February 3: The American Academy (Academy) of Nursing strongly supports President Biden’s recent Executive Order on the Establishment of an Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families. The Academy has consistently urged the deployment of all measures that would reunify families and find the parents of the children who remain separated from them at the southern border. The Academy applauds the functions of this Task Force, as outlined in Section 4 of the Executive Order, and will continue to push for a robust, actionable response to this crisis. Read the statement.

February 5: The Academy sent a letter to Congresswoman Lauren Underwood supporting her bill, the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (Mommnibus). The Mommnibus is a set of 12 individual bills that aim to improve maternal health outcomes in the United States, particularly among Black mothers. The bills address issues such as COVID-19, climate change, mental health, female veteran care, and vaccines. Read more.
FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES

AARP Foundation, AARP, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- **Virtual Event:** [The Future of Nursing: Passion, Purpose, and Progress](#)
  This is the first of two major stakeholder meetings of the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action in preparation of the release of the National Academy of Medicine’s second future of nursing report.

American Geriatrics Society (AGS)

- **New Resource:** [AGS Cognitive Screening Toolkit](#)
  This new resource provides clinicians with free, open-access cognitive screening tests identified by the US Preventive Services Task Force for use with primary care patients. The Toolkit includes information about and links to 10 tests. Users can browse each or narrow their choices using filters based on how the test is administered: whether it evaluates a patient’s executive function and/or short-term memory; whether it is simple or challenging to score; and whether it takes less or more than 10 minutes to complete.

Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)

- **P4 Challenge: Innovations in Pediatric Primary Care to Improve Child Health**
  Recent CDC data show that fewer children got vaccines on time this year compared to last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The P4 Challenge invites applicants to propose and implement innovative approaches to increase access to and utilization of well-child visits and/or immunizations services within primary care settings. To apply, submit concept paper along with this [submission form](#) to [MCHBP4Challenge@hrsa.gov](mailto:MCHBP4Challenge@hrsa.gov) by **March 15, 2021** by 5:00 PM ET.

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- **Article Collection:** [Vital Directions for Health & Health Care: Priorities for 2021](#)
  The Vital Directions for Health and Health Care policy initiative aims to provide the US Presidential Administration, as well as other policy makers, opinion leaders, and the public, with trusted, nonpartisan, evidence-based analysis of the most compelling opportunities and priorities in health, health care, and biomedical science.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine (NASEM)

- **Virtual Workshop Webcast:** [Community-Led Initiatives for Population Health Improvement](#)
  On January 28-29, 2021, the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement held a virtual workshop featuring community-led initiatives that improve health and wellbeing. The event featured presentations and discussions on community-led action around a variety of population health improvement areas, including the social determinants of health.
National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM)

- Infographic: Aging & COVID-19: Vaccination, Mental and Physical Health, and Isolation
  This infographic explores aging during COVID-19, vaccine hesitancy in older adults and those who take care of them, the long term effects the pandemic will have on long-term care settings and how we address aging in the United States.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- The CDC updated their mask guidelines advising people to wear two masks if possible.
- Please continue to check the website created by the CDC to provide day-to-day updates on the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- HRSA to Distribute $90 Million to Support Health Centers in Addressing Hypertension Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH calls for greater inclusion of pregnant and lactating people in COVID-19 vaccine research in this JAMA article.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- SAMHSA has published a series of Advisories based on existing Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIPs) and Technical Assistance Publications (TAPs). These Advisories summarize updated guidance and recommendations on topics in the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment field. The new Advisories include:
  - Advisory: Comprehensive Case Management for Substance Use Disorder Treatment
  - Advisory: Using Motivational Interviewing in Substance Use Disorder Treatment
  - Advisory: Screening and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis in People with Substance Use Disorders
  - Advisory: Screening and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders Among Adolescents
  - Advisory: Addressing Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Substance Use Treatment
  - Advisory: Treating Substance Use Disorders Among People With HIV
  - Advisory: Group Therapy in Substance Use Treatment
  - Advisory: Prescribing Pharmacotherapies for Patients with Alcohol Use Disorder
  - Advisory: The Importance of Family Therapy in Substance Use Disorder Treatment
  - Advisory: The Substance Use Disorder Counseling Competency Framework: An Overview
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 Committee on Energy & Commerce

- February 2: No Time to Lose: Solutions to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in the States
- February 3: Road to Recovery: Ramping Up COVID-19 Vaccines, Testing, and Medical Supply Chain

House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

- February 4: Accountability and Lessons Learned from the Trump Administration’s Child Separation Policy

Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

- February 23: Nomination of Xavier Becerra to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services

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