Providers fill void left by Alabama Psychiatric Services

Most former patients of Alabama Psychiatric Services have found new care in the weeks following the Feb. 13 closure of the statewide medical chain, according to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama has released a new list of providers who will take the patients who were being treated at Alabama Psychiatric Services. In Birmingham, many patients are being referred to Grayson & Associates. In Gadsden and Anniston, many are turning to Southern Behavioral Health. And in Mobile, patients have been moving to BayView Professional Associates, a division of AltaPointe Health Systems. The list also includes independent providers and a number of other clinics across the state.

Koko Mackin, a spokeswoman for Blue Cross Blue Shield, said most former Alabama Psychiatric Services patients have successfully transitioned to new providers. She did not say whether a new eating disorders treatment center had been added to the network to replace the Eating Disorder Center of Alabama, which closed along with the other offices.

BayView Professional Associates has hired 28 former staff members for Alabama Psychiatric Services and has taken over their old buildings on Montlimar Drive in Mobile and U.S. Highway 98 in Fairhope, said Tuerk Schlesinger, CEO of AltaPointe. The system’s offices are prepared to absorb 7,000 Alabama Psychiatric Services patients from Baldwin and Mobile Counties, Schlesinger said. BayView Professional Associates already has 3,300 privately insured patients in south Alabama.

BayView Professional Associates will triple its number of patients and double its staff in the next few weeks as former patients from Alabama Psychiatric Services transfer to the new clinics. The offices in Mobile and Fairhope are already treating patients.

continued on page 2
Providers fill void, cont.

“Our response has been rapid in order to reengage patients who are in need of care,” Schlesinger said.

Schlesinger said BayView Professional Associates is in a good position to take new patients because it is already part of a larger system. AltaPointe Health Systems also runs inpatient facilities for children and adults, in addition to BayView, which serves clients with private insurance.

The Mobile office was up and running within two weeks of the closure of Alabama Psychiatric Services. About 28,000 patients across the state were served by Alabama Psychiatric Services, and many were shocked when the clinic announced its closure in early February, with less than two weeks’ notice.

Alabama has a shortage of mental health professionals, and ranked 49th for access to care in a recent report by Mental Health America. At least one psychiatrist worried that the closure of Alabama Psychiatric Services would send some mental health providers out of the state.

Schlesinger said his company was able to hire four out of eight medical providers employed by Alabama Psychiatric Services in south Alabama. BayView Professional Associates is recruiting more staff to treat the influx of new patients, he said.

Some patients of Alabama Psychiatric Services may have to change providers when they start treatment at BayView, but Schlesinger said the health system has high-quality providers who can help patients continue their care.

“Our patient flow is doubling every day,” said Schlesinger.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama has sped up the process for approving new providers for the network abandoned by Alabama Psychiatric Services.

“We have been working very fast,” Schlesinger said. “It has gone as smooth as can be expected. We have been up and running within two weeks of Alabama Psychiatric Services closing.”

Source: al.com

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BPS Spring Social to have Kentucky Derby flair

The Birmingham Psychiatric Society will meet for their Spring Social on Derby Day, May 2, at the home of Paul O’Leary, MD. Attendees are invited to wear an outlandish hat in Derby tradition and partake of Mint Juleps or a nice bourbon. RSVP to Dr. O’Leary at dr.paul@me.com.

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Get your passport ready for the APA Annual Meeting

Join your colleagues in Toronto May 16-20 for the APAs Annual Meeting. Featured lecturers include Fred “Rusty” Gage, MS, PhD, of the Salk Institute, and Julio Licinio, MD, of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. Visit the APA website for more information.
APA pushes for integrated care training to reduce health care costs, improve access

ARLINGTON, Va. – The American Psychiatric Association (APA) has released new training recommendations that call for residency programs to educate our next generation of psychiatrists in integrated behavioral health care, an effort to cut health care costs and improve access to mental health services. The training recommendations are to inform all spans of a practicing or prospective psychiatrist’s education: the undergraduate and graduate medical education as well as continuing medical education phases.

As new models of health care delivery emerge, psychiatrists’ roles will likely change. Psychiatric education must take on the challenge of preparing current and future psychiatrists to deliver patient-centered, team-based care. The recommendations are designed to break down the barriers between mental health and physical health and support psychiatrists’ work in tandem with primary care doctors on a patient’s total health care. By improving access to psychiatrists, the integrated model helps to address shortages of all types of mental health providers that occur in some parts of the U.S. In fact, there are a number of collaborative models, such as having a psychiatrist in the primary care office and increased use of telepsychiatry.

“We identified emerging integrated care models that are important for overall system change and therefore important to the world of education, because practitioners were going to need to develop a new set of skills, new ways of collaborating, new knowledge and new cultural values to be able to practice in these new models,” said Richard Summers, MD, chairman of the APA’s Council of Medical Education and Lifelong Learning, which developed the report.

The recommendations, which will be sent to 219 general psychiatry training programs across the U.S. and Canada, stem from a comprehensive report by the council that will soon be published in the journal Academic Psychiatry.

Some of the key recommendations include:
• All training programs should emphasize inter-specialty education to help physicians develop the attitudes and skills necessary for collaborative practice.
• Undergraduate training programs should develop early exposure to primary care settings that utilize effective integrated behavioral health.
• Graduate Medical Education programs should develop faculty members with interest and experience in integrated behavioral care to teach and supervise residents and advocate for collaborative practice in the institution.

Source: American Psychiatric Association

APA praises bill to protect Part D coverage of mental health drugs

ARLINGTON, Va. – The American Psychiatric Association (APA) has endorsed new Senate legislation that would require Medicare Part D plans to provide robust coverage for six classes of medications, including drugs needed to treat depression and schizophrenia. The bill was introduced by U.S. Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio.

If passed, the legislation would prevent the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) from implementing rules putting restrictions on those classes of medication outside of the formal regulatory process – medications that are needed by the most vulnerable patients. In January 2014, CMS had proposed rules that could have limited “protected class” status, but decided not to pursue them in the face of public opposition, led by APA, medical societies, patient advocates, and other allied stakeholders.

The Grassley-Brown bill would require protected class status for antipsychotics, antidepressants, anticonvulsants, antineoplastics, antiretrovirals, and immunosuppressants, meaning that all or substantially all of the drugs in these categories are available to patients.

“We applaud this bipartisan legislation, which will ensure that Medicare patients will continue to have coverage for these needed medications,” said APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, MD, MPA. “We thank Senator Grassley and Senator Brown for their leadership on this important issue. The legislation would protect our nation’s most vulnerable citizens who depend on these life-saving treatments for depression, schizophrenia and other serious and chronic illnesses.”

Source: American Psychiatric Association
Making Headlines:
An examination of top psychiatric issues in today’s news

2015 Spring Conference • April 24-25
Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Conference Registration
Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 a.m.
Welcome
8:15 – 9:15 a.m.
ICD-10-CM and DSM-5: Surviving Transitions for the Mental Healthcare Professional
by Rebecca Hanif
Certified Meaningful Use Administrator
Complete Practice Management

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Depression is a Metabolic Disease
by Richard Shelton, MD
Vice Chair for Research
UAB Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Morning Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
American Beliefs about the End of Life and the Importance of Advanced Care Planning
by Monica Williams-Murphy, MD
Emergency Room Physician
Huntsville Hospital

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Social Media and Cyberstalking
by Paul O’Leary, MD
Affiliated Health Services

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
The Athlete as a Client: A View from the Sidelines
by James Moncier, PhD
Certified Psychologist
Association for Applied Sport Psychology

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Afternoon Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Childhood Trauma: Effective Treatment
by Scott Benson, MD
Creekside Psychiatry

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Business Meeting

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Reception in the Exhibit Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Registration
Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Brief Therapy of Personality Disorders: Doing the Impossible Quickly
by Mantosh Dewan, MD
Distinguished Service Professor
SUNY Upstate Medical University

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
Morning Break

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Evaluation and Management of Patients with Intellectual Disabilities
by William Patterson, MD
Medical Director
Behavioral Health Services
by Susan Ford, PhD
Director of Psychological and Behavioral Services for the Division of Developmental Disabilities
Alabama Department of Public Health

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Common Headaches: Diagnosis and Treatment
by Anjan Alapati, MD
Staff Neurologist
Huntsville Hospital

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch, Poster Awards and Presentations

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Lithium: The Lost Art
by Godehard Oepen, MD
Assistant Medical Director
Alabama Psychiatric Services

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Update on Ethics
by Daniel Dahl, MD
Supervising Psychiatrist
Birmingham VA Medical Center

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Afternoon Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Psychiatric Malpractice Issues: Potential or Real
by David Cash, JD
Assistant Vice President of Risk Management
Professional Risk Management Services, Inc.

4:15 p.m.
Evaluation/Adjourn

EDUCATION

The Medical Foundation of Alabama designates this live activity for a maximum of 14 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Medical Foundation of Alabama and the Alabama Psychiatric Physicians Association. The Medical Foundation of Alabama is accredited by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Register online at www.tinyurl.com/APPAspringconference or visit www.alabamapsych.org.
Making Headlines:
An examination of top psychiatric issues in today’s news

APPA 2015 SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
APRIL 24-25 • MONTGOMERY – PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name ____________________________________________________________

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Office Contact __________________________ E-mail __________________

REGISTRATION FEES (Before April 1 | After April 1 add $100)

- Member $300
- Non-Member $400
- One Day $200
- Nonphysician Clinician $170
- Resident $75
- Student - Free
- Spouse and guests $50 to attend meals and reception only (Nametags required)

NEW WAY TO REGISTER
APPA now accepts online registration for events! Go to www.tinyurl.com/APPAspringconference.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Rooms at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa are $125 per night.
Make your hotel reservations by calling (877) 545-0311 and reference room block code APPA.
NOTE: Room block closes March 23.

DETAILS
More conference information is online at www.alabamapsych.org. If you have special needs and/or need assistance, please contact Jennifer Hayes, at (334) 954-2500 or JHayes@masalink.org.

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MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO
APPA Spring Conference | Attn. Jennifer Hayes | PO Box 1900 | Montgomery, AL 36102-1900
Coming Attractions

2015 APPA Spring Conference
April 24-25 | Reception Friday following the General Session
Montgomery Renaissance Hotel at the Convention Center

2015 APPA Fall Conference
October 16-17 | Reception TBA
Conference will include tracks for practice managers, Members-in-Traning
The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort at Point Clear

2016 APPA Spring Conference
April 9-10 | Reception TBA
Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort | Destin, Fla.

2016 APPA Fall Conference
October TBA | Reception TBA
Embassy Suites Hotel | Tuscaloosa

Does your practice manager read the freudian slip?

Make sure your practice manager is in the know and receiving the latest information available from APPA. Email Charlotte Morris at cmorris@masalink.org with your practice manager’s name and contact information to make sure he or she is receiving the freudian slip each month by email.

Read past issues of The Freudian Slip online?
Visit the APPA website at www.alabamapsych.org and click on News.

Physician Finder
Do you have an opening for a physician in your practice? Let APPA help you find the right candidate to meet your needs. Contact Charlotte Morris at cmorris@masalink.org for details.

Vendors
APPA depends on support of exhibitors for our meetings. Please share our meeting prospectus with vendors who visit your office or call Stephanie Hickman at (334) 954-2500 with contact information on potential exhibitors.

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Articles or advertisements should be sent to Charlotte H. Morris, at cmorris@masalink.org two weeks in advance of printing. The Freudian Slip is published bimonthly.

The articles contained in The Freudian Slip are meant to provoke thought and comment and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the members, Executive Council or staff of the Alabama Psychiatric Physicians Association. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome.