

ACADEMY INSIDER

TRANSFORMING HEALTH POLICY STARTS
BY KEEPING CONNECTED



September 20, 2023



September 11: The Academy submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the proposed rule on the calendar year 2024 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS). The Academy's comments **highlighted considerations for the proposed caregiver training services, social determinants of health risk assessment, and provisions on telehealth services.** [Read more.](#)

September 11: The Academy, along with 9 other members of the APRN Workgroup, joined a letter to CMS regarding the proposed rule on the calendar year 2024 PFS. The APRN Workgroup's comments **discussed telehealth, policies addressing social determinants of health, and updated billing codes.** [Read more.](#)

September 11: The Academy, along with 59 other health care organizations, joined a letter to the CMS regarding the proposed rule on the calendar year 2024 PFS. The comments **offered support for the proposal to pay for caregiver training services in the PFS.** [Read more.](#)

August 11: The Academy joined an amicus brief along with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other health care organizations challenging the state of Texas's legislation **limiting access to gender-affirming care to individuals under the age of eighteen.** [Read more.](#)

August 10: The Academy joined an amicus brief along with the AAP and other health care organizations challenging the state of Tennessee's legislation **limiting access to gender-affirming care to individuals under the age of eighteen.** [Read more.](#)



American Academy of Nursing

Celebrating 50 Years of Leadership, Policy, and Partnerships

2023 HEALTH POLICY CONFERENCE

October
5-7

LEARN MORE

The Academy is thrilled to recognize the accomplishments of extraordinary nurses from across the United States and around the globe at this year's Health Policy Conference, *Celebrating 50 Years of Leadership, Policy, and Partnerships*, taking place this October 5-7, 2023 in Washington, DC. Learn more about the 2023 [New Fellow inductees](#), [Living Legends](#), and [Honorary Fellows](#).



POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Rates of suicide, substance use disorder, and mental health issues have increased within the nursing profession and across the United States. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) [2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#), roughly 12.3 million adults and 3.3 million adolescents had serious suicidal thoughts and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [reported](#) that suicide was the second-leading cause of death of youth and young adults.

The Academy has been on the record among other health care organizations stressing the importance of nurse and health care worker well-being, and the importance of the mental health of health care workers. It is vital that nurses, health care workers, and key policymakers continue to make key investments in recognizing the urgency surrounding mental health and suicide given the alarming data that continues to be reported.

The Academy remains ready to support bold policies through the work of our Expert Panel on [Psychiatric, Mental Health, & Substance Use](#) to further improve the public's mental health, the delivery of high-quality mental/behavioral health care, and provide evidence-based information to policymakers about nursing's contribution to this area of health care expertise. Through the collaboration of five American Academy of Nursing Expert Panels: [Psychiatric, Mental Health, & Substance Use](#); [Bioethics](#); [Environmental & Public Health](#); [Military & Veterans Health](#); and [Quality Health Care](#), they recently published a consensus paper in April 2023 entitled [Consensus Statement on leveraging equity in policy to improve recognition and treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, and nurse suicide](#) which further recommends actions to address risks to mental health and the factors contributing to nurse suicide to inform policy, education, research and clinical practice. These recommendations drew from the [CDC's 2022 Suicide Prevention Resource for Action](#).

Below are additional actions the Academy has taken to address mental health and suicide prevention:

- Policy Dialogue Meeting's Proceedings: [Finding Gain in the Losses: Strategic Solutions to the Mental and Behavioral Health Crisis in Children and Youth](#) (June 2022)
- [Consensus Recommendations to Advance System Level Change for Nurse Well-Being](#) (February 2023)
- [Consensus Statement on Inequities in the Juvenile Justice System Rooted in Systemic and Structural Racism](#) (December 2022)
- [Position Statement on Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention](#) (November 2022)
- Consensus Paper: [Defining the Social Determinants of Health for Nursing Action to Achieve Health Equity](#)
- Edge Runner Model: [Suicide Prevention in Nursing: Breaking the Silence](#) (2021)



FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellowship: Call for Applications

- The [RWJF Health Policy Fellows Program](#) is a non-partisan fellowship that offers health professionals the opportunity to participate in the policy process at the federal level and gain the leadership skills and experience needed to improve and advance health equity, health care, and health policy. The 2024-25 class

will expand to eight fellows to ensure that the cohort captures the full breadth of professional expertise impacting health and healthcare. Applicants should be subject matter experts in a health-related discipline, including, but not limited to: medicine; nursing; public health; law, dentistry; economics, and other social sciences (especially when related to factors that influence population health, such as housing, transportation, nutrition, wealth, employment, education, and environmental and community conditions); health services and social work/behavioral health; and other health professions.

- [Call for Applications](#) will remain open until 3 p.m. ET on November 1st, 2023. [Learn more here.](#)

Vanderbilt University Academy for Diverse Emerging Nurse Leaders: Application Cycle Open

- Vanderbilt University School of Nursing will hold the second annual [Academy for Diverse Emerging Nurse Leaders](#), a program that offers professional development and insight to support participants in health care and academic leadership roles, in Nashville from November 13-17. Participants will explore the challenges of being a leader from an underrepresented group in nursing leadership as well as the challenges of supporting and expanding diversity in nursing.
 - Applications for the program will remain open through October 30, 2023. [Learn more here.](#)



The National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- [New NASEM/NAM Standing Committee on Reproductive Health, Equity, and Society](#)

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)

- [Report Calls for U.S. to Align Equity and Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation in Health and Medicine](#)
- September 26-27: [Unequal Treatment Revisited: The Current State of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care](#)
- September 27: [End of the Federal COVID-19 Emergency Orders: Update on Medicaid Unwinding](#)
- September 27-28: [Developing a Framework to Address Legal, Ethical, Regulatory, and Policy Issues for Research Specific to Pregnant and Lactating Persons Committee Meeting #5](#)
- September 29: [The Pediatric Subspecialty Workforce and Its Impact on Child Health and Well-Being - Public Dissemination Webinar](#)
- October 3: [988: It is NOT just a number- Webinar #3](#)
- October 4-5: [Meeting 2: Strategies to Improve Access to Behavioral Health Care Services through Medicare and Medicaid](#)
- October 5: [Exploring Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Health Equity Commitments and Approaches by Health Organization C-Suites: A Workshop](#)
- October 5: [Reproductive Health, Equity, and Society - A Workshop to Explore Data Needs in the Wake of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Decision](#)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [CDC Recommends Updated COVID-19 Vaccine for Fall/Winter Virus Season](#)
- [One in 5 Women Reported Mistreatment While Receiving Maternity Care](#)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- [CMS Announces Transformative Model to Give States Incentives and Flexibilities to Redesign Health Care Delivery, Improve Equitable Access to Care](#)
- [Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting \(CMS 3442-P\)](#)
- [CMS Takes Action to Protect Health Care Coverage for Children and Families](#)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Adds American Sign Language Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Callers](#)
- [HHS Issues New Proposed Rule to Strengthen Prohibitions Against Discrimination on the Basis of a Disability in Health Care and Human Services Programs](#)
- [HHS Proposes Minimum Staffing Standards to Enhance Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes](#)
- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Issues Statement on Fifth Circuit Mifepristone Ruling](#)

National Institutes on Health (NIH)

- [Severe COVID-19 may lead to long-term innate immune system changes](#)
- [NIH establishes Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination and boosting during pregnancy benefits pregnant people and newborns](#)
- [Only 1 in 5 U.S. adults with opioid use disorder received medications to treat it in 2021](#)



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 Appropriations Committee

- September 13: [Oversight Hearing – Department Of Veterans Affairs Implementation Of The Electronic Health Record Modernization Initiative](#)

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

- September 14: [VA Electronic Health Record Modernization: Get Well Soon?](#)

Senate Committee on Finance

- September 19: [Aging in Place: The Vital Role of Home Health in Access to Care](#)

Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor & Pensions

- September 21: [S. 1573 PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023, S. 2415 Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023, Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act](#)

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

- September 20: [Invisible Wounds of War: Improving Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Measures for our Nation's Veterans](#)
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