

**The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
Public Policy Update
October 18, 2013**

- **NASADAD Travels to West Virginia for Events Where Governor Cites Substance Abuse as Top Priority**
- **ASTHO President Announces 2013 President's Challenge -- Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse – Strategic Map Focuses on Prevention, Treatment and Recovery as Key Pillars**
- **NASADAD Attends NADCP Meeting Regarding Tool for Reforming Offender Management**
- **NASADAD Sends Letter to Senate Committee on Finance**
- **NASADAD Submits Comments to SAMHSA Regarding Quality Data**
- **Commonwealth Fund and the Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute Will Host a Webinar on Emerging Medicaid ACO Models and Key Issues for States**

NASADAD Travels to West Virginia for Events Where Governor Cites Substance Abuse as Top Priority -- *Events Include Meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse, Recovery Month Event at the State Capitol, and Integrated Behavioral Health Conference*

On September 16 and 17, Robert Morrison, Executive Director of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), traveled to Charleston, West Virginia to participate in a number of events focused on substance use disorder treatment, prevention and recovery – including service as a panelist during the opening plenary of the inaugural Integrated Behavioral Health Conference.

Special thanks to Kathy Paxton, Director of the Division on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the NASADAD member; Kimberly Walsh, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities (BBHBF); and the rest of the staff in West Virginia. A summary of all of the events is included below:

Pre-Conference Focuses on Governor's Initiative to Bolster Addiction Services in West Virginia:

The visit began on Monday, September 16, with a pre-conference kick-off event sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse (GACSA) where actions by the State Substance Abuse Regional Task Forces were discussed.

The Governor's Council was created in September 2011 through Executive Order number 5-11. Council members include Cabinet level positions in the Department of Health and Human Resources, Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, Department of Veterans Assistance; other members include leaders from law enforcement, Supreme Court, Schools, Workforce, the State substance abuse agency, and others. The Council's duties include providing guidance on implementation of the Statewide plan on substance abuse services,

acquiring input from local regions and communities, and providing recommendations to the Governor on priorities for improvements.

The meeting began with remarks from Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. The Governor mentioned the release of the State-wide plan, referenced above, and the dedication of \$7.5 million in August to expand and in some cases establish regional substance abuse services. The Governor also discussed the economic impact of untreated addiction and promoted access to services as a way to not only improve lives, but also improve the State's economy.

The meeting also featured remarks from Victoria Jones, Commissioner of the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities (BBHFF); Joe Thornton, Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety (DMAPS); and Dr. Brad Hall with the Physicians Health Program.

The agenda proceeded to highlight presentations from the State's six regions on activities moving forward in their local area.

To learn more about the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse, visit http://www.wvsubstancefree.org/advisory_council.php.

Recovery Month Event at the Capitol: A remembrance ceremony for those who lost their lives to addiction also took place on September 16 and was held on the steps of the West Virginia Capitol. The speakers included State Senator Jeff Kessler, President of the West Virginia Senate; State Senator Evan Jenkins; State Delegate Don Perdue; and Russ Taylor of the West Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors. Powerful testimonials were offered by "Faces of Hope" or people in recovery who told their stories – including Jeannie Elkins, J.K. McAtee, Halle Herron, and William Kilibrew (a speaker at the NASADAD-National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) Cross-over Day held in June 2013).

Integrated Behavioral Health Conference: On Tuesday, September 17, the Integrated Behavioral Health Conference kicked off as Cabinet Secretary Karen Bowling of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), facilitated the opening session. The Honorable Danny Jones, Mayor of Charleston, welcomed conference attendees. Governor Tomblin then provided remarks and reminded meeting participants about the benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration. The Governor then called up staff from the State's Division on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to recognize them for their work. The session then moved to remarks from the following panelists: Michael Botticelli, Deputy Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Jean Bennett, Regional Administrator (HHS Region 3), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Kathleen Reynolds, Vice President, National Council for Behavioral Health, and Robert Morrison, Executive Director, NASADAD. The sessions ended with a question and answer session with the audience. Rod Bragg, NASADAD member from Tennessee, attended the conference.

To see the agenda for the rest of the meeting, visit
<http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bhhf/Pages/IBHConf.aspx>.

Action with our Partners

ASTHO President Announces 2013 President's Challenge -- Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse – Strategic Map Focuses on Prevention, Treatment and Recovery as Key Pillars: During the Annual Meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO), incoming President Dr. Terry Cline (Oklahoma) announced he has made prescription drug misuse and abuse his top priority. In announcing ASTHO's customary "President's Challenge," Dr. Cline outlined the goal of reducing the rate of nonmedical use and the number of unintentional overdose deaths involving controlled prescription drugs by 15 percent by 2015. ASTHO has developed a Strategic Map that will guide the work related to the Challenge.

The Strategic Map includes four key pillars:

- Prevention Strategies, including
 - promoting and implementing primary prevention activities;
 - implementing evidence based community interventions;
 - implementing overdose prevention initiatives and intervention strategies
- Monitoring and Surveillance, including
 - optimizing prescription drug monitoring programs;
 - use of monitoring and surveillance to improve public health and clinical outcomes
- Control and Enforcement, including
 - strengthening and standardizing licensure board oversight of practitioners
 - expanding utilization of treatment alternatives to incarceration
- Treatment and Recovery, including
 - approaching and managing addiction as a treatable chronic illness,
 - making a powerful business case for treatment and recovery support,
 - expanding and strengthening effective infrastructure and interdisciplinary workforce

Partnership Between NASADAD and ASTHO: NASADAD has been partnering with ASTHO in a number of ways. NASADAD meets quarterly with the leaders of ASTHO and other State-based groups such as the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD), National Association of States United on Aging and Disability (NASUAD), and others. Other activities include:

- “Policy academy” meetings regarding prescription drug abuse (special thanks to State Directors Rod Bragg (TN) and Board Member Theodora Binion (IL) and others for participating)
- Planning meetings convened by the National Safety Council (NSC) on prescription drug abuse (special thanks to Board Member Cassandra Price (GA) for participating)
- Participating in meetings convened by the Surgeon General regarding implementation of the National Prevention Strategy (NPS)
- Providing input as the President’s 2014 Strategic Map on Prescription Drug Abuse was being developed (special thanks to Board Member Gary Tennis (PA) for attending)
- Hosting Dr. Paul Jarris, Executive Director of ASTHO, as a panelist during NASADAD’s 2013 Annual Meeting held in Bethesda, Maryland to talk about collaboration with public health agencies
- An upcoming activity will be a November 5th joint ASTHO/NASADAD presentation during the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) Annual Conference regarding prescription drug abuse.

ASTHO’s President, Dr. Cline, is very familiar with NASADAD and the membership. For example, Dr. Cline served as the NASADAD member from Oklahoma. During this time, Dr. Cline was a very active member and served as Chairman of the NASADAD and Joint Committee designed to advance the dialogue on improving services for co-occurring populations. In addition, Dr. Cline served as Administrator of SAMHSA where he championed policies that encouraged interagency collaboration.

To learn more about the President's Challenge, please visit <http://www.astho.org/Rx/> and to see the Strategic Map, please visit <http://www.astho.org/Rx/Strategic-Map-2013-2015/>.

To read Dr. Cline's bio, please visit http://www.ok.gov/health/Organization/Commissioner_of_Health

To read an interview Dr. Cline conducted with the RWJ Foundation about the Challenge, please visit http://www.rwjf.org/en/blogs/new-public-health/2013/09/astho_annual_meeting1.html

NASADAD Attends NADCP Meeting Regarding Tool for Reforming Offender Management: On October 3, 2013, Robert Morrison, NASADAD Executive Director attended a meeting convened by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) titled "Doing Justice: The Executive Summit on Justice Reform" held in Washington, D.C. Due to the government shutdown, no federal officials attended. The opening session, however, included a number of leaders in the field, including General Barry McCaffrey, Former Director of ONDCP; former

Congressman Jim Ramstad (MN); Dr. Robert DuPont, former Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); Harry Lennix, Actor and advocate for NADCP; Dr. Doug Marlowe, NADCP's Chief of Science, Law and Policy; and West Huddleston, NADCP Executive Director. The meeting unveiled the Annals of Research and Knowledge on Successful Offender Management (ARK), which is intended to help identify "...the full continuum of evidence-based alternatives to incarceration at each juncture in the criminal justice system."

To learn more about the meeting and the ARK, please visit <http://www.nadcp.org/DoingJusticeSummit>.

NASADAD Outreach to Capitol Hill and Agencies

NASADAD Sends Letter to Senate Committee on Finance: On September 30, 2013, NASADAD sent a letter to the Senate Committee on Finance in response to a call for comments on policy approaches that could improve services for those with mental illness. NASADAD noted the importance of providing information on addiction policies as well. The Committee on Finance has jurisdiction over Medicare and Medicaid programs. NASADAD provided some background on the extent of the problem – including the fact that while over 23 million Americans needed treatment for an illicit drug, prescription drug or alcohol use problem in 2012 – only 2.5 million received the help they needed. The letter went on to note the benefits of substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery programs given their positive outcomes and ability to reduce costs to the Medicaid program.

The letter offered the following recommendations:

- Promote policies that ensure coordination with State substance abuse agencies.
- Address the Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion that serves as a barrier to clinically appropriate care. In particular, the IMD exclusion prohibits Medicaid from paying for any services for individuals between the ages of 18-64 who are patients in facilities that are determined to be IMDs.
- Take action to support the HITECH Act (S. 539) to ensure that incentives for the meaningful use of medical records would allow for substance use providers to be on par with the rest of the nation in regard to the electronic exchange of health information and improve the health and safety of all patients.
- Ensure coverage of all Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for the treatment of substance use disorders.

To see a copy of NASADAD's letter sent to the Senate Committee on Finance, please see <http://nasadad.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/13-September-30-Letter-to-Senate-Finance-from-NASADAD-fnl.pdf>.

NASADAD Submits Comments to SAMHSA Regarding Quality Data: On September 17th, 2013, NASADAD submitted a letter to Rear Admiral Peter Delany, Director of the SAMHSA's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ) in response to an open call for comments on draft measures released in connection with the draft National Behavioral Health Quality Framework (NBHQF). In the letter, NASADAD recommended that SAMHSA work directly with the Association's Program Management Work Group (PMWG) on any issues regarding performance and quality data – including any potential changes to the manner in which information is currently collected. The PMWG, which includes a number of State substance abuse agency directors, was a key structure that helped develop the National Outcome Measures (NOMs). The letter noted, "We recommend that SAMHSA utilize NASADAD's experience and knowledge of State data collection systems through collaboration with the PMWG, Board of Directors, and membership in further efforts to develop and implement quality measures." NASADAD also included a number of specific measures for consideration – including

- screening, brief intervention, and referral for treatment for alcohol misuse;
- initiation and engagement in alcohol and other drug treatment;
- medical assistance for tobacco cessation;
- suicide risk assessment;
- follow up after hospitalizations for a substance use disorder;
- retention in treatment for adequate lengths of stay.

NASADAD ended the letter by noting a number of remaining considerations, including the costs associated with any different data collection efforts, the extent to which States may already have experience with certain measures, and applying these experiences to future work. NASADAD wishes to thank and recognize those States that submitted recommendations for this letter.

To see a copy of the NASADAD letter sent to SAMHSA/CBHSQ on quality data, please visit <http://nasadad.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/NASADAD-Comments-on-the-National-Behavioral-Health-Quality-Framework.pdf>.

Upcoming Events

Commonwealth Fund and the Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute Will Host a Webinar on Emerging Medicaid ACO Models and Key Issues for States *(Taken from Commonwealth Fund Announcement)*

On Thursday, October 24th, from 3-4:30pm EST the Commonwealth Fund and the Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute will hold a webinar entitled, "Planning for Accountability: Emerging Medicaid ACO Models and Key Issues for States." The webinar will explore emerging Medicaid ACO models, including state trends, best practices, and lessons from the experiences of leading-edge states. Speakers from the Minnesota Health Care Delivery System demonstration and the Massachusetts Primary Care Payment Reform initiative will outline ACO program components and key decision points for their states.

To learn more about the webinar or register, visit [Emerging ACO Models](#) or for additional information, visit

http://www.chcs.org/publications3960/publications_show.htm?doc_id=1261566

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Morrison or Andrew Whitacre, at (202) 293-0090 or rmorrison@nasadad.org or awhitacre@nasadad.org.