

## **The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors Public Policy Update September 13, 2013**

- **House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Holds Hearing on ACA Implementation-** [House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee](#)
- **Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on Federal Enforcement of Marijuana Laws-** [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)
- **ONDCP Announces Release of Toolkit on Overdose Prevention-** [Opioid Overdose Toolkit](#)
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- **SAMHSA Releases Enrollment Coalitions Initiative Toolkits**
- **Department of Education Webinar on Community Coalitions Working Collaboratively Across Secondary and Postsecondary Education to Address Underage Drinking-** [Webinar Series Website](#)

### **Legislative News**

#### **House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Holds Hearing on ACA Implementation**

On Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee held a hearing on implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The hearing featured testimony from four contractors working on various parts of implementing the Health Insurance Marketplaces (previously known as Exchanges), including: Cheryl Campbell, Senior Vice President at CGI Federal; John Lau, Program Director at Serco; Lynn Spellecy, Corporate Counsel at Equifax Workforce Solutions; and Michael Finkel, Executive Vice President of Program Delivery at QSSI. Brett Graham, Partner at Leavitt Brothers, provided testimony regarding the progress that the federal government and States have made implementing Health Insurance Marketplaces. He noted the significant amount of work States have completed on having the Marketplaces ready on October 1<sup>st</sup>, but he articulated four challenges that he believes will prevent them from being fully operational, including: the complexity of the Marketplace IT architecture, data verification and integration with the federal data services hub, privacy and security concerns, and achievement of optimal enrollment. He did state that he believes all Marketplaces will have phase 1 functionality at the beginning of open enrollment on October 1<sup>st</sup>, which means States will have the ability to enroll eligible individuals.

Ms. Campbell discussed CGI Federal's role as the contractor primarily responsible for developing the IT infrastructure for the Marketplaces, which will serve the three functions of eligibility and enrollment, plan management, and financial management. She stated that all key milestones have been reached, including an operational readiness review. Mr. Finkel discussed QSSI's role in developing the software codes for the federal data services hub, which he noted has passed through the testing phase and is ready for October 1<sup>st</sup>. When questioned by Ranking Member

Frank Pallone (D-NJ 6<sup>th</sup>) regarding operational readiness of their contracted element of the Marketplaces, each witness testified that everything is on schedule and will be operational on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

For witness testimony, full hearing video, and more information, see [House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee](#)

### **Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on Federal Enforcement of Marijuana Laws**

On Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the “Conflicts Between State and Federal Marijuana Laws.” Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) discussed the growing tension between State and federal laws regarding marijuana, and the increased uncertainty over how the federal government will enforce federal laws that are in conflict with initiatives passed in the States. He noted that there is agreement between the federal government and the States on some aspects of enforcement, including no sale to minors. Ranking Member Chuck Grassley (R-IA) stated that the current science shows that marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug. He argued that the scientific standard that should be met to take any drug off of Schedule I of the Controlled Substance Act has not been met for marijuana. He highlighted the impact of medical marijuana legalization in Colorado, including large increases in drugged driving, school suspensions, and exposure to marijuana since 2006.

Two panels testified before the committee, witnesses included Deputy Attorney General James Cole, King County Sheriff (Seattle, WA) John Urquhart, Chief Legal Counsel for Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper (D-CO) Jack Finlaw, and Executive Director of Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) Dr. Kevin Sabet. Mr. Cole discussed the guidance letter that he authored to all U.S. Attorneys on August 29<sup>th</sup> that laid out federal prosecutorial policy on enforcing federal marijuana laws in States that have passed legalization measures. In that guidance letter, federal prosecutors were told not to prosecute unless any of 8 priorities were not met. Those 8 priorities included marijuana exportation to States where it is illegal, prevention of drugged driving, and sales to minors. He also noted that the Department of Justice (DOJ) reserves the right to prosecute in the future if those 8 priorities are not being fulfilled by State enforcement and regulation. Mr. Finlaw highlighted regulatory and legislative efforts to boost youth prevention initiatives, including a tax measure that would use revenue to hire staff and provide resources for targeted youth prevention campaigns and regulatory enforcement. Dr. Sabet expressed his hope that the DOJ would articulate specific metrics that would trigger federal enforcement and prosecution in case States that have and are legalizing medical and recreational use are unable to provide a sufficient regulatory regime to meet the 8 federal priorities.

For witness testimony, full hearing video, and other information, please see [Senate Judiciary Committee](#)

## **News**

### **ONDCP Announces Release of Toolkit on Overdose Prevention**

On Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) announced that it was releasing an Opioid Overdose Toolkit on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> to honor International Overdose Awareness Day. The toolkit was released along with ONDCP’s federal partners and provides information on overdose prevention, treatment, and recovery for first responders,

patients, and prescribers. The toolkit also promotes the use of naloxone, advocating that naloxone be carried by all first responders. In 2011, ONDCP released a comprehensive plan to address the prescription drug abuse epidemic, which supported Prescription Drug Monitoring Plans (PDMPs), responsible drug disposal methods, patient and prescriber education, and law enforcement efforts to divert prescription drugs.

For more information, see the [Opioid Overdose Toolkit](#)

### **SAMHSA Releases Prevention and Recovery Newsletter for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities (Taken from SAMHSA Press Release)**

On Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Inter-departmental Coordinating Committee (IASA) and the Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OIASA) at SAMHSA released the Summer 2013 Prevention and Recovery Newsletter which is posted on SAMHSA's Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) webpage ([www.samhsa.gov/tloa](http://www.samhsa.gov/tloa)). The theme for the issue is Creating Safe and Healthy School Environments in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

### **President Obama Issues National Recovery Month Presidential Proclamation (Taken from ONDCP Press Release)**

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation naming September 2013 National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. This year's theme is "Together on Pathways to Wellness." ONDCP issued a press release on September 4<sup>th</sup> that included the following ways to get involved in Recovery Month:

- Forward the President's [National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month Proclamation](#) to friends, family, and colleagues.
- Explore and contribute to ONDCP's [Americans in Recovery Facebook page](#), join and support our Recovery Month Facebook profile picture campaign.
- Check out SAMHSA's [Recovery Month Website](#), which includes Recovery Month toolkits, resources, and information on how you can get involved with local recovery events.
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) will create one of the largest expansions of mental health and substance use disorder coverage in a generation by including a substance abuse treatment benefit alongside treatment benefits for other chronic diseases. Visit [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) to learn about the Health Insurance Marketplace and your new coverage options.

For President Obama's Presidential Proclamation, see [Presidential Proclamation-- National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, 2013](#)

### **FDA Announces Safety Labeling Changes for Certain Opioid Pain Relievers (Taken from American Hospital Association AHA News Now)**

On Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced class-wide safety labeling changes and new postmarket study requirements for all extended-release and long-acting opioid analgesics intended to treat pain. The updated indication states that ER/LA opioids are indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate. FDA also is

requiring a new boxed warning on ER/LA opioid analgesics to caution that chronic maternal use of these products during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome. Once the safety labeling changes are finalized, modifications will be made to the ER/LA Opioid Analgesics Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy to reflect the updated information. Approved last year, the REMS requires companies to make available to health care professionals educational programs on how to safely prescribe ER/LA opioid analgesics and to provide medication guides and patient counseling documents on the safe use, storage and disposal of ER/ LA opioids.

For the full FDA press release, click [here](#)

### **SAMHSA Releases Enrollment Coalitions Initiative Toolkits (*Taken from SAMHSA Stakeholder Letter*)**

On Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, SAMHSA released a new training resource toolkit, developed through the Enrollment Coalitions Initiative, entitled *Getting Ready for the Health Insurance Marketplace*. SAMHSA Enrollment Coalitions Initiative participants, which are identified by their logos in each toolkit, have provided crucial input and support in the development and dissemination of this product.

The toolkit is composed of three sections. The first section describes the health care law, how it works, and why it is important for uninsured individuals with behavioral health conditions. The second section explains how the Health Insurance Marketplace works, how to apply for health coverage and where to get help. The third section contains numerous communication ideas and materials from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that you can use to create awareness and motivate uninsured individuals to enroll.

Among the many communication resources provided in the toolkit are articles, brochures, fact sheets, presentations, videos, posters, cards, outreach messages, flyers, widgets, and social media resources. Many of the materials are available in multiple languages and customized for specific population segments, such as different ethnic/racial groups.

The tool-kit has been developed in six slightly different formats, including five based on the feedback and input of the members of the SAMHSA Enrollment Coalitions Initiative. Please see the six different formats below:

1. <http://tiny.cc/CommunityPrevention>
2. <http://tiny.cc/ConsumerPeerFamily>
3. <http://tiny.cc/HomelessServices>
4. <http://tiny.cc/CriminalJustice>
5. <http://tiny.cc/TreatmentProviders>
6. <http://tiny.cc/GettingReady> (GENERAL)

## **Events**

### **Department of Education Webinar on Community Coalitions Working Collaboratively Across Secondary and Postsecondary Education to Address Underage Drinking (*Taken from Department of Education Announcement*)**

The Department of Education will host a webinar on Community Coalitions Working Collaboratively Across Secondary and Postsecondary Education to Address Underage Drinking

on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 pm EST. The panelists will explore prevention research that strongly supports the use of comprehensive, integrated programs with multiple complementary components to address underage drinking. Such evidence-based prevention strategies geared to secondary and postsecondary students require collaborative efforts among organizational leaders at high schools and colleges, and key community members.

This webinar includes a panel of experts with extensive experience at various levels of knowledge generation and program implementation:

-Traci Toomey, Ph.D., Alcohol Epidemiology Project, University of Minnesota

-Nicole Holt, Executive Director, Texans Standing Tall

-Kerri Calvert, Bloomington Normal Community Campus Committee

This webinar is the sixth in a series sponsored by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD).

Click here to [Register for the Webinar](#) Click here to learn about [Webinar Series Website](#)

*Should you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Andrew Whitacre, Public Policy Associate, at [awhitacre@nasadad.org](mailto:awhitacre@nasadad.org)*