



Health Care Recap

Report provided courtesy of: KSA Group

Aug. 29 - Sep. 5, 2019

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SESSION STATUS

At 12:10 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 the Senate stands in recess until Monday, September 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

At 10:55 a.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

Sep. 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25
Oct. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30
Nov. 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20
Dec. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

Senate

Sep. 23, 24, 25
Oct. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30
Nov. 18, 19, 20
Dec. 16, 17, 18



Around the Rotunda

FIRST LADY AND STATE AGENCIES KICK-OFF HUNGER ACTION MONTH

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | September 3, 2019

First Lady Frances Wolf and officials from the six state agencies who take are part of the Governor’s Food Security Partnership gathered today in the Capitol Rotunda to kick-off Hunger Action Month and to highlight the importance of charitable food organizations, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other various state programs that address food insecurity and chronic hunger in Pennsylvania. The partnership includes the departments of Aging, Agriculture, Community and Economic Development, Education, Health and Human Services.

First Lady Wolf commented, “As many of you know, working with hunger issues has been a longstanding priority for Tom and myself and we are so very proud of the work that is being done by this administration and the full team here to empower all Pennsylvanians.” She also said, “Hunger is the result of systemic issues that we face.” Wolf continued, “By continuing to work together we have the power to change the narrative and we are.” She stated, “We have taken an active approach to ensuring all Pennsylvanians have access to nutritious foods by encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to share best practices and support existing programs.”

Human Services Secretary Teresa Miller explained, “During the month of September we take time to spread awareness, acknowledge the areas where we can improve and address hunger across our Commonwealth as we recognize Hunger Action Month.” According to Sec. Miller, as many as 1.5 million Pennsylvanians experience hunger. She asserted, “This month is a reminder that we must continue this partnership’s work and fight for those who face food insecurity and chronic hunger every day.” Sec. Miller said, “Addressing food insecurity and increasing access to fresh, nutrient-dense foods requires collaboration from all levels of government as well as our community partners.”

Aging Secretary Robert Torres observed, “Something each of [us] here today can agree on is that no Pennsylvanian should ever go hungry and no one should have choose between paying for basic essentials such as utilities, medications and, of course, food.” He stated, “In the past twelve months alone, nearly 500,000 older adults in Pennsylvania faced the threat of hunger.” Sec. Torres reported, “At the Department of Aging, we are doing our part to fight food insecurity for Pennsylvania seniors. We do this by providing nutritious congregant meals at senior centers and by delivering in-home meals.” He also reported the department provided 2.8 million congregant meals and over 6.1 million in-home meals last year. Sec. Torres said, “These Older American Act programs not only reduce hunger and food insecurity but also promote socialization, good health and well-being and help to delay adverse health conditions.”

Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine commented, “Food insecurity is a major issue in Pennsylvania and across the country.” She also said, “Without access to nutritious foods residents are at risk of developing a variety of health issues that can impact their lives and change the communities is which they live.” Sec. Levine told reporters, “The Department of Health continually works to ensure all Pennsylvanians have access to healthy nutritious foods because good nutrition is essential to keeping current and future generations healthy.”



Education Secretary Pedro Rivera observed, “A hungry student in the classroom will have a much harder time showing mastery of important content and engaging with his or her teachers and his or her peers.” According to Sec. Rivera, “One in six children struggle with food insecurity in Pennsylvania and the Wolf administration has taken steps to secure funding and supported schools to ensure they have programs in place that best meet the needs of our kids.” He said, “Our students’ performance in the classroom cannot be uncoupled from the needs of the community and food security is a basic need.”

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Cheryl Cook offered an overview of the department’s various programs to improve access for all Pennsylvanians healthy food including the Farmers Market Nutrition Program which provides WIC recipients and low income seniors with “fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from approved farmers in Pennsylvania.” She demonstrated the newly developed mobile app to help people to find their local farmers’ markets to take advantage of the program. Cook also discussed the department’s Pennsylvania Agriculture Surplus Program which helps “making connections between production agriculture and the nonprofit sector responsible to getting more nutritious food into the hands of Pennsylvanians at the risk of hunger. Community and Economic Development Deputy Secretary Rick Vilello observed that from the richest to the poorest communities “someone will go to bed hungry tonight.”

Joe Arthur, executive director of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and a board member of Feeding Pennsylvania, said that the organizations he represents “absolutely cannot keep people fed and healthily fed without these wonderful programs.” He thanked Gov. Wolf for creating the Food Security Partnership.

Sec. Miller spoke of the importance of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). She said the program helps 1.8 million Pennsylvanians. She expressed concern with some to the changes being proposed at the federal level which could negatively impact 200,000 adults and children in the Commonwealth if implemented.

For more information on the Governor’s Food Security Partnership and food assistance programs, individuals are encourages to visit the Department of Human Services website: www.dhs.pa.gov.

Committee News

No Committee News this week.

MAAC

MAAC did not meet this week.

Bullet.in.Points

[PENNDOT: MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING](#)

The Department of Transportation’s Medical Advisory Board will meet on Friday, September 20, 2019. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the Riverfront Office Center, Transportation University, 1101 South Front Street, Harrisburg. Members of the public interested in addressing the board with a concern relating to medical regulations must contact Angelia Gillis at (717) 783-4534 by Friday, September 13, 2019. These concerns will be discussed during “Items from the Floor” on the agenda, which will open at 12:15 p.m. Additional information can be found on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

[PHC4: MEETING SCHEDULED](#)

The Health Care Cost Containment Council has scheduled a meeting by conference call for Thursday, September 5, 2019, at 10 a.m. The meeting by conference call will be held at 225 Market Street, Suite 400, Harrisburg. Additional information can be found on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.



THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE: EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2019-06: REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

Governor Tom Wolf issued an executive order formally establishing a Senior Advisor for Gun Violence Prevention, the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Division of Violence Protection within the Department of Health. The Department of Health will establish a Violence Data Dashboard that will collect and provide data on the scope, frequency, locations and population affected by violence. Additional information can be found on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

DOH: TITLE V MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT: HEALTH NEED PRIORITIZATION PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Department of Health's Bureau of Family Health will hold public meetings for providers and families across the commonwealth to share input on the potential priorities that will guide the issues the Title V programs will address over the next five years. Those public meetings will be held at the following places and times:

- Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7107 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.;
- Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 8050 Old Oliver Road, Erie, 4 p.m.;
- Thursday, September 26, 2019, 520 Vine Street, Scranton, 4 p.m.;
- Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 100 Pine Street, Williamsport, 4 p.m.; and
- Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 1001 Powell Street, Norristown, 4 p.m.

For additional information contact the Bureau of Family Health, Health and Welfare Building, Harrisburg, or (717) 346-3000.

DHS: AVAILABILITY OF AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS' ADULT AUTISM WAIVER

The Department of Human Services is making available for public review and comment the Office of Developmental Programs's proposed amendment to the Adult Autism Waiver. Copies of this notice and waiver amendment may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Autism Services, PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, or RA-odpautismwaiver@pa.gov.

More information on changes to the Adult Autism Waiver can be found on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. There is an anticipated additional cost of \$230,000, with \$110,000 coming from state funds, for fiscal year 2019-20; and an annualized cost of \$307,000, with \$147,000 coming from state funds, in subsequent fiscal years for the Autism Services and Intervention appropriation.

The proposed amendment to the Adult Autism Waiver, effective October 1, 2019, is available [here](#). Submit written comments regarding the proposed waiver amendment to Laura Cipriani, Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, 625 Forster Street, Room 510, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Comments may also be submitted to the department at RA-odpcomment@pa.gov with the subject "AAW Amendment." For review and consideration, comments must be received within 30 days.

The department will hold a webinar to receive comments on September 16, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Register for the webinar [here](#).

PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY: PUBLIC MEETING

The Patient Safety Authority announces a meeting of the authority's board to be held at the Central Penn College, 600 Valley Road, Summerdale, at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 23, 2019. Individuals with questions regarding this meeting, which is open to the public, should contact the authority at (717) 346-0469.



Cosponsor Memos

HCO2343	Kaufer, Aaron(R)	Amends Insurance Company Law to require that no insurer shall exclude or terminate a health care provider from participation in the network plan without just cause.
HCO2378	Rader, Jack(R)	Permits flu vaccine and immunization producers to be exempt from commercial travel bans.
HCO2441	Struzzi, James (F)(R)	Creates the Tuition Assistance for Active Volunteers Program for first responders.
HCO2478	Borowicz, Stephanie (F)(R)	Prohibits the use of taxpayer monies to fund an inmate's gender-confirmation surgery or the administration of hormone therapy.
HCO2481	Quinn, Chris(R)	Requires our school nurses and professional employees be educated on seizure recognition and first aid.
SCO 589	Martin, Scott(R)	Requires that a medical assistance recipient meet the minimum qualifications to either work, seek employment, attend job training programs, or volunteer in their community to receive Medicaid benefits.
SCO 919	Phillips-Hill, Kristin (F)(R)	Omits health care workers' last names from their facility identification badges to help prevent dangerous incidents.
SCO1056	Martin, Scott(R)	Reauthorizes the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4).
SCO1132	Brewster, Jim(D)	Requires tests for radon, lead levels in water and paint, asbestos, and the presence of mold in all of Pennsylvania's school districts.
SCO1134	Brooks, Michele(R)	Establishes a timeline for insurers to issue a credentialing determination for health care practitioners, in an effort to expedite the credentialing process, which can, at times, take up to six months.
SCO1137	Hughes, Vincent(D)	Codifies and enhances the Office of Environmental Justice within the Department of Environmental Protection.



Bill Actions

- HB 1767 Kosierowski, Bridget (F)(D) (PN 2358) Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, requiring online publication of the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated students enrolled in each school in the school district. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 08-20-19 H Filed
08-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
- HB 1771 Frankel, Dan(D) (PN 2362) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, establishing that parents who decline on one or more immunizations on behalf of their child must provide the reason for declining immunization and the specific immunizations for which an exemption is being required. The legislation also requires a signature from a health care practitioner verifying the knowledge of the benefits and risks associated with immunization, and acknowledgment of the possibility of the student's exclusion from school in the event of an outbreak. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 08-21-19 H Filed
08-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
- HB 1784 Hickernell, David(R) (PN 2374) Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in liability and compensation, providing for the option of utilizing a health care network for a period longer than 90 days. Effective in 120 days.
- Bill History:** 08-27-19 H Filed
08-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry
- HB 1785 Keefer, Dawn(R) (PN 2375) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in criminal homicide, requiring the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to provide for a sentence enhancement for causing or aiding a suicide when the person who commits suicide is under 18 years of age or has an intellectual disability. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 08-28-19 H Filed
08-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary
- HB 1786 Sainato, Chris(D) (PN 2376) Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety), in incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies, establishing the First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program to provide up to \$16,000 in debt forgiveness for individuals who serve in eligible positions for four years. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 08-28-19 H Filed
08-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.



HB 1787 Sainato, Chris(D) (PN 2377) Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in taxation and finance, further providing for exemptions and special provisions by exempting the surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces of the United States who was killed in action in any war or armed conflict, or who died as a result of injuries received while in active service in any war or armed conflict, from the payment of all real property taxes on the surviving spouse's primary place of residence without relocation restrictions unless the surviving spouse remarries. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

Bill History: 08-28-19 H Filed
08-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.

HB 1788 Rader, Jack(R) (PN 2378) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in powers of department and local authorities, authorizing producers of influenza vaccines and immunizations to travel on highways during a declared disaster emergency. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 08-29-19 H Filed
08-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 1795 Kaufer, Aaron(R) (PN 2418) Amends the Insurance Company Law of 1921, in quality health care accountability and protection, further providing for procedures. The legislation requires that no managed care plan shall exclude or terminate a health care provider from participation in the plan if the health care provider has not engaged in conduct that establishes good cause to exclude or terminate the health care provider from participation in the plans. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 09-04-19 H Filed
09-05-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

HB 1798 Kim, Patty(D) Amends Title 61 (Prisons and Parole), in miscellaneous provisions relating to inmate confinement, further providing for healthy birth for incarcerated women.

Bill History: 09-05-19 H Filed

SB 841 Martin, Scott(R) (PN 1151) Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) reauthorizing the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4). The Health Care Cost Containment Act reestablishes the PHC4 as an independent council consisting of public officials and representatives from business communities, organized labor, consumers, hospitals, physicians, nurses and the insurance industry to collect and disseminate health care cost data. The legislation codifies PHC4 under Title 35 and does not include a sunset date. Effective immediately.

Bill History: 09-03-19 S Filed
09-03-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services



SB 842 **Phillips-Hill, Kristin (F)** (PN 1152) Amends the Health Care Facilities Act, in licensing of health care facilities, further providing for photo identification tag regulations by adding that the tag shall include the employee's first name. A notation, marker or indicator included on an identification badge that differentiates employees with the same first name is considered acceptable in lieu of displaying an employee's last name. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 09-03-19 S Filed
09-03-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

Upcoming Events

House Health

September 9, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., East Stroudsburg University, 562 Independence Road, East Stroudsburg
Public hearing on Lyme Disease and Tick Borne illnesses

Press Conference

September 9, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
FASD Awareness Month (unconfirmed)

Press Conference

September 9, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
Annual EMS Memorial Service (unconfirmed)

Department of Human Services

September 9, 2019 - 5:00 p.m., Atlantic Avenue Church, 160 Atlantic Ave., Franklin
Public hearing on the planned closure of Polk State Center. For additional information: (717) 425-7606

State Board of Medicine

September 10, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1400

Department of Health

September 11, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Best Western Premier, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg
HIV Community Prevention Planning Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-0572

Department of Human Services

September 11, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg
PA Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-6058

House Democratic Policy Committee

September 11, 2019 - 2:00 p.m., Haverford Township Building, 1014 Darby Road, Havertown
Public Hearing with Rep. Mike Zabel on Rising Costs of Prescriptions Drugs

State Board of Nursing

September 12, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., One Penn Center, 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg
Monthly Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7142



State Board of Physical Therapy

September 12, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7134

Department of Health

September 12, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Room 129, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg
Health Research Advisory Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 231-2825

September 12, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Best Western Premier, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg
HIV Community Prevention Planning Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-0572

Department of Human Services

September 12, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg
PA Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-6058

September 12, 2019 - 5:00 p.m., St. Patrick's Church, 411 Allegheny St, White Haven
Public hearing on the planned closure of White Haven State Center. For additional information: (717) 425-7606

State Board of Dentistry

September 13, 2019 - 8:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg
Regulatory Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7162

September 13, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7162

State Board of Veterinary Medicine

September 13, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7134

Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

September 13, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., 333 Market Street, Heritage Rooms A & B, Lobby Level, Harrisburg
Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-4287

Department of Human Services

September 13, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Tower, 12th Fl., Clothes Tree Rm., 303 Walnut St., Harrisburg
Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 346-8164

House Democratic Policy Committee

September 13, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., University of Pittsburgh, William Pitt Union Ballroom, 3959 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh
Public Hearing with Rep. Dan Frankel on The Public Health Epidemic of Gun Violence

State Board of Psychology

September 16, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Board Room C, Harrisburg
Regulation Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7155

State Board of Massage Therapy

September 17, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7155



Patient Safety Authority

September 17, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., The Conference Center at Central Penn College, 600 Valley Road, Summerdale
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 346-0469

Press Conference

September 17, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
Moms Demand Action Suicide Awareness (unconfirmed)

Press Conference

September 17, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
Don't Punish Pain (unconfirmed)

House Human Services

September 18, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing

To consider: [HB 730](#) Cruz, Angel Amends Newborn Child Testing Act re screenings [HB 1220](#) Cruz, Angel Act re cytomegalovirus education & screening [HB 1704](#) Bernstine, Aaron Amends Human Services Code re BHMCO [SB 675](#) Brooks, Michele Act re licensing prescribers of suboxone

Press Conference

September 18, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., East Wing Rotunda, Capitol
Prostate Cancer Awareness Day (unconfirmed)

State Board of Chiropractic

September 19, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Board Room B, Harrisburg
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7155

Press Conference

September 19, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
Rep. Keefer to Unveil Bill to Address Aiding Suicide (unconfirmed)

Senate Democratic Policy Committee

September 20, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Upper Providence Township Bldg, 1286 Black Rock Road, Phoenixville
Policy hearing to address the institutional and societal rape culture epidemic

Press Conference

September 23, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., East Wing Rotunda, Capitol
Don't Wait: Hospice & Palliative Care Across PA (unconfirmed)

Press Conference

September 23, 2019 - 12:30 p.m., East Wing Rotunda, Capitol
Dyslexia Awareness Month (unconfirmed)

Press Conference

September 23, 2019 - 2:00 p.m., East Wing Rotunda, Capitol
Nittany Fit (unconfirmed)

Senate Judiciary

September 24, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Public hearing on behavioral health, second amendment rights, and other gun related issues



State Bd of Social Wkrs, Marriage & Fam. Therapists & Prof. Coun.

September 24, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1389

Press Conference

September 24, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
PA Dental Hygienists' Association Rally for Access to Oral Health Care (unconfirmed)

Press Conference

September 24, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., East Wing Rotunda, Capitol
Newborn Screening Awareness (unconfirmed)

Senate Health and Human Services

September 24, 2019 - 11:00 a.m., Room 8E-B, East Wing
Public hearing on the closures of the Polk and White Haven State Centers

Press Conference

September 24, 2019 - 12:30 p.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
Parents Know Best (unconfirmed)

Department of Human Services

September 24, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Forest Room, 400 North Street, Harrisburg
Income Maintenance Advisory Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 772-2549

Press Conference

September 24, 2019 - 2:00 p.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
Recovery Advocacy Day (unconfirmed)

Center for Rural PA

September 25, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Keystone Building, PUC Hearing Room 5, Harrisburg
Public hearing on heroin/opioids and PA's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, followed by a meeting to conduct regular business affairs

Press Conference

September 25, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
Someone You Know; Facing the Opioid Crisis Together (unconfirmed)

Senate Judiciary

September 25, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Public hearing on behavioral health, second amendment rights, and other gun related issues

Press Conference

September 25, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg
Suicide Awareness Day (unconfirmed)

Department of Human Services

September 25, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Health & Welfare Building, Room 129, 333 Market St., Harrisburg
Consumer Subcommittee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee. For additional information: (717) 783-9916



Department of Human Services

September 26, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Temple University Harrisburg, 234 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg
Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC) Meeting. For additional information: (717) 772-6341

In the News

- 09-05-2019 **Lawmakers call for revenue source to combat PFAS chemicals**
In the southeastern portion of the state, communities are grappling with the presence of PFAS — a type of toxic chemical found in firefighting foam — in their drinking water. The problem isn't unique to Bucks and Montgomery counties, but the prevalence of PFAS in suburban Philadelphia water sources has prompted... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Sen. Mensch introduces increased protections for older adults**
Sen. Bob Mensch (R-Bucks) introduced legislation in August that would significantly alter the Older Adult Protective Services Act. His bill would place more emphasis on mandatory reporting, something he says is crucial to protecting Pennsylvania seniors. Mensch's legislation, SB819, creates a framework for... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Mastriano plans to introduce heartbeat bill**
Freshman Senator Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin) was sworn into office in June and authored a cosponsor memo in July for a heartbeat bill. Mastriano plans to introduce the legislation when the Senate returns to session in the fall. His legislation will ban abortions if a physician determines that the... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 09-05-2019 **VIDEO: Rothman pushes legislation to raise the age for tobacco sales**
Rep. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) sat down with The PLS Reporter to talk about legislation he is working on to raise the legal age to buy tobacco products and e-cigarettes from 18 to 21. This legislation would exempt members of the armed services. Rothman believes that if someone is old enough to fight for their country they... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Trump claims turnaround in opioid addiction fight, gives Pa. \$70 million more to continue progress**
Pennsylvania will get about \$70 million to continue fighting the opioid addiction crisis, federal officials announced Wednesday. In doing so, Alex Azar, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, said efforts by the President Donald Trump administration have... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Our view: Erie seen as medical research hub**
When they outlined a five-year, \$30 million funding framework last fall, Erie Community Foundation leaders said they aimed "to address community issues at scale." On Tuesday they laid out what "at scale" looks like. Standing on the steps of its offices on West Sixth Street, foundation... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Highmark announces \$20 million upgrade of Downtown Pittsburgh headquarters**
Highmark Health announced plans Wednesday for a \$20 million renovation of its Fifth Avenue Place headquarters in Downtown Pittsburgh. The project includes enhanced retail and dining areas open to the public on the first two floors and other improvements throughout the 31-story... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



- 09-05-2019 **Ross officials seeking remedy for emergency medical service's ailing finances**
The employees who work for Ross/West View EMS have made it their life's work to help people in need of medical treatment. But now the emergency medical service that answers calls in five North Hills communities is the one that's ailing. Ross/West View EMS officials asked Ross Township commissioners on Sept. 3... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-05-2019 **No room for negotiation, say federal regulators opposing sale of Hahnemann residency program**
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kevin Gross seemed eager Wednesday to approve the controversial sale of bankrupt Hahnemann University Hospital's medical resident training program to Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals Inc. for \$55 million over the objection of federal regulators.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-05-2019 **State Rep. Chris Sainato offers constitutional amendment to expand disabled vets' property tax exemptions**
State Rep. Chris Sainato has introduced a joint resolution to amend the Pennsylvania constitution to expand the eligibility of disabled veterans for property tax exemptions that also would be extended to surviving spouses of service members killed in action.... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Berks County marks National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**
September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. To mark the occasion, the Berks County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities program teamed up with the Berks County Suicide Prevention Task Force to dedicate a number of park benches Wednesday morning at... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Casey speaks on 'state's future'**
BEDFORD — One in four Bedford County children don't have access to the internet — a Federal Communications statistic that U.S. Sen. Bob Casey called "abominable" when fielding questions Wednesday from Bedford County Chamber of Commerce members and the public.... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Wolf: Closing Polk 'right'**
Gov. Tom Wolf told the newspaper on Wednesday that the decision to close Polk State Center was the "right thing to do by the people there" because the consensus is that "centralized, huge places of care" are not "the right way" to care for residents. Wolf spoke briefly about the center during a news conference that took... - [Oil City Derrick](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Residency sale stalemate hangs up ruling in Hahnemann bankruptcy**
(Philadelphia) — A federal bankruptcy judge in Wilmington held off Wednesday on a decision about whether Hahnemann University Hospital can sell its medical residency programs to a consortium of six local health systems led by Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals. The federal... - [WTF](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Feds: Man sold Pittsburgh rapper Mac Miller drugs before overdose death**
(Los Angeles) — A Los Angeles man was arrested Wednesday on charges that he sold counterfeit opioid pills to Mac Miller two days before the rapper died of an overdose... - [AP](#)



- 09-05-2019 **From the arts to health care, Snyder Fund helps charities serve others**
Representatives from 29 local not-for-profit organizations gathered at the Hotel Fauchere on Aug. 27 to receive grants from the Greater Pike Community Foundation's Richard L. Snyder Fund. Jim Pedranti, the foundation's board chair, said the fund is giving out... - [Milford Pike County Courier](#)
- 09-05-2019 **CCAP just says no to further marijuana legalization**
The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania has taken a firm stand against any further legalization of marijuana at this time. CCAP, an organization to which the board of Clarion County Commissioners belongs, believes "any efforts by the commonwealth to change laws to... - [Clarion News](#)
- 09-05-2019 **County ordinance restricts use of any future opioid lawsuit settlement money**
SCRANTON — Money Lackawanna County may one day receive from its legal fight to hold various drug manufacturers responsible for the opioid epidemic will be used to help addicts and their families. That fight began in September 2017 when New York-based law firm Marc J.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 09-05-2019 **With largest private grant ever, LCCC opens recovery institute**
NANTICOKE — Others talked broadly about the opioid epidemic, the impact on society, and the value of melding recovery with education, but during the dedication of Luzerne County Community College's new recovery education institute it was recovering addict John Fabiseski who painted the... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 09-05-2019 **'Helpless, hopeless and homeless'; 12 graduate from treatment courts**
SUNBURY — Timothy Reichwein can recall the moment he hit rock bottom. The Sunbury resident has been fighting addiction to heroin for 35 years when he was arrested in December 2017 for drug-related offenses. It wasn't the first time he had been arrested, but Reichwein decided it would be his... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Sen. Casey talks about health care, gun control, his support for Biden**
U.S. Sen. Bob Casey would like to see solutions to health care, debates on gun control and investments in infrastructure from his colleagues and the current administration. - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Guest column: Enact Phillip's Law in Pa. to save lives**
In a Pennsylvania where our children have the mental health resources they need, Phillip Spruill Jr. would be entering sixth grade this school year. In that Pennsylvania, Phillip's laughter would mingle in the hallways of Benjamin B. Comegys School with that of his classmates, as a new... - [Phoenixville News](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Chester County to host Naloxone Giveaway Day for residents**
WEST CHESTER — On Wednesday, Sept. 18, Chester County's Health Department and Department of Drug & Alcohol Services are hosting a free Naloxone Day, with doses of the medication given away to anyone who cannot or does not wish to obtain it from a pharmacy. The event is part of the Pennsylvania Department of Health's "Stop... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Another Patient Has Died From Lung Disease After Vaping**
A second person has died from a severe lung illness after vaping, according to a lead investigator on the case in Oregon. The investigator said that the person had apparently become sick after vaping T.H.C. from a product purchased at a recreational marijuana shop in the state.... - [New York Times](#)



- 09-05-2019 **It doesn't matter if it's sugary or diet: New study links all soda to an early death**
Hold up, diet soda drinkers. Regular consumption of soft drinks . both sugar-sweetened and artificially sweetened . was associated with a greater risk of all causes of death, according to research published this week in JAMA Internal Medicine. Participants who drank two or more glasses of soft drinks per day had a... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-05-2019 **How two Stanford grads aimed for big tech glory and got Big Tobacco instead**
Fifteen years ago, two Stanford graduate students, Adam Bowen and James Monsees, presented their product design thesis on .the national future of smoking.. In a video of the presentation, Bowen and Monsees are heard describing their interest in design for social change and pondering aloud... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Analysis | Biden's claim that more Iraq/Afghanistan veterans have committed suicide than were killed in action**
.More suicides per month in the U.S. military, returning vets, than people killed in action, by a long shot.. . Former vice president Joe Biden, at a town hall event at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., Aug. 23, 2019 The Washington Post recently detailed how the former vice president told a... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-05-2019 **'Nine years later, I still owe \$19,000' — Ohioans struggle with surprise medical bills**
About 1 in 3 Ohioans with private health insurance was surprised by a medical bill in the past year, according to a new survey, and those surprises were not pleasant. Twice, Greg Pace went to the emergency room for severe stomach pain but was sent home. The pain got worse, and he went to another hospital, thinking it was... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 09-05-2019 **WV receives millions in federal funds to fight opioid epidemic**
For a second year, West Virginia will receive more than \$28 million to support addiction recovery efforts from the federal State Opioid Response program, which provides grants awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. SOR funds are meant to strengthen the fight against opioid addiction and... - [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Australia faces opioid crisis as companies push drugs abroad**
BLACK RIVER, Australia — The coroner's sense of futility was clear, as he investigated the death of yet another Australian killed by prescription opioids... - [AP](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Alzheimer's pioneer Virginia Lee wins \$3 million Breakthrough Prize for work at Penn**
Long before Virginia Man-Yee Lee earned international acclaim for her work on Alzheimer.s, Parkinson.s, and other diseases of the brain, a brief stint at a drug company left her unsure about her future as a scientist, and she hatched a backup plan: In 1984, she earned an M.B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania.s Wharton... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-05-2019 **All soda - even diet - linked to risk of early death, study says**
In researchers. continuing mission to ruin everything fun, a new expansive study shows that sodas . even diet ones . could be deadly. And it.s not like the study was quick and dirty. Published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine, researchers looked at more than 450,000 people in... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



- 09-05-2019 **The goal? Clean water. The issue? Philly-area towns and state officials at odds over treatment system**
Warminster Township officials thought they had finally found the best way to remove toxic PFAS chemicals from the township's drinking water: An ion-exchange treatment system. Pilot tests showed that the system effectively got rid of the undesirable chemicals. Plus, the technology lasts longer than alternatives and requires... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-05-2019 **Sale of Hahnemann's medical-residency program approved by bankruptcy judge**
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kevin Gross approved the sale of Hahnemann University Hospital's residency programs to Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals Inc. for \$55 million, but gave the federal government seven calendar days to appeal. Gross called the decision one of those that cause a judge to lie awake at... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-04-2019 **CDC awards Pennsylvania \$2.25 million grant to study maternal mortality**
Gov. Tom Wolf's administration announced Tuesday it has received a \$2.25 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the cause of maternal deaths in the state after an increase in recent years. Officials said the state Department of Health will receive the grant over... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-04-2019 **\$26 million medical research facility coming to Erie**
The institute is expected to create up to 200 jobs and bring \$50 million in research funds to Erie over the next 10 years. When the Erie Community Foundation announced a new blueprint for investment and philanthropy nearly a year ago, President Mike Batchelor said the... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Police investigate online threat against a Pittsburgh hospital**
Police investigate online threat against a Pittsburgh hospital Pittsburgh police are investigating an online threat made Tuesday to commit a hate crime in the city Wednesday morning, according to public safety officials. Police did not disclose the specific nature of the threat, only saying that... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Westmoreland County veteran one of the 10 or 11 insulin homicide victims at Clarksburg VA hospital**
The number of veterans killed by improper insulin injections at the Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Clarksburg, W. Va., could go even higher than the 10 or 11 cases federal officials are focused on right now, an attorney for a Westmoreland County veteran who died there said Tuesday.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-04-2019 **State and U.S. lawmakers lead discussion on veteran suicide, tout bills**
State and U.S. lawmakers lead discussion on veteran suicide, tout bills Federal and state lawmakers led a roundtable discussion Tuesday on suicide by military veterans as part of a series of panels held by state Sens. Mike Regan and Pam Iovino. Attending were U.S. Reps. Conor Lamb, D-Mt. Lebanon, and Guy Reschenthaler,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Online threat nets response from UPMC, Pittsburgh police**
UPMC officials are working with local and federal law enforcement in response to a threat to commit a hate crime at an undisclosed Pittsburgh-area hospital. The threat was made online Tuesday. "We take the safety and security of the staff, patients and visitors... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



- 09-04-2019 **[With Hahnemann closure, some Pennsylvania senators learn they can't please everybody](#)**
As Hahnemann University Hospital closes, some state lawmakers representing the Philadelphia region have put on their advocacy hats. But the state senators, about a dozen of them, upset a labor union representing some of the 2,500 workers losing their jobs as a result of the... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-04-2019 **[\\$80 million investment for Philadelphia health-care firm](#)**
Pareto Health Inc., a Philadelphia company that organizes health coverage for groups of businesses that pay medical bills directly, announced Wednesday that it had received an investment of more than \$80 million from Great Hill Partners, a Boston private equity firm.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-04-2019 **[Law firm of ex-team doctor: Players who defended PSU's James Franklin may not have whole story](#)**
Numerous former players have come to the defense of Penn State head football coach James Franklin since accusations he pressured a former team doctor of prematurely clearing injured players, but the law firm representing Dr. Scott A. Lynch released a statement Tuesday afternoon... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 09-04-2019 **[Opioid crisis's heavy toll](#)**
The opioid crisis has contributed to the deaths of about 400,000 people in the U.S. since 2000. As million - perhaps even billion - dollar settlements of lawsuits against pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors hit the headlines, more numbers that are emerging from the maze of lawsuits can give a compact... - [Oil City Derrick](#)
- 09-04-2019 **[EDITORIAL: Penn State must be transparent during whistleblower lawsuit by ex-team doctor](#)**
Last week, the Penn State football program found itself in the national spotlight. Unfortunately for local Nittany Lions' fans, it had nothing to do with the team's play on the field during a 79-7 season-opening pounding of Idaho. Instead, the school was again in the news for an off-the-field controversy.... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 09-04-2019 **[St. Francis partners with Cambria Care Center in therapeutic gardening program](#)**
EBENSBURG – Theresa Conway can't wait to see flowers on her window sill at Cambria Care Center. A partnership with St. Francis University that kicked off Tuesday can make that happen. The university, through a \$10,000 Whole Person/Whole Community grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, delivered beds, plants and... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 09-04-2019 **[Commissioners consider joining health alliance](#)**
MIFFLINTOWN — The Juniata County Commissioners are considering joining an alliance with 22 other central Pennsylvania counties to bring about more efficient behavioral health services to local residents. During Tuesday's regular business meeting, the commissioners heard a... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 09-04-2019 **[SBA receives pushback on proposed fluoride removal from water](#)**
Shippensburg residents want fluoride in their public water. - [Shippensburg News-Chronicle](#)



- 09-04-2019 **County goes purple for recovery**
CHAMBERSBURG — Franklin County Commissioners Tuesday proclaimed September Recovery Month. This is the third year the county has recognized the struggle. This year's theme is Join the Voices for Recovery: Together We Are Stronger. "Franklin County's Recovery Month observance continues to bring... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Commissioners proclaim September as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month**
The Clearfield County Commissioners declared September as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month and Sept. 8 as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day at its meeting yesterday. "Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States," the proclamation states. "And in Pennsylvania suicide is the second... - [Clearfield Progress](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Another woman sues Fayette EMS, regional supervisor**
A second woman claiming sexual harassment has filed suit against Fayette EMS and a regional supervisor who works for the Connellsville based ambulance service. Elizabeth Lewis, formerly of Fayette County and now living in Florida, recently sued the ambulance service and Steven Rugg in... - [Connellsville Daily Courier](#)
- 09-04-2019 **California Assembly advances crackdown on vaccine exemptions, but governor wants to change the bill**
The California Assembly passed contentious vaccine legislation on Tuesday, a vote immediately met with an announcement from the office of Gov. Gavin Newsom that changes to the legislation would be required before it reaches his desk. Newsom's office said in a message posted on Twitter that the governor... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Sherrod Brown says 99,000 Ohio women face losing health care**
Sen. Sherrod Brown worries that nearly 100,000 Ohio women could lose health care as Planned Parenthood loses federal funding. However, the group's leaders say they are using existing funding to continue providing reproductive care, cancer screenings and all other services.... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Get Vaccinated or Leave School: 26,000 N.Y. Children Face a Choice**
Jacquelynn Vance-Pauls, a real-estate lawyer in upstate New York, has a 14-year-old son with autism who was recently kicked out of his private special needs school. Her 9-year-old twins and her high-school senior are also on the verge of being expelled from their public schools.... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Urban-Farming Camps Have Kids Asking, Where's the Healthy Food?**
Standing between two buildings on 127th Street, a group of campers on the cusp of adolescence mulled over a change in schedule. Normally, they would spend the morning planting and gardening as part of Harlem Grown, a youth development nonprofit that uses gardening and cooking to teach and empower... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-04-2019 **On the investigation into a Lancaster County doctor's alleged abuse, and the cruel math of Pa. statutes of limitations [opinion]**
THE ISSUE The office of Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro is "seeking to include the testimony of an additional 13 alleged victims as it prosecutes a Lancaster County doctor accused of sexually assaulting six males," LNP's Lindsey Blest reported last week. "Most of the alleged... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)



- 09-04-2019 **4 nurses from closed Lancaster hospital file lawsuit against UPMC Pinnacle**
Four nurses who worked at the Lancaster hospital that UPMC Pinnacle closed in February have filed a civil lawsuit seeking severance pay they say they are owed. After UPMC announced plans to close the hospital, employees were informed that those not given the opportunity to transfer to equivalent jobs at the... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Chester County lawmaker pushes new law after beating of disabled man**
MALVERN — In response to the recent assault of a mentally disabled man in Homer City, State Rep. Kristine Howard (D-Chester) is redoubling her efforts to pass HB1344, which adds “intellectual or physical disability” to the list of elements prosecutors can consider when... - [Phoenixville News](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Opinion | We're finally getting some accountability for the opioid crisis - long after victims are dead**
THE ENDGAME may be at hand for massive litigation pitting major pharmaceutical-makers against thousands of states, municipalities, tribes and other plaintiffs seeking accountability and compensation for the epidemic of prescription opioid overdoses that has ravaged the United... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Analysis | The Health 202: Michigan ban highlights threat of flavored e-cigarettes to young people**
Michigan today became the first state ever to ban the sales of flavored e-cigarettes . the latest crackdown by regulators amid an outbreak of vaping-related illnesses and a growing recognition of its threat to the country.s young people. The ban on retail and online sales goes into effect immediately and applies... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-04-2019 **\$80 million investment for Philadelphia health-care firm founded by Swarthmore grad**
Pareto Health Inc., a Philadelphia company that organizes health coverage for groups of businesses that pay medical bills directly, announced Wednesday that it had received an investment of more than \$80 million from Great Hill Partners, a Boston private equity firm.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Jefferson doctors, dementia patients, and caregivers explore memory and connection on stage**
Even after months of interviews, editing sessions, and rehearsals, the amateur performers who tell their stories in Tangles in Time find themselves fighting tears as they practice. It's hard for everybody on stage — medical students, doctors, nurses, and caregivers — when Nora Dougherty has to watch her husband,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Planned closure of Polk Center marks the end of an era and the start of a battle**
POLK, Pa. With its clusters of stately red-brick buildings and manicured lawns, set amid the farm fields and state game lands of Venango County, Polk Center almost looks like a college campus. Instead, it is one of the last vestiges of Pennsylvania's once-vast... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Trump's immigration plan could be a boon to the flu | Opinion**
The influenza virus gained an important ally during the past few weeks: the Trump administration. If you have been rooting for a widespread and virulent flu epidemic this winter, several of its new immigration policies should give you reason to cheer. The first bit of good news for flu fans is a decision to withhold... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



- 09-04-2019 **Trump claims turnaround in opioid addiction fight, gives Pa. \$70 million more to continue progress**
Pennsylvania will get about \$70 million to continue fighting the opioid addiction crisis, federal officials announced Wednesday. In doing so, Alex Azar, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, said efforts by the President Donald Trump administration have... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-04-2019 **VIDEO: Rothman pushes legislation to raise the age for tobacco sales**
Rep. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) sat down with The PLS Reporter to talk about legislation he is working on to raise the legal age to buy tobacco products and e-cigarettes from 18 to 21. This legislation would exempt members of the armed services. Rothman believes that if someone is old enough to fight for their country they... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Mastriano plans to introduce heartbeat bill**
Freshman Senator Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin) was sworn into office in June and authored a cosponsor memo in July for a heartbeat bill. Mastriano plans to introduce the legislation when the Senate returns to session in the fall. His legislation will ban abortions if a physician determines that the... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Online hospital threat was 'extremely disruptive,' Pittsburgh police say**
Pittsburgh area hospital employees were justifiably afraid after an online threat was made Tuesday threatening to .commit a hate crime. at an undisclosed hospital in the city, police said. In the end, the threat came from a .male juvenile teen. and was traced to... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Michigan moves to be 1st state to ban flavored e-cigarettes**
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is moving to make Michigan the first state to ban flavored e-cigarettes... - [AP](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Jefferson doctors, dementia patients, and caregivers explore memory and connection on stage**
Even after months of interviews, editing sessions, and rehearsals, the amateur performers who tell their stories in Tangles in Time find themselves fighting tears as they practice. It.s hard for everybody on stage . medical students, doctors, nurses, and caregivers . when Nora Dougherty has to watch her husband, bigger than life... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-04-2019 **'I felt nauseous,' Bucks County woman says of plan for 48-foot 5G cell tower in her front yard**
In 1994, Dawn and Paul van Rijn bought a 2,100-square-foot sample home at Victorian Gardens in Doylestown Township with dreams of raising a family. Over 25 year, they raised a son, Zach, there and planted a vegetable garden along with apple and peach trees. All was good. And a decade ago when Verizon upgraded the area with Fios... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-04-2019 **Sen. Mensch introduces increased protections for older adults**
Sen. Bob Mensch (R-Bucks) introduced legislation in August that would significantly alter the Older Adult Protective Services Act. His bill would place more emphasis on mandatory reporting, something he says is crucial to protecting Pennsylvania seniors. Mensch.s legislation, SB819, creates a framework for oversight... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)



- 09-03-2019 **Hahnemann bankruptcy has a high-stakes showdown set for Wednesday**
A major showdown in the bankruptcy of Hahnemann University Hospital and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children is slated for Wednesday afternoon, when a judge in Wilmington will be asked to approve the sale of Hahnemann's medical residency programs to a consortium of six... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Former skeptic turns bullish on Tabula Rasa, the Philly-area health-care tech firm**
Tabula Rasa, the Moorestown drug-program manager that went public with an initial stock offering in 2016, was one of the Philadelphia area's hottest stocks over the next two years, rising from an initial \$14 a share to over \$80 last September, and topping the Standard & Poor's 600... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-03-2019 **For chronic Lyme patients, every day can be a struggle**
It was bad enough that Amy Wiester of Bell Township contracted Lyme disease at age 6 after suffering a tick bite at her family's farm. But Wiester, 36, was bitten twice more by Lyme-carrying ticks, in 2004 and 2018. The disease — and the co-infections that frequently accompany it —... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Real opioid justice: Liable companies should bankroll treatment**
The first of what observers expect will be a series of legal losses for the opioid industry came this week in Oklahoma. A judge ruled Johnson & Johnson must pay \$527 million for launching a national addiction crisis. The essential argument of the case is familiar anywhere the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-03-2019 **State and U.S. lawmakers will lead roundtable discussion on veteran suicide Tuesday**
State and U.S. lawmakers will lead roundtable discussion on veteran suicide Tuesday U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb, D-Mt. Lebanon, U.S. Rep. Guy Reschenthaler, R-Peters, state Sen Pam Iovino, D-Mt. Lebanon, and state Sen. Mike Regan, R-York, will host a roundtable on veteran suicide at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Will Lessons From The Opioid Crisis Be Retained For the Next Drug Epidemic?**
The rate of fatalities caused by the opioid epidemic has begun to wane, according to both national and local data. While this current drug crisis is certainly the deadliest in American history, responses to previous epidemics ruined lives in other ways. For example, in the 1980s and '90s, the crack cocaine epidemic was especially... - [WESA 90.5](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Recovering addict offers challenge, hope**
A recovering drug addict from the Chicago area made a surprise appearance in Blair County's Dug Court on Friday, telling the participants to "never give up on yourself." "As long as you have a heartbeat, you have hope. Do what you've got to do to move forward," said Tim Ryan, who was able to turn his life... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Judge: Doctor's case staying in Clearfield**
CLEARFIELD — The case against a Clearfield County doctor accused of over prescribing medications is staying in Clearfield County. Attorneys for Henry G. Dela Torre, 70, of DuBois filed a motion for change of venue for the trial, which is scheduled for December because they claim... - [Altoona Mirror](#)



- 09-03-2019 **Blair to get first aid kits**
HOLLIDAYSBURG — Blair County is relying on a grant from the Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool insurance program or PCoRP for financial help to purchase four larger first aid cabinets and 70 first aid kits. The county's safety committee has recommended the purchase, county... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Hospitals aim for clean bill of health in state reports**
A Somerset hospital heart attack patient was airlifted to UPMC Shadyside for emergency catheterization last year because the on-call cardiologist failed to report to the hospital. Windber's hospital was hit with an "immediate jeopardy" warning after inspectors learned that an orthopedic surgery patient under sedation... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Planned Parenthood's exit from Title X likely to have fallout**
Some low-income Pennsylvanians may struggle to get family-planning care since Planned Parenthood recently decided to exit the federal Title X program under new restrictions from the Trump administration. Title X, established in 1970, provides birth control and reproductive... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-03-2019 **How a unique program supports Centre County residents struggling with mental illness**
Opportunity Centre Clubhouse offers a a unique approach to psychiatric care all while being like a family says associate director Nicki Tice during an open house. By College Township A "unique form of psychiatric treatment," the Opportunity Centre Clubhouse helped Tammy Driver build confidence, make friends and enhance... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 09-03-2019 **States, local govns skeptical of opioid settlement deal**
HARTFORD, Conn. — An offer from OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family to settle some 2,000 lawsuits over their contribution to the national opioid crisis is receiving growing pushback from state and local officials who say the proposed deal doesn't include enough money or... - [AP](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Diagnose VA's doctor issues**
Even as the Department of Veterans Affairs investigates the suspicious deaths of 11 patients at a VA health center in West Virginia, a former VA pathologist awaits trial in Fayetteville, Arkansas, for involuntary manslaughter. Prosecutors say that former pathologist Robert Morris Levy incorrectly... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Heritage Valley sees uptick in sports injuries in fall**
BRIGHTON TWP. — Friday Night Lights is a western Pennsylvania staple. For weeks, life revolves around Friday night football. But the start of football season — and a slew of other high school sports — doesn't just mean busy Friday nights. Every August and September, Dr. Ron Lackey starts to see a younger demographic in the... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Focus on vaping health effects grow**
Concerns over the health effects of vaping have come back into focus after vaping use was linked to the death of an individual in Illinois last week by health officials. - [Huntingdon Daily News](#)



- 09-03-2019 **WellSpan urges people possibly exposed to measles to call hotline**
Patients and visitors to York Hospital are no longer in danger of contracting measles from a patient who was diagnosed with the virus last week, Dr. Mark Goedecker, regional medical director for WellSpan Medical Group, said Monday. But those who may have been exposed when the patient was contagious should... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Man charged in drug overdose death of Tredyffrin resident**
TREDYFFRIN — A man has been arrested after the person he supplied drugs to died of a drug overdose earlier this year. According to Tredyffrin Township police, officers responded to the report of an unresponsive man on June 16. Upon arrival, officers determined that... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 09-03-2019 **New drug and alcohol Rural Outreach Coordinator strives to bring services to region**
Leslie Buffone is the new Rural Health Outreach Coordinator for the Clearfield Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission. Buffone is responsible for marketing and community outreach for the organization. She said she attends local health fairs and community events,... - [Clearfield Progress](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Overdose vigil elicits messages of struggle, hope**
It was a night to remember. To remember the twin brother whose sister found herself planning his funeral on their 36th birthday. To remember a young man who wasn't a star athlete, but who never gave up until he succumbed to an addiction helped by pain killers given after an... - [Indiana Gazette](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Public warned of possible measles exposure in Hershey and York County**
Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine is alerting residents who visited several locations throughout York County and Hershey between Aug. 22 and Aug. 29 that they may have been exposed to measles. - [Towanda Daily Review](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Getting Your Medical Records Through an App? There's a Catch. And a Fight.**
Americans may soon be able to get their medical records through smartphone apps as easily as they order takeout food from Seamless or catch a ride from Lyft. But prominent medical organizations are warning that patient data-sharing with apps could facilitate invasions of privacy . and they are fighting the... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Opinion | That Beloved Hospital? It's Driving Up Health Care Costs**
As voters fume about the high cost of health care, politicians have been targeting two well-deserved villains: pharmaceutical companies, whose prices have risen more than inflation, and insurers, who pay their executives millions in salaries while raising premiums and deductibles.... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Weight-Loss Surgery May Reduce Heart Risks in People With Type 2 Diabetes**
Every year, hundreds of thousands of obese Americans undergo weight-loss surgery in a last-ditch effort to shed pounds and control their Type 2 diabetes. Now a new study suggests that bariatric surgery may also have other significant health benefits, cutting the overall risk of serious... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-03-2019 **On the Job, 24 Hours a Day, 27 Days a Month**
Tuesday night was rough. A sharp scent drifted into Marjorie Salmon.s dream world at 4 a.m. She was still trying to rouse herself when its source, her 77-year-old client, pounded on her bedroom door, yelling that he wanted to go home. .You.re home, Bob. This is your home,. Marjorie told him. She calmed him... - [New York Times](#)



- 09-03-2019 **Opinion | We're finally getting some accountability for the opioid crisis - long after victims are dead**
THE ENDGAME may be at hand for massive litigation pitting major pharmaceutical-makers against thousands of states, municipalities, tribes and other plaintiffs seeking accountability and compensation for the epidemic of prescription opioid overdoses that has ravaged the United... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Analysis | The Health 202: Indiana is trying a gentler approach to Medicaid work requirements**
Indiana is emerging as a test case of whether it's possible to enact Medicaid work requirements without also prompting widespread confusion and coverage losses in the health program for low-income Americans. The state's former governor Mike Pence and consultant Seema Verma found a... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Analysis | The Energy 202: Here's why lawyers suing oil companies are following the opioid cases**
Lawyers suing some of the world's largest oil and natural gas companies over climate change are closely following a seemingly unrelated ruling out of Oklahoma . one holding a drugmaker culpable for fueling the state's opioid epidemic. The reason is this: Both the cases against pharmaceutical makers and those... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Educating ourselves on the deadly dangers of fentanyl [opinion]**
THE ISSUE "An East Hempfield Township man who was charged last year for his part in a fentanyl-laced heroin bust that involved \$50,000 worth of the drug" has been sentenced to six to 30 years in prison, LancasterOnline staff reported Aug. 13. Meanwhile, authorities stated that "a Lancaster... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Arguments scheduled this week to determine if safe injection sites are legal**
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A federal judge will hear arguments this week in the U.S. attorney's lawsuit against a nonprofit that's hoping to open a safe injection site in Philadelphia, and hints of what each side will argue came during testimony last month.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 09-03-2019 **Carroll drops opioid lawsuit, but plans to refile**
A lawsuit filed on behalf of Carroll County against an array of pharmaceutical companies and their owners alleging the companies are responsible for damages resulting from the opioid addiction crisis that has killed hundreds in Carroll has been withdrawn. But that doesn't mean... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 09-03-2019 **North Huntingdon bans tobacco products from parks, playgrounds**
North Huntingdon has joined other communities and school districts in Westmoreland County in banning the use of tobacco products from the township's public parks, playing fields and playgrounds. The township recently received a certificate for joining the "Young... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-03-2019 **GNC partners with Brazilian firm**
Pittsburgh-based GNC Holdings, Inc. on Tuesday announced that it is partnering with Brazilian retailer BFG Brasil Comercial de Vitaminas LTDA, a deal that the company says "will allow GNC to grow its franchise presence outside the United States and reach more consumers in Latin... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 09-03-2019 **[Suing Big Pharma is only a part of the overall solution to the opioid crisis | Editorial](#)**
In recent years, litigation took center stage in the efforts to address the opioid overdose crisis. Reporting that companies like Purdue Pharma — the manufacturer of OxyContin — aggressively marketed its product led to a wave of lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and distributors.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-03-2019 **[The world's first T-cell therapy for a solid tumor cancer is made in Philly](#)**
A small biotech company is poised to shake up the world of oncology next year by launching the first personalized T-cell therapy for a solid tumor cancer. Until now, the technology has succeeded only in certain blood cancers. Making the leap to solid tumors would be huge for cancer patients, as well... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-03-2019 **[Ohio medical board to review nearly 2,000 'sexual boundary' cases](#)**
The State Medical Board of Ohio plans to review nearly 2,000 closed cases involving alleged .sexual boundary. violations by doctors over the past 25 years to see if any involved evidence of criminal misconduct that was ignored... - [AP](#)
- 09-03-2019 **[Here's why you can't buy a carton of cigarettes at any CVS | Opinion](#)**
Five years ago this month, CVS Health removed all tobacco products from our shelves. When you walk into any CVS Pharmacy in Pennsylvania, you are guaranteed to never find a carton of cigarettes, a tin of chewing tobacco, or the latest e-cigarette . which we have never carried.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-03-2019 **[People with tattoos more reckless, impulsive, study finds](#)**
Tattoos appear to go hand in hand with recklessness and impulsivity. People with visible tattoos are more likely to be reckless and impulsive than those without ink, according to a new study reported by the Daily Mail. The study by economists from McMaster University in Canada of more than... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-03-2019 **[CDC awards Pennsylvania \\$2.25 million grant to study maternal mortality](#)**
Gov. Tom Wolf.s administration announced Tuesday it has received a \$2.25 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study the cause of maternal deaths in the state after an increase in recent years. Officials said the state Department of Health will receive the grant over... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-03-2019 **[Expanding broadband internet access could help save lives, doctor says in testimony](#)**
Telemedicine can help save lives, and improving broadband internet access makes telemedicine work better, an anesthesiologist said in testimony submitted at a legislative hearing Tuesday. The comments submitted by Pennsylvania Medical Society President Dr. Danae... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-03-2019 **[Physical activity improves kids. social, emotional, and academic performance](#)**
It.s that time of the year again: back to school time. Time for teachers, testing, more testing, and endless piles of homework. As if that weren.t enough, then there.s the anxiety and the monumental effort to stay tethered to a desk all day. But what if I told you there is a free magic pill that would improve... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



- 09-01-2019 **St. Clair Hospital expansion gets \$1 million gift from Richard King Mellon Foundation**
The St. Clair Hospital Foundation has received a \$1 million donation from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to help build a new state-of-the-art outpatient center for the hospital's main campus in Mt. Lebanon. The money is earmarked for what will be called the Dunlap Family Outpatient... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Where did the Sacklers move cash from their opioid maker?**
Ninety minutes outside London, a turn down a narrow lane leads past fields of grazing cattle to a sign warning .Private Keep Off.. Around an elbow bend, a great stone manor, its formal gardens and tennis court hidden behind thick hedges, commands a 5,000-acre estate... - [AP](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Gov. Wolf launches push for mandatory lead testing in children statewide**
Gov. Tom Wolf came to Pittsburgh Thursday to shine light on his statewide initiative to tackle the serious health problem of lead exposure in young children, starting with a call for mandated blood testing throughout Pennsylvania. Even low levels of lead have been linked to a child's IQ and ability to pay... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Brian O'Neill: Where does the water go?**
Tim Hohman was taking his daily morning walk on a quiet street in Shaler, trying to keep his artificial left hip loose, when he saw water running as hard as a water hose between two houses . and it wasn.t raining. That was in March. He called the Hampton Shaler Water Authority. One of its... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Program aims to bring tennis to kids with visual impairments**
Six weeks after Domiana Costa was born five years ago, her parents, Dana and Dom, were told by her ophthalmologist that because of their daughter.s limited vision, sports were not in her future. .The doctor said, .She.s never going to play tennis, never going to play... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-01-2019 **West Chester University opens campus convenience store staffed by students with autism**
Katie Noll was ready at the cash register when one of the first customers of the day stepped up. .Is that everything?. Noll, 19, asked. .Oh, wait, hold on,. said the customer, a fellow West Chester University student, as she whirled around to grab gum. .Your total will be \$7.96,. Noll said.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Read The Inquirer's PFAS water contamination coverage**
Since the discovery of potentially harmful chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in drinking water in communities in Bucks, Montgomery, and Gloucester Counties beginning in 2014, The Inquirer has provided award-winning coverage of the issue. Follow this timeline,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Public warned of possible measles exposure in Pennsylvania**
State health authorities are warning the public about possible measles exposure at a number of Pennsylvania locations over the past week... - [AP](#)
- 09-01-2019 **After 2 deaths in 11 days, medical facility for fragile kids gets another chance**
It started at midnight with a scream. The scream was louder and higher pitched than usual for Hayden Mapp, a 4-year-old boy with brittle bone disease at Pediatric Specialty Care in Philadelphia. A nurse walked calmly to his room to check on the boy, according to state... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



- 09-01-2019 **Tennis clinic held in Pittsburgh for blind and visually impaired people**
Catering to each participant's ability, volunteers from the tennis club and Slippery Rock University's women's tennis team gave hands-on instruction free of charge. Jessica Kovacs of Plum watched from the bleachers as her son, Thomas, 9, was given specialized lessons.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Doctors fear vaping to blame for spike in lung illnesses**
Doctors in Western Pennsylvania are concerned and frustrated with an uptick in vaping-related lung illnesses diagnosed over the past few weeks. Pittsburgh joins a growing list of places that have identified people with breathing problems related to vaping. The Centers for Disease Control and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Gov. Wolf presents Lead Free PA at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh**
A new initiative championed by Gov. Tom Wolf urges the Legislature to take action after Pennsylvania ranked sixth in the number of lead-poisoned children in a recent study. Lead Free PA would establish universal lead testing for children, which would be done through a finger prick, and implement regional response teams... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Editorial: Opioid verdicts have to hurt**
What is the cost of a crisis? The opioid epidemic has been a greedy monster, demanding more and more resources from all levels of government as well as hospitals and insurance companies over the last 20 years. It has eaten lives and devoured communities. In 2013 alone, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Letters to the Editor 9/1/2019**
Editor: I was truly puzzled by the recent letter that accused The Times-Tribune of being an economic recession booster (.Recession rooters,. Aug. 26). At first I couldn't see how the gentleman would have that impression. After thinking about it I realized what had happened. After more than two years... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Attorney: Opioid lawsuit ruling pressures drug companies to settle local suits**
A \$572 million ruling against drug manufacturer Johnson & Johnson in Oklahoma could eventually lead to a global settlement, which includes local counties, said an attorney representing local government in a similar lawsuit. Thank you for Reading! Please log in, or sign up for a new account and purchase a subscription to... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Could Allentown cash in on multi-state pharmaceutical settlement?**
The multibillion-dollar settlement that the maker of OxyContin is negotiating to resolve a crush of lawsuits over the nation's opioid crisis contains formulas for dividing up the money among state and local governments across the country, The Associated Press has learned... - [AP](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Type O blood needed to boost critically low supply**
Donors can give at the Erie Donor Center or at Lowes on upper Peach Street today. The Community Blood Bank is in immediate need of Type O donors to boost a critically low blood supply. Type O blood is being used in several emergency cases, further depleting an... - [Erie Times-News](#)



- 09-01-2019 **[Mercyhurst to help meet demand for health care workers: Michael T. Victor](#)**
"Over the next two years, we will dedicate a significant portion of our resources, including a multimillion-dollar commitment to fund capital improvements on our Erie campus, in order to grow our two- and four-year health profession programs." One need not be an academic, physician or the president of a university to... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-01-2019 **[The Jonas Brothers energize Camp Hill teenager battling cancer at Hershey Medical Center](#)**
A Camp Hill teenager.s "crappy chemotherapy. session day turned into a small party Saturday with one of her favorite pop rock bands who were in town to perform at Hershey. The Jonas Brothers stopped by Hershey Medical Center to visit Lily Jordan. Jordan, who was on bedrest, as well as a handful of her friends and... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-01-2019 **[An Allentown church started a recovery home to the dismay of West Park neighbors. City zoners stepped in.](#)**
An Allentown church cannot operate a recovery house in West Park after city zoners ruled it doesn.t meet the definition of a group home. The Zoning Hearing Board voted 2-1 this week to deny Allentown Victory Church.s request to consider the already operating home at 1447 W. Hamilton... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-01-2019 **[Pat Toomey gets pelted and praised for votes on bills to reduce Medicare costs](#)**
In pushing changes to a bipartisan bill to rein in prescription drug prices in Medicare and Medicaid, was U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey defending the free market against price controls? Or was he working on behalf of big drug companies? That.s the question viewers may be asking after seeing dueling ads that... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-01-2019 **[Jonas Brothers stopped by Hershey Medical Center to see teen battling cancer who couldn't make it to the show \[video\]](#)**
What started as an Instagram story asking the Jonas Brothers to stop by the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center turned into a full social media campaign to get them there. The Jonas Brothers performed at Hersheypark Stadium last night. Lily Jordan, a teen fighting cancer at the medical center, posted an Instagram... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-01-2019 **[Amish volunteers give back to Hospice & Community Care for Labor Day auction \[photos\]](#)**
For more than 15 of the 35 years that Hospice & Community Care has been running the Labor Day auction to raise money to provide end-of-life care and support for patients and families, hundreds of Amish men and women have filled various volunteer roles at the event.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-01-2019 **[In Maryland and across the country, the health downfalls of vaping keep mounting](#)**
The manufacturers of e-cigarettes frequently tout the devices as healthier versions of the traditional cigarette . an effective tool that can help ween smokers off tobacco products without exposing them to tar and other dangerous and toxic chemicals. But a recent nationwide outbreak of a mysterious and potentially fatal lung... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 09-01-2019 **[Hogan administration awards nearly \\$10 million in grants to combat opioid crisis in Maryland](#)**
The Hogan administration announced Thursday that it will award nearly \$10 million in grants to counties for programs to combat the opioid crisis. In a news release, the state.s Opioid Operational Command Center wrote that the state will award \$4 million in block grants to the counties as well as... - [Baltimore Sun](#)



- 09-01-2019 **Opinion: Treat the fentanyl crisis like a poisoning outbreak**
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released drug overdose statistics for 2018, and they are shocking. Of the estimated 47,000 deaths from opioids last year, roughly two-thirds involved potent synthetic opioids, most of them fentanyl.... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Fentanyl, the perfect drug for Mexico's traffickers . and a new top killer in the U.S.**
Melissa and Daryl McKinsey first heard about .Mexican Oxy. last year when their 19-year-old son Parker called in tears. .I need to go to rehab,. he said. Several months earlier, a friend had given Parker a baby-blue pill that was stamped on one side with the letter M.... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Inside North Carolina's Big Effort to Transform Health Care**
North Carolina seems like an unlikely laboratory for health care reform. It refused to expand Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act, and ranks in the bottom third among states in measures of overall health. But the state has embarked on one of the country.s most ambitious efforts... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Don't Use Bootleg or Street Vaping Products, C.D.C. Warns**
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday warned people not to use vaping ingredients bought on the street, and to stop modifying either nicotine or cannabis e-cigarette devices, in an effort to curb the vaping-related lung sicknesses that have alarmed health officials in more... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Sacklers vs. States: Settlement Talks Stumble Over Foreign Business**
Purdue Pharma.s negotiations to settle thousands of lawsuits over the company.s role in the opioids crisis have turned into a standoff between members of the Sackler family, who own the company, and a group of state attorneys general over how much the family should pay and whether it can... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Sen. Bernie Sanders teases plan to cancel \$81 billion in Americans. medical debt**
Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders plans to release a new proposal to cancel \$81 billion worth of medical debt Americans are struggling to pay off, adding to a suite of ideas that would represent the largest expansion of the nation.s social safety net in decades and likely cost tens of... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-01-2019 **Indiana seeks to impose slower, kinder work requirements on Medicaid recipients**
When former governor Mike Pence and consultant Seema Verma ran Indiana.s conservative health-care system, they found a creative way to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act when many other red states rejected it. Now, with Pence as vice president and Verma as the head of the federal... - [Washington Post](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Pennsylvania Democrats raise the alarm on the future of the Affordable Care Act**
Cindy Jennings, a mom of two from Lancaster County, says she never realized the struggle that many Americans face in securing health insurance until she had to do it for herself. That realization came when Jennings, a full-time caregiver for her disabled son Matt, was kicked off her... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Wolf unveils new lead testing initiatives**
Legislators and officials joined Gov. Tom Wolf Wednesday afternoon in Philadelphia to promote new efforts to remove lead and its devastating effects from the state. Wolf called upon the legislature to mandate lead testing for all children at nine, 12, and 24 months of age. Aging houses that still contain lead... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)



- 08-29-2019 **Before DuPont and 3M hearing in Congress, activists highlight companies' history with PFAS**
Decades before the toxic chemicals used in products like Scotchgard and Teflon would be found running through the drinking water and groundwater of dozens of communities nationwide — including in Bucks and Montgomery Counties — the companies producing the substances had evidence the... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Report: State had big share of opioid ODs, smaller cut of federal funds**
Report: State had big share of opioid ODs, smaller cut of federal funds Pennsylvania and Ohio were slammed by the opioid epidemic but got relatively modest shares of federal opioid funding, according to a report issued Wednesday by an Indianapolis-based foundation.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Philadelphia's only needle exchange reaches out to the community with burgers, vaccines, and naloxone**
Joanne Leon went to the community fair outside Prevention Point on Wednesday because she wanted to save lives. Leon, whose house is around the corner from the Kensington-based public health organization's office, has lived at what is now the epicenter of Philadelphia's opioid crisis for four decades. In recent months,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Ex-CEO of Bucks County drug rehab pleads guilty to milking patients for profits**
The cofounder of a Bucks County drug rehab company pleaded guilty Wednesday to spearheading a wide-ranging fraud scheme that exploited patients as profit generators and bilked insurance companies out of tens of millions of dollars. Urine was prized above all else at Liberation Way, which operated treatment... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Participant will be resentenced for role in fatal Greensburg torture case**
The youngest member of a group of six Greensburg roommates convicted in the torture and murder of a mentally disabled woman nearly a decade ago will be sentenced for the third time in December. Angela Marinucci, 27, has twice before been sentenced to serve life in... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Wolf calls for increased lead testing**
HARRISBURG — Gov. Tom Wolf on Wednesday called on the Legislature to require lead testing for children before they enter school. "Pennsylvania has the sixth-highest percentage rate for children suffering from lead poisoning and this is only the number who have been... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Gov. Wolf announces 'Lead-Free Pennsylvania' initiative**
In a Wednesday press conference in Philadelphia, Gov. Tom Wolf announced a new initiative to test more Pennsylvania children for lead and stop lead exposure by remediating paint and water lines. But the full plan appears to heavily rely on the governor's Restore Pennsylvania budget proposal,... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Supplier in Montco meth trafficking ring sent to prison**
NORRISTOWN — A California man identified in court papers as a supplier in a southeastern Pennsylvania methamphetamine trafficking ring that utilized the U.S. Postal Service to carry out the drug crimes admitted his guilt and is headed to prison. Leonardo Christian Fernandez, 35, of Monrovia, Calif., was sentenced in... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)



- 08-29-2019 **Pleasant Acres nursing home being sued after resident's death, staffing levels blamed**
A lawsuit has been filed against Pleasant Acres Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in connection with a woman's death there last year. Nancy Young, 89, died on Dec. 15, 2018 — seven days after she fractured her left wrist and left hip from a fall. Young had entered another... - [York Daily](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Saquon Barkley Defends James Franklin Amid Lawsuit Filed by Former Team Doctor**
Former Penn State football star Saquon Barkley has joined some of his former college teammates and their families in defending head coach James Franklin, who former team physician Dr. Scott Lynch alleges in a new lawsuit attempted to influence medical and return-to-play decisions.... - [State College News](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Water Gap Wellness Center receives unanimous support**
MARSHALLS CREEK — Long-debated plans to partially convert a landmark golf course into an inpatient drug and alcohol treatment center will move forward, following a Wednesday decision by the Board of Supervisors for Smithfield Township. That action triggers the next phase of applications... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 08-29-2019 **UPMC Seeks Exemption from Lock Haven Hospital Real Estate Taxes**
LOCK HAVEN— Three Clinton County taxing bodies will be out over a quarter of a million dollars annually if UPMC Susquehanna is successful in gaining tax exempt status for its Lock Haven Hospital. UPMC Susquehanna Lock Haven purchased Lock Haven Hospital in 2017 from... - [Lock Haven Record](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Researchers at Pitt develop marijuana breathalyzer test**
For years, the ambiguity about what it takes for a marijuana user to be declared intoxicated has been debated by both users and pot opponents alike. Two University of Pittsburgh chemistry researchers – along with Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering – have developed a device that... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 08-29-2019 **County approves Meadville Medical Center's borrowing plan**
Crawford County commissioners have approved Meadville Medical Center's plan to borrow up to \$7 million to upgrade both facilities and equipment. Commissioners approved the plan at their meeting Wednesday following similar action last week by the Crawford County Hospital Authority.... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Geisinger to provide two-week paid parental leave beginning Sept. 1**
MAHONING TWP. — Geisinger will begin offering two weeks paid parental leave, beginning on Sunday, due to a need among health system employees, Geisinger President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Jaewon Ryu said on Wednesday. Geisinger announced the new benefit earlier in the day.... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 08-29-2019 **Geisinger Authority approves up to \$1.2 billion in bond financing**
DANVILLE — The Geisinger Authority will issue up to \$1.2 billion in 2019 bonds to refinance previously issued bonds and pay for projects such as improvements to urgent care and intensive care facilities and the emergency department at Geisinger Medical Center, as well as other projects... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)



- 08-29-2019 **[Trustees meet with those affected by White Haven Center closure](#)**
WHITE HAVEN — Rose Mary Oliver knows that her son, Tony, can't make a decision on his own. But if he could, she knows that he wouldn't want to leave White Haven Center — a place where he's lived for years because of physical and mental disabilities. "I know what kind of care he gets here," Oliver, of Plymouth, told... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Overdose Awareness Day declared in county](#)**
Praising local efforts to stem the tide of drug overdoses, the Adams County Commissioners declared Aug. 31 "International Overdose Awareness Day" in the county. Speaking in support of the proclamation during Wednesday's meeting was State Rep. Dan Moul, R-91. - [Gettysburg Times](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Opinion | Big Pharma Is Starting to Pay for the Opioid Crisis. Make Those Payments Count.](#)**
In 1998 tobacco manufacturers reached an unprecedented agreement with 46 states, which had sued the companies for engaging in decades of deceptive marketing practices that contributed to an epidemic of tobacco-related illness and death. Over the next 20 years, the industry paid some \$125... - [New York Times](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Amazon Enlisted To Help Researchers Sift Through Pittsburgh's Trove Of Health Care Data](#)**
Pittsburgh's medical community creates a lot of data, and embedded within that data are potential answers to important questions. The Pittsburgh Health Data Alliance -- a collaboration of UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University -- sifts through that data. This... - [WESA 90.5](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Hahnemann nurses argue Jefferson is preventing potential sale](#)**
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Hahnemann University Hospital is set to close next week, and nurses are furious because they say another hospital is meddling in preventing a potential sale. Two local, unnamed hospitals have reported interest in buying Hahnemann and... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Mental health treatment sought for man who climbed rusting Bethlehem blast furnace](#)**
(Bethlehem) — A man who climbed atop a rusting, disused blast furnace, prompting evacuation of an arts and entertainment venue at the site, will remain in prison amid negotiations over providing him with mental health treatment, authorities said Wednesday... - [AP](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Pennsylvania officials seek to abate lead poisoning dangers](#)**
(Harrisburg) — Pennsylvania officials are hoping to lower the risk of lead poisoning through mandated blood testing for children and other measures... - [AP](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Illegal cannabis farms still scarring public lands, two years after Prop. 64](#)**
When California voters legalized cannabis in 2016, supporters of Proposition 64 hoped it would significantly reduce the scourge of black market weed cultivation, particularly on public lands. Yet nearly two years later, illegal marijuana grows are still rampant... - [Los Angeles Times](#)



- 08-29-2019 **[New Trump Rule on Medical Interpreters Could Leave Immigrants Behind](#)**
Ed Zuroweste, a family practitioner in south central Pennsylvania, got a call a couple of years ago from a nearby hospital in Chambersburg. A restaurant worker, newly arrived from Guatemala, had staggered into the emergency room a few days before with severe shortness of breath and... - [Stateline.org](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[DeWine: 'Serious mistake' to let Yost take over local lawsuits in opioid crisis](#)**
Gov. Mike DeWine says it would be a “serious mistake” for the state to empower Attorney General Dave Yost to take over lawsuits filed by local governments that want the pharmaceutical industry to pay damages over the opioid crisis. Yost worked with three Republican lawmakers to draft the legislation, which... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[State DEP chief picked to lead new petrochemical manufacturing task force](#)**
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS — Gov. Jim Justice is putting the head of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection in charge of a new task force on manufacturing and petrochemicals. Justice announced the new task force, and Secretary Austin Caperton’s appointment, Wednesday morning at the West Virginia Chamber of... - [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Paid parental leave: U.S. needs to catch up, provide adequate options](#)**
Congressional cooperation has produced a parental leave proposal that is notable for its bipartisan support, but it is unlikely to be embraced in numbers necessary to obtain a workplace benefit available in every developed country but the U.S. Despite President Donald Trump’s declared support for paid family and... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Doctor says search continues for cause of lung injuries in young people](#)**
It starts with a shortness of breath that gets worse quickly. Then it’s a trip to the doctor’s office or the emergency room. After a chest X-ray or CT scan, the verdict comes in: a lung injury without an obvious cause. So far this summer, doctors in 22 states have seen 193 cases of a severe... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[What is Eastern Equine Encephalitis? Deadly mosquito-borne illness making headlines had one human case in Pennsylvania last year](#)**
A rare and deadly mosquito-borne illness making headlines around the country had one confirmed human case in Pennsylvania last year, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In the United States, an average of seven human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis, or EEE, are reported annually by the Centers for Disease... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Now up for bid: contract to demolish Allentown State Hospital](#)**
The Wolf administration is moving forward with a directive to take a wrecking ball to the Allentown State Hospital. According to the solicitation, the project consists of the demolition of 44 buildings on the nearly 200-acre site. General Services expects demolition... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Former Penn State football team doctor says details of suit against coach, university, will come out in court](#)**
Days after filing a lawsuit against Penn State football Coach James Franklin and the university, the former team physician said he only took the step after his concerns for the safety of the players were ignored. Former team doctor Scott A. Lynch said in an email to PennLive that he... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)



- 08-29-2019 **[New Jersey vaccine exemptions for schoolkids rose by more than half in five years](#)**
The number of New Jersey children whose families are claiming religious exemptions from state regulations on required vaccinations jumped nearly 53% in the past five years, according to a new analysis from a major state hospital group. The study by the Center for Health Analytics, Research and Transformation... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Would opening a supervised injection site violate existing federal law? Pro/Con | Opinion](#)**
Next week, a federal judge in Philadelphia will hear oral arguments in the case of U.S. v Safehouse. On one side, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, William McSwain, will make his case that under current federal law, a supervised injection site is illegal. Safehouse, the... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Bad milk from Berks County's Bad Farm should be thrown away](#)**
The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is warning consumers who bought raw whole milk distributed by Bad Farm in Kempton, Berks County, that they should immediately discard the milk, which was sold in plastic half-gallons, gallons and pints with sell-by date of Aug. 23. Tests... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[What is Eastern Equine Encephalitis? Deadly mosquito-borne illness making headlines had one human case in Pennsylvania last year](#)**
A rare and deadly mosquito-borne illness making headlines around the country had one confirmed human case in Pennsylvania last year, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In the United States, an average of seven human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis, or EEE, are reported annually by the Centers for Disease... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-29-2019 **[Editorial: Grandparents need help raising kids](#)**
They say it takes a village to raise a child. More and more, it takes a grandma. .We grandparents who are raising grandchildren, we are the protection for that next generation,. said Charlotte Stephenson in a panel discussion Tuesday with U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Scranton.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



Health Care Recap is a comprehensive daily report on legislative and executive actions in the Pennsylvania capitol and is compiled and edited by PLS.

For subscription information, questions or more information contact PLS at mypls@mypls.com or 717-236-6984. Thank you, Lynn, Jeff, Mike, Matt Hess, Matt Hykes, Deborah, Kara, Cheryl, Aaron, Becky, Amyra, Nick, Nicole, Robert, Emily, Andrew, Shaun, Justin, Sheri and Harrison.

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