

## **Behavioral Health Industry Groups Collaborate on Broad-Based Technology Survey**

Behavioral healthcare providers are faced with significant challenges, including the lack of a universal approach for reporting clinical outcomes and other key metrics, decreased funding for information technology research and development, and complex client security and privacy requirements.

To help uncover insights and trends in these and other areas, several leading behavioral healthcare industry groups are collaborating on a survey about how their members are using technology to address the issues above and positively impact quality of care, and to determine where more federal and state funding is required to support behavioral healthcare providers.

The survey was jointly developed and is being conducted by the Software and Technology Vendors' Association (SATVA), the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (the National Council), Mental Health Corporations of America (MHCA), and the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS).

"This cooperative effort will gather ideas and information from a broad range of organizations across the behavioral healthcare spectrum," said Kevin Scalia, Chairman of SATVA and executive vice president of corporate development at Netsmart Technologies. SATVA is a consortium of behavioral health software providers committed to facilitating the delivery of more efficient and effective consumer services through the use of information technology.

"I know I speak for each of the collaborating organizations when I say we're all looking forward to sharing the results with our memberships and the industry as a whole to help raise awareness about the needs of the behavioral healthcare industry, said Scalia."

The survey, conducted by Centerstone Research Institute, an independent organization, is designed to gauge the status of electronic health record (EHR) implementation, the level of involvement of behavioral healthcare providers in health information exchanges (HIE), and where additional funding could help them use IT to improve their clinical services. The survey also seeks to identify barriers preventing the implementation of information technology and the importance of software content.

Data gathered by the survey will help guide the creation of clinical reporting and information technology products by behavioral healthcare software providers that meet the evolving needs of behavioral healthcare providers more easily and effectively.

Survey results will also help generate awareness needed to encourage government funding and incentives to facilitate the implementation of EHR systems in behavioral healthcare. The timing of the survey coincides with the new administration and staffing changes at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other governmental agencies that impact behavioral healthcare funding and policies. As they look at fiscal stimulus programs for

healthcare IT, SATVA, the National Council, MHCA and NAPHS are trying to ensure that behavioral healthcare agencies receive the funding they require to meet evolving health information technology needs

The survey was sent by each association and each SATVA member to the memberships/clients of the sponsoring organizations on January 15. For more information about the survey please contact [help@bpsys.org](mailto:help@bpsys.org) or call 877-330-9870. If you are interested in participating in the survey please contact the SATVA Office at [info@satva.org](mailto:info@satva.org) or 646-233-0167.