

September 2026

Newsletter

Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians



A Message from MAPP

As we transition into the fall season, MAPP remains committed to supporting psychiatrists across Maine through advocacy, education, and professional connection.

This month, we are excited to introduce a new recurring section focused on policy and advocacy developments that affect our profession at both the national and state levels.

We also invite you to join us for our upcoming Fall Meeting and consider serving in a leadership role with MAPP.

Climate Change and Mental Health

October 8, 2026 | 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Harraseeket Inn, Downtown Freeport

The 2026 MAPP Fall Meeting will explore one of the most pressing issues of our time: Climate Change and Mental Health. The conference will take place on October 8, 2026, at the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport, Maine, and will feature renowned psychiatrist and climate advocate Dr. Lise Van Susteren.

As awareness grows about the effects of climate change on emotional well-being, anxiety, resilience, and community health, we want to hear from you:

- 💬 How have you seen climate-related issues affect mental health in your practice or community?
- 💬 What questions do you hope Dr. Van Susteren will address?
- 💬 What strategies can healthcare professionals use to help patients cope with climate-related stress and uncertainty?

Register online at www.mainepsych.org/calendar.

NEW: ADVOCACY & POLICY WATCH

National Updates

The American Psychiatric Association continues to focus on several major priorities, including strengthening mental health parity protections, expanding access to psychiatric care through collaborative care models, addressing workforce shortages, and preserving evidence-based public health policies.

Emerging clinical topics receiving national attention include climate-related mental health concerns, advances in schizophrenia research, innovative treatments for substance use disorders, and the growing field of metabolic psychiatry. MAPP will continue to monitor developments from the APA and other national organizations and share updates relevant to providers and the communities we serve.

FMI: [American Psychiatric Association Advocacy & News](#)

Maine Updates

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services has proposed updates to the Charity Care Rule that would expand access to free medically necessary care, strengthen patient notification requirements, improve language access services, limit medical debt collection for eligible patients, establish clearer appeals processes, and require affordable payment plans for qualifying families. Public comments are due September 4, 2026.

MAPP will continue monitoring developments and their impact on providers and patients.

FMI: [Maine Charity Care Rule](#)

Call for Board Members

MAPP is seeking dedicated members to join its Board of Directors and help shape the future of mental health advocacy, professional education, and member engagement in Maine. Board service offers opportunities for leadership, collaboration, and impact. Psychiatrists at all career stages are encouraged to apply or nominate a colleague.

Contact MAPP leadership for more information.