AACAP
2024 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
and ASSEMBLY MEETING
April 14–16, 2024
Washington, DC
Tonight's Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
  • Tami Benton, MD, AACAP President
  • Laura Willing, MD, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair
  • Melvin Oatis, MD, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair

• Introduction to Advocacy Associates Tools

• AACAP Policy Priority Review
  • Alexis Geier Horan

• AACAP Meeting Logistics
  • Ben Melano

• State Room Breakouts
  • Emily Rohlffs
Introductions

Advocacy Committee Members

- Melvin Oatis, MD (NY) Co-chair
- Laura Willing, MD (MD) Co-chair
- Daisy Bassen, MD (RI)
- Avanti Bergquist, MD (WA)
- Clarence Chou, MD (WI)
- Suzanne Don, MD (AZ)
- Jennifer Dorr, DO (MD)
- Robert Holloway, MD (CA)
- Brian Keyes, MD (CT)
- Roshni Koli, MD (TX)
- Chris Rogers, MD (CO)
- Justin Schreiber, DO (PA)
- Adam Sagot, DO (NJ)
Introductions

AACAP Government Affairs and Clinical Practice Staff

• Alexis Geier Horan, Chief of Advocacy & Practice Transformation
• Karen Ferguson, Deputy Director of Clinical Practice
• Ben Melano, Deputy Director of Federal Affairs
• Emily Rohlffs, State Advocacy & ROCAP Engagement Manager
• Fernando Valles, Clinical Practice Program Manager
• Jazlyn Gallego, Government Affairs & PAC Manager
• Jeffrey Hunter, Administrative Assistant
Advocacy Associates Demo
App Schedules and Logistics Overview
From: Advocacy Day <advocacyday@advocacyassociates.com>
To: Margaret Lavender
Subject: Schedule for Okapi Hill Day

Hello Margaret Lavender,

You can access your meeting schedule for Okapi Hill Day on our free "AdvocacyDay" app, available in the App Store for Apple devices and in the Google Play Store for Android devices. The directions to access are as follows:

- In your device’s app store, search for "AdvocacyDay" (all one word) and download it
- When you open the app, select "Choose Your Group" and find your group, Okapi Association
- If you’ve used the AdvocacyDay App with this email address before, log in with the credentials you previously created:
  - Your Username is zla+lavender@advocacyday.com
  - There is a "Forgot Password" feature if needed
- If you are a new user, click the "Sign Up" button and follow the steps to create an account

If you already have the AdvocacyDay App downloaded to your device, please make sure it is up-to-date before logging in.

As a web-based backup, you can also view your schedule for Okapi Hill Day here: advocacyday.net/oa. The login/signup process is the same.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact support here: advocacyday.net/oa/support

Thank you,
Advocacy Associates

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**Downloading the App**

- You will receive an **automated email from Advocacy Associates** on a **to-be-determined date** by your organization
- Check your SPAM/JUNK folder if you think you did not receive the email
  - Verify with your organization on the date this email was/will be sent
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**Downloading the App**

- You will receive an automated email from Advocacy Associates on a to-be-determined date by your organization
  - Check your SPAM/JUNK folder if you think you did not receive the email
    - Verify with your organization on the date schedules were/will be sent
  - Follow the instructions to download the app
  
  [AdvocacyDay Business]

- Contact us for any technical support
When Opening the App

- Select “Allow” for notifications
When Opening the App
- Select “Allow” for notifications
- Select “Allow While Using App” for location setting
When Opening the App

- Select “Allow” for notifications
- Select “Allow While Using App” for location setting
- Type your organization’s name in the Search bar at the top
Logging In

- **FIRST TIME** users will need to Sign Up
Logging In

- **FIRST TIME** users will need to Sign Up
- Enter your email and create a password. Tap “Sign Up” when finished
Logging In

- **FIRST TIME** users will need to Sign Up
- Enter your email and create a password. Tap “Sign Up” when finished
- **Check your email** for a verification code. Input your email and the code. Tap “Confirm”
Logging In

- **FIRST TIME** users will need to Sign Up
- Enter your email and create a password. Tap “Sign Up” when finished
- **Check your email** for a verification code. Input your email and the code. Tap “Confirm”
- Login with your newly created credentials
Logging In

- **FIRST TIME** users will need to Sign Up
- Enter your email and create a password. Tap “Sign Up” when finished
- **Check your email** for a verification code. Input your email and the code. Tap “Confirm”
- Login with your newly created credentials
- Contact support for any issues
Main Schedule Page

- Confirmed meetings display with a time, pending meetings display as TBD
Main Schedule Page

- Confirmed meetings display with a time, pending meetings display as TBD
- All times displayed in time zone you are located in
Main Schedule Page

- Confirmed meetings display with a time, pending meetings display as TBD
- All times displayed in time zone you are located in
- Indicates in person or virtual
Main Schedule Page

- Confirmed meetings display with a time, pending meetings display as TBD
- All times displayed in time zone you are located in
- Indicates in person or virtual
- Badges indicating if you are a Constituent and/or Meeting Lead for that meeting
Main Schedule Page

- Confirmed meetings display with a time, pending meetings display as TBD
- All times displayed in time zone you are located in
- Indicates in person or virtual
- Badges indicating if you are a Constituent and/or Meeting Lead for that meeting
- Tap anywhere on the meeting to learn more
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Bills
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Bills
- Meeting report form
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Bills
- Meeting report form
- Thank you email
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Bills
- Meeting report form
- Thank you email
- Check in to report attendance
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Bills
- Meeting report form
- Thank you email
- Check in to report attendance
- Take meeting notes
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Bills
- Meeting report form
- Thank you email
- Check in to report attendance
- Take meeting notes
- Did the Member of Congress attend?
- Legislators tab, tap on each for a biography
- Legislators tab, tap on each for a biography
- Relevant bills with voting record, recent news mentions, committee assignments
- Legislators tab, tap on each for a biography
- Relevant bills with voting record, recent news mentions, committee assignments
- Messages tab to highlight any updates. You will also receive updates via push notification and email
- Legislators tab, tap on each for a biography
- Relevant bills with voting record, recent news mentions, committee assignments
- Messages tab to highlight any updates. You will also receive updates via push notification and email
- Directory to look up attendees in your event. Tap to get more information
- Legislators tab, tap on each for a biography
- Relevant bills with voting record, recent news mentions, committee assignments
- Messages tab to highlight any updates. You will also receive updates via push notification and email
- Directory to look up attendees in your event. Tap to get more information
- More tab for additional resources, importantly all SUPPORT and FAQs
Virtual Meetings

- Tap the Join Online Meeting button to join via video
Virtual Meetings

- Tap the Join Online Meeting button to join via video
- Tap the Dial-In button for audio only
Virtual Meetings

- Tap the Join Online Meeting button to join via video
- Tap the Dial-In button for audio only
- Information you may need if your mobile device prompts for it

Access code: 322-337-9021#

Meeting ID: 322-337-9021
Access code: 405405

Please DO NOT click the “Join Online Meeting” button until 10 min prior to your specific meeting time, or use that link for anything other than this specific meeting.
Relevant Information and Reminders

- Check your SPAM/JUNK folder to ensure you didn’t miss the initial email (domain is @advocacyassociates.com)

- Give yourself 30 minutes to get through security and navigate your way to the office

- All times will be displayed in the time zone you are located in

- There will be a help number listed in the Support tab to call if you need to get ahold of Advocacy Associates

- Meetings may last anywhere from 15-30 minutes, prepare your pitch and talking points accordingly. ASK how much time the office has

- Any changes to your schedule the day of the event will be sent to you via push notification and email. Please be sure to check regularly throughout the day. Updates will also be flagged in the Messages tab in your app
App Schedules and Logistics Overview
AACAP Advocacy Goals

• Improve equitable access to pediatric mental health care.
• Establish child and adolescent psychiatrists as physician experts in pediatric mental health.
• Strengthen child and adolescent psychiatry workforce.
AACAP Advocacy Guiding Principles

• All children, adolescents and young adults deserve access to high quality, affordable pediatric mental health and substance use disorder care.
• Mental health and substance use disorder care should be as accessible as physical health care.
• Science/best practice should guide policy.
• Access requires investment in a robust and diverse mental healthcare workforce.
2024 AACAP Policy Priorities

• Everything loops back to our overarching goal of improving patients' access to pediatric mental health and substance use disorder care.
  ✓ Workforce: CAP workforce supply needs to grow to meet demand
  ✓ Insurance Parity: Patients must be able to access the mental health care benefits they are entitled to
Your Role on the Hill

• Amplify AACAP's voice
• Build relationships with policymakers
• Educate legislators

• You know these issues! Tell your story, share your experiences
Getting into the Weeds

• This information is on our website and will be included in your meeting materials
  o www.aacap.org/legcon

• You do not need to memorize this!

• Your ask is simple:
  o Help build and support a stronger CAP workforce through student loan repayment and integrated models of care
  o Help our patients access the treatment they need and deserve through full implementation of federal mental health parity laws
Increasing a Diverse Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Workforce

**Issue:** There are not enough child and adolescent psychiatrists to meet the growing demand for mental health subspecialty care for children and adolescents in the U.S.

**Define the Problem**
- Nearly 20% of children and young people ages 3-17 in the U.S. have a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral disorder, and suicidal behaviors among high school students increased more than 40% in the decade before 2019.
- Ratios of child and adolescent psychiatrists per 100,000 children range by state from four to 65, with a national average of 14 child and adolescent psychiatrists per 100,000 children. The estimated average need is 47 child and adolescent psychiatrists for every 100,000 children.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists complete four years of medical school, three years of residency in general psychiatry, and a two-year fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry, often incurring up to $300,000 in student loan debt.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists practice in a wide range of settings and further facilitate access to treatment through telemedicine consultation and collaborative care arrangements with primary care providers, schools, and other child-facing systems.

**Offer Solutions**
- Student loan debt relief is an incentive strategy that encourages more medical students and psychiatry residents to pursue careers in child and adolescent psychiatry and enables new and early career psychiatrists to practice in areas that are underserved by subspecialty physicians.
- Integration of pediatric behavioral healthcare in all child-facing systems of care, including primary healthcare and school-based health care, facilitates pediatric patients’ access to mental health care by meeting them where they are.
- Integrated behavioral health and primary care models, including the Collaborative Care model, offer primary care providers a way to bill for and be reimbursed for the integration of behavioral health managers and psychiatrists into their practice.

#AACAPLC24
Increasing a Diverse Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Workforce

**Congressional Request:** Support student loan repayment programs for mental health providers addressing the pediatric mental health crisis.

**House/Senate:** Support and pass H.R. 4933/S. 462, Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act. The bill aims to alleviate the burden of student loan debt for mental health providers, including child and adolescent psychiatrists, who are addressing the pediatric mental health crisis. This legislation would:
- Allow for eligible student loans to be repaid for education in mental health or a related field leading to a master’s degree, doctoral degree, or post-doctoral study for any individual who serves as a mental health provider in a mental health professional shortage area for up to six years.

**Congressional Request:** Support the integration of behavioral health care and primary care to extend the reach of child and adolescent psychiatrists.

**House:** Support H.R. 2412, Helping Kids Cope Act. The bill focuses on integrating behavioral health care into primary care settings to support children and adolescents. It would establish three new grant programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) focused on urgent needs for pediatric mental and behavioral health care. The legislation would:
- Integrate pediatric behavioral health care across a wide range of child-facing systems/settings of care; and
- Recruit and retain a diverse, evidence-informed pediatric mental health workforce.
Increasing a Diverse Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Workforce

Congressional Request: Support the integration of behavioral health care and primary care to extend the reach of child and adolescent psychiatrists.

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• Integrate pediatric behavioral health care across a wide range of child-facing systems/settings of care; and
• Recruit and retain a diverse, evidence-informed pediatric mental health workforce.

Senate: AACAP urges a companion bill for H.R. 2412, Helping Kids Cope Act, be introduced in the Senate. By introducing similar legislation, we can work towards bolstering the pediatric mental health workforce and improving the availability of a full continuum of mental health care for kids.

Support S. 923, Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act. The bill promotes the integration of behavioral health care into primary care settings. By extending the reach of child and adolescent psychiatrists through such integration, we can enhance access to mental health services for pediatric patients. This legislation would:

• Require parity for mental and behavioral health services in Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid;
• Encourage mental and behavioral health integration with physical care by increasing reimbursement rates for Medicare and Medicaid;
• Establish a demonstration project to increase access to integrated mental and behavioral health care for children across different setting, like schools; and
• Increase accountability and oversight of integrated mental and behavioral health care under Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance plans.
Achieving Health Insurance **Parity** for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment

**Congressional Request:** Support full implementation of parity across all public and private health plans to ensure that all children and their families have equitable access to comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder treatment benefits.

**House:** AACAP urges a companion bill for S. 923, Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act, be introduced in the House. By introducing similar legislation, we can work towards comprehensive reform that promotes equitable access to high-quality behavioral health care for children across all insurance programs.

**Senate:** Support S. 923, Better Mental Health Care for Americans Act, introduced by Sens. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Ron Wyden (D-OR). This legislation aims to bridge the gap in access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment by requiring parity in Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid and by requiring greater transparency regarding medical management of benefits. This legislation would:

- Require parity for mental and behavioral health services in Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid;
- Encourage mental and behavioral health integration with physical care by increasing reimbursement rates for Medicare and Medicaid;
- Establish a demonstration project to increase access to integrated mental and behavioral health care for children across different setting, like schools; and
- Increase accountability and oversight of integrated mental and behavioral health care under Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance plans.
Achieving Health Insurance **Parity** for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment

**Issue:** Access to mental health and substance use disorder health plan benefits is typically more restrictive than access to physical health benefits.

**Define the Problem**
- Federal parity law requires that commercial health plans, Medicaid managed care plans, and Children’s Health Insurance Plans that offer mental health and substance use disorder treatment benefits do so to the same extent they cover physical health care benefits.
- Insurance coverage for mental health and substance use disorders is typically more limited as compared to insurance coverage for physical health conditions.
- Most health plans are not in compliance with federal parity law requirements.
- Psychiatrists typically receive lower in-network reimbursement than non-psychiatrist medical doctors for many of the same services.

**Offer Solutions**
- Public and private insurance programs should support children’s access to high quality and timely mental health care by covering the full range of evidence-based behavioral and developmental health care services, including care delivered via telemedicine, at parity with physical health care services and by adequately reimbursing physicians to provide that care.
- The federal government should support enforcement of federal and state parity laws.
Questions?
Conference Hotel Details

Hilton Washington DC National Mall The Wharf
480 L’Enfant Plaza SW Washington, DC 20024

- Attendees are on own to travel to House and Senate Office Buildings
- Closest Metro station is L’Enfant Plaza (Blue/Orange/Silver/Yellow/Green Lines), no transfer to House Office Buildings (Capitol South Metro (Blue/Orange/Silver), 2 stops away)
- Walkable if feeling ambitious
- Uber/Lyft/cab also an option from hotel
Conference Schedule

Monday, April 15, Hilton Washington DC National Mall The Wharf
• 2:00 pm: Legislative Conference Check-In Opens
• 2:30 pm-6:30 pm: Mandatory Legislative Conference Training and Practice Sessions for all attendees
• 6:30 pm-7:30 pm: Legislative Conference Reception, hosted by AACAP-PAC

Tuesday, April 16, Hilton Washington DC National Mall The Wharf
• 7:00 am-8:00 am: Legislative Conference breakfast
• 8:00 am-9:30 am: Advocacy priority review for all attendees
• 10:00 am-4:00 pm: Congressional meetings, **U.S. House and Senate Office Buildings**
  o 12:30 PM group photo scheduled for Capitol steps, House side (weather dependent)
Additional Details to Note

- Business casual attire appropriate for Monday, April 15, business attire with comfortable shoes for Tuesday, April 16 (white coats not needed)
- Allow a few extra minutes to move through Capitol security to enter office buildings
  - Ask Capitol police officers or staff with whom you meet for best way to travel to your next meeting
- Lunch options are available in cafeterias in both House and Senate office buildings
- Bring business cards to leave with Congressional staff
- Remember to send a thank you email and serve as a resource to those with whom you meet
- Some paired state groups will require attendees to join meetings from an additional state
  - No attendee should join a meeting alone
  - 25 family advocates attending meeting along with AACAP members
  - Some meetings will include AACAP staff
AACAP Workforce Map
Things to Remember

• Questions email govaffairs@aacap.org
• If your plans change and you need to cancel, please let us know at govaffairs@aacap.org
• Visit www.aacap.org/legcon for the latest conference material
• Look for April 9 email from Advocacy Associates
Breakout Rooms

• Please choose the room with your state if attending Leg Con
• Join the room, meet colleagues
• Come up with a 1-2 minute elevator “pitch” on “who is a CAP” and “what is AACAP” that you can use for Leg Con 2024
• Identify who will speak during the meetings
• Identify patient stories or practice stories you will bring to DC and share with your Congressional offices
• Feel free to jump off at any time and we look forward to seeing you on April 15-16 for the 2024 AACAP Legislative Conference!