on to a United States Breastfeeding Committee letter thanking Representative Carol Miller (R-WV) for introducing the Small Airports Mothers' Rooms Act of 2019 (H.R. 3362). This legislation would extend provisions of the Friendly Airports for Mothers Act to require small hub airports to provide a private, non-bathroom space in each terminal for breastfeeding. Read the letter here.

July 8: The Academy has joined close to 100 stakeholder groups in signing on to Climate Health Action's policy action agenda calling on government, business, and civil society leaders, elected officials, and candidates, to recognize climate change as a health emergency. Read more here.

July 2: The Academy sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Acting Secretary Kevin McAleenan expressing concerns regarding the conditions and treatment of immigrants at our southern border. The Academy calls on the Administration to take immediate, meaningful action to improve access to appropriate health services for these individuals. Read the full letter here.

June 27: The Academy sent a letter to Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) in support of the Equality Act (S. 788). This legislation, which currently has 46 bipartisan
cosponsors, is an important step towards eliminating sex-based discrimination and to achieving health equity. Read the letter here.

- June 25: The Academy signed on to a letter, along with home health advocates led by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, in support of the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2019 (H.R. 2150/S. 296).

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**National Academy of Medicine (NAM)**

- **Future of Nursing 2020-2030 Town Hall Meeting: Philadelphia** (July 24)
  - On July 24th, the Committee on the Future of Nursing is hosting the second of three regional town hall meetings. The theme of the Philadelphia meeting is **Payment and Care for Complex Health and Social Needs**. The event will be streamed. Register by Monday, July 22 to watch the webcast live.

**National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**

- Video Now Available: **Symptom Science Center: A Resource for Precision Health**
  - On June 27, 2019, NINR's Division of Intramural Research hosted a scientific symposium to launch the NINR-led Symptom Science Center, a trans-NIH resource for the scientific community. A recording of the event is now available to view online.

- **September 17: 2019 NINR Director's Lecture**
  - Dr. Jean McSweeney will present "Matters of the Heart: A Research Journey Uncovering Signs of Heart Disease in Women" on September 17, 2019.

**Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)**

- Registration is now open for PCORI's free **Annual Meeting**, taking place September 18-20 in Washington, DC. This year's theme, **Making a Difference: Using Patient-Centered Research Results in the Real World**, will focus on how patients, researchers, clinicians, and others across the healthcare community are working to make health research more useful and relevant.
Off the President's Desk

- **Executive Order on Advancing the American Kidney Initiative**
  - On July 10, President Trump signed an Executive Order aimed at improving kidney health and promoting increased treatment options for patients. The initiative seeks to prevent kidney failure through better diagnosis, treatment and preventative care, to develop additional affordable treatment options, and to increase access to kidney transplants. Notably, under the Executive Order, Medicare will test adjusting payment incentives to encourage preventative kidney care and the use of home dialysis and kidney transplants.

Around the Administration

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**

- **New Database: Network of Patient Safety Databases (NPSD)**
  - The NPSD is the first publicly available online resource to capture nonidentifiable information on patient safety events collected by AHRQ-listed Patient Safety Organizations. Data within the NPSD will be used to produce resources for providers and others to learn about patient safety events.

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**

- **2019 CMS National Training Program Workshops**
  - The 2019 CMS workshops will take place in five cities this summer (Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago, Arlington (TX), and Providence) beginning at the end of July. The three-day workshops will cover Medicare basics, Medicare tools, and scenario-based learning sessions.
- **Funding Opportunity: SUPPORT Act Section 1003 Demonstration Project**
  - CMS released a funding opportunity for State Medicaid Agencies to apply for planning grant funding to increase the capacity of Medicaid providers to deliver substance use disorder treatment and recovery services. Up to $50 million is available to at least 10 states for 18 months. Up to 5 states will be selected to implement 36-month demonstration projects.

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

- **June 5: HHS Announces Quality Summit to Streamline and Improve Quality Programs**
  - The Quality Summit will bring together key industry stakeholders and government leaders to discuss how current quality programs administered by HHS can be further evaluated, adapted, and streamlined to deliver a value-based care model focused on improving outcomes for American patients. HHS will accept nominations for participants through Wednesday, July 31st.

**Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)**

- **June 27: $1M in Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Grants**
  - On National HIV Testing Day, HRSA awarded approximately $1 million in Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grants to 10 metropolitan areas that are Part A jurisdictions to provide technical assistance to enhance efforts to end the HIV epidemic.
• Webinar: Primary Care and Behavioral Health Integration: Building Workforce Capacities (July 31, 3:00-4:00 PM ET)
  ○ During this webinar, HRSA-funded health centers will share their unique approaches to developing behavioral health workforce training programs and practices that provide high-quality, integrated behavioral health care.
• Free E-Learning Program: Cultural Competency for Behavioral Health Professionals

From the Federal Register

Proposed Rule

• CMS, HHS: Methods for Assuring Access to Covered Medicaid Services--Rescission
  ○ This proposed rule would remove the regulatory text currently requiring states to document whether Medicare payments in fee-for-service systems are sufficient to enlist enough providers to assure beneficiary access to covered care and services consistent with Medicaid statute. States have raised concerns over the administration burden currently required.

Congressional Hearings

Based on previous positions taken by the Academy, the following scan is meant for informational purposes and does not directly translate to Academy endorsement. Links provided allow you to watch the recordings and read witness testimony.

House Armed Services


House Education & Labor

• June 25: Do No Harm: Examining the Misapplication of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act

House Energy & Commerce

• July 16: Oversight of Federal Efforts to Combat the Spread of Illicit Fentanyl
• June 25: Reauthorizing Vital Health Programs for American Families
• June 20: Strengthening Health Care in the U.S. Territories for Today and Into the Future
House Foreign Affairs

- June 4: Eradicating Ebola: Lessons Learned and Medical Advancements

House Judiciary

- July 15: Overcrowding and Prolonged Detention at CBP Facilities

House Oversight and Reform

- July 18: With the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin K. McAleenan
- July 12: The Trump Administration’s Child Separation Policy: Substantiated Allegations of Mistreatment
- July 11: Identifying, Preventing, and Treating Childhood Trauma: A Pervasive Public Health Issue that Needs Greater Federal Attention
- July 10: Kids in Cages: Inhumane Treatment at the Border
- July 10: The Trump Administration’s Attack on the ACA: Reversal in Court Case Threatens Health Care for Millions of Americans
- June 26: U.S. Biodefense, Preparedness, and Implications of Antimicrobial Resistance for National Security

House Veterans Affairs

- June 26: Beyond the Million Veterans Program: Barriers to Precision Medicine
- Postponed: July 10: The Cost of Caring

Special Committee on Aging

- July 10: Redefining Reality: How the Special Diabetes Program is Changing the Lives of Americans with Type 1 Diabetes

Legislative Schedule

The House will be in session July 9-July 26. The Senate will be in session July 8-July 31. Both Chambers will be in recess the month of August for District Work Periods.