



Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness

*Advancing benefits and services
in mental health, substance use
and behavior change.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABHW SUPPORTS CHANGES TO OUTDATED SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PRIVACY REGULATION

Washington, DC (February 5, 2016) – Today the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued a proposed rule updating the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records, 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 2 (Part 2). This marks the first update since the rules were issued in 1987. While we continue to review the proposed regulations, below is a statement from ABHW President and CEO Pamela Greenberg:

“The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) is pleased to see that (SAMHSA) has recognized that the time has come to modernize Part 2.

Late last year ABHW released a paper, [Now is the Time to Strengthen Protection of Substance Use Records by Revisiting the Substance Use Privacy Law](#), expressing the need for changes to Part 2 regulations. Separation of substance use from the rest of medicine creates several problems and hinders patients from receiving safe, effective, high quality substance use treatment.

ABHW supports protections against unlawful disclosure, limiting the sharing of information for non-health care purposes, and providing meaningful enforcement penalties. We do not want consumers to be made vulnerable as a result of seeking treatment for a substance use disorder, yet we also want to ensure that individuals can access coordinated and integrated care. We hope the proposed rule strikes the right balance in this regard, said Pamela Greenberg, ABHW President and CEO.”

The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW) is the national voice for specialty behavioral health and wellness companies. ABHW member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, Anthem, Beacon Health Options, Centene, Cigna, Humana Behavioral Health, MHN, New Directions Behavioral Health, Optum, and PerformCare - provide specialty services to treat mental health, substance use and other behaviors that impact health. ABHW supports effective federal, state and accrediting organization policies that ensure specialty behavioral health organizations (BHOs) can continue to increase quality, manage costs and promote wellness for the nearly 150 million people served by our members. For more information, please visit www.abhw.org.

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