

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors

Public Policy Update

April 19, 2013

Highlights

- **Update on the FY14 President's Budget-** [President's Budget](#)- *FY14 President's Budget Summaries attached*
- **Senate Adopts Mental Health Bill as an Amendment to Gun Control Legislation-** [Senate HELP Website](#)
- **DEA Schedules a National Prescription Take-Back Day –** [DEA Website](#)
- **CMS Announces Opportunity to Apply for Marketplace Navigator Grants –** [CMS Website](#)
- **Briefing on the Role of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment Block Grant Today and Beyond**

Legislative News

Senate Adopts Mental Health Bill as an Amendment to Gun Control Legislation

On Wednesday April 10th, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved the Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act (S. 689) by unanimous consent. Thursday the legislation was offered as one of a series of amendments to gun control legislation, the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013 (S. 649), considered by the Senate. The amendment was adopted as part of the underlying bill in a 95-2 vote. However, the underlying bill was pulled from consideration by Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) because a number of amendments failed to reach the 60 vote threshold required for adoption, including the Toomey-Manchin compromise amendment that included extending background checks. The bill may be brought up for consideration at a later date.

The legislation amends programs under the Department of Education to promote behavioral health interventions and encourages States to provide technical assistance to Local Educational Agencies and school personnel on the implementation of school-based mental health programs. It also reauthorized programs administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, specifically the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act focused on suicide prevention and The National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative. In addition, the legislation amends a current program under SAMHSA that is not funded to help with early identification of mental illness. A specific provision is included directing SAMHSA to raise awareness about medication used to treat opioid addictions. It also authorizes reports to understand barriers for integration of primary care with mental health and substance use disorder services and recommendations following Virginia Tech.

For a summary of the legislation, see [Senate HELP Committee section-by-section summary](#)

Update on the FY14 President's Budget

FY14 President's Budget Overview (October 1st, 2013- September 30th, 2014): On Wednesday, April 10th, the President released his annual budget, which is required by statute to be released no later than the first Monday in February (February 4th, 2013). The release of the budget was

delayed due to the ongoing negotiations over the FY13 budget, the debt ceiling, and sequestration. The President's annual budget lays out requested funding for the entire federal government, from aggregate levels of spending down to the program level. The budget also includes proposed revenue, as well as short and long-term economic projections. The budget requires action from Congress to enact any of the proposals into law. The President's Budget proposes to fix sequestration, and thus funds are compared to the FY 2012 level instead of FY 2013. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius appeared before the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, to discuss the President's FY14 budget request. The Secretary highlighted new funding for mental health, including new funding to increase training for the behavioral health workforce. Attorney General Eric Holder appeared before the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Subcommittee to discuss the budget request for the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Attached are the following resources mentioned on Monday's Public Policy Call:

-President's FY14 Budget requests for key NASADAD programs

-FY14 Budget funding chart for key NASADAD criminal justice programs

News

DEA Schedules a National Prescription Take-Back Day (*Taken from DEA Press Release*)

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day for Saturday, April 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The DEA website provides links to collection site locations, information for law enforcement agencies and the partnership toolbox. The DEA Call Center is also available for additional assistance at toll free 1-800-882-9539.

The DEA has had five Take-Back Days. During the last Take-Back event, September 29, 2012, DEA's State, local, and tribal law enforcement partners, working at more than 5,263 locations, collected 488,395 pounds (244 tons) of prescription medications from members of the public. When added to the collections from DEA's previous four Take-Back events, more than 2 million pounds (1,018 tons) of prescription medications were removed from circulation.

For more information on the upcoming Take-Back Day, see

http://www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

CMS Announces Opportunity to Apply for Marketplace Navigator Grants (*Taken from CMS Press Release*)

On Tuesday, April 9th, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the availability of new funding to support Navigators in Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces. Navigators are individuals and entities that will provide unbiased information to consumers about health insurance, the new Health Insurance Marketplace, qualified health plans, and public programs including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The funding opportunity announcement is open to eligible self-employed individuals and private and public entities applying to serve as Navigators in States with a Federally-facilitated or State

Partnership Marketplace. The new funding opportunity provides up to \$54 million in total funding and applications are due by June 7, 2013.

Last week, CMS released a proposed rule outlining standards for Navigators in Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces.

To access the funding opportunity announcement, visit: <http://www.grants.gov>, and search for CFDA # 93.750.

To access the proposed rule released April 3, 2013, visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-04-05/pdf/2013-07951.pdf>

For more information about Navigators, including continuing updates, visit:

<http://cciio.cms.gov/programs/exchanges/assistance.html>

Events

Briefing on the Role of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant Today and Beyond

On Wednesday, April 17th, as part of the Advocacy Leadership Summit, the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC), the Treatment Communities of America (TCA), and the State Association of Addiction Services (SAAS) co-hosted a breakfast briefing on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant titled “Ensuring Access to Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery: The Role of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment Block Grant Today and Beyond.” Panelists included NASADAD Board member Gary Tennis (PA), TCA President and President of Center Point Inc. (CA) Dr. Sushma Taylor, and Executive Director of Odyssey House (LA) Edward Carlson. The panel was moderated by NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison.

Co-chair of the Congressional Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus, Congressman Tim Ryan (D- OH 13th), made a few brief remarks at the beginning of the briefing. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, he mentioned that he offered an increase to the SAPT Block grant in an appropriations request for FY14. He also urged the audience to recognize the number of people impacted by addiction in every State and in every community, and the importance of helping those people and the addiction community have a policy voice that reflects the size of those that are impacted. Secretary Tennis discussed the substance abuse treatment gap and the importance of continuing full funding of the SAPT Block Grant. He cited the NASADAD three State study of Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts that demonstrated the continued importance of the Block Grant following State-level health reform to fill gaps in coverage, provide services to the remaining uninsured, and provide prevention and recovery services not covered by public or private insurance.

Dr. Taylor mentioned the high rate of return on investment from substance abuse treatment. Mr. Carlson went over the need for coverage of the full continuum of care, which the flexibility of the SAPT Block Grant helps to fund. He also offered the provider perspective on the need for the SAPT Block Grant as health reform is implemented, and the prospect that many services in the continuum of care will not meet coverage requirements in Medicaid and private insurance.

Prior to the briefing, SAAS, NAADAC, and TCA presented an award to Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) who was not able to attend, and his staffer at the Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS/EDU Subcommittee, Lisa Bernhardt for their work on substance use disorder issues.

Should you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Michelle Dirst, Director of Public Policy, at mdirst@nasadad.org or Andrew Whitacre, Public Policy Associate, at awhitacre@nasadad.org