

## **The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors Public Policy Update September 20, 2013**

- **Federal Budget Update-** [H.J. Res. 59](#)
- **House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Methamphetamine-** [Subcommittee Webpage](#)
- **Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on Mandatory Minimums-** [Senate Judiciary Committee Webpage](#)
- **House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Holds Hearing on ACA Marketplaces-** [House Energy and Commerce Committee Webpage](#)
- **NASADAD Announces 2013 National Exemplary Awards for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices, and Policies**
- **Problem Gambling Services Plan Presented to Casino Control Commission in Ohio-** [Ohio Plan](#)
- **SAMHSA Launches New Disaster Response Mobile App GO2AID-** [GO2AID Webpage](#)
- **FDA and NIH Create First-of-Kind Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science-** [TCORS Webpage](#)

### **Legislative News**

#### **Federal Budget Update**

On Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, the House passed House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 59, a bill that funds the government through a Continuing Resolution (CR) and permanently defunds the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The bill passed in a 230-189 party-line vote. The Senate returns on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, and will likely move through a series of procedural votes to strip the defunding part of the bill and subsequently proceed to vote on the CR. If the Senate is able to separate the two portions and pass the CR, the measure would be sent back to the House for another vote. There are negotiations between the House Republican and Democratic leadership to pull together a majority of votes for the CR in case the Senate passes it without the defunding measure attached. In that circumstance, Republican leadership would need Democratic votes to pass the bill through the House. House Democratic Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA 12<sup>th</sup>) is seeking more discretionary spending in the CR in exchange for Democratic votes. The current discretionary spending allotment in the CR is \$986 billion. Congress has until mid-night on September 30<sup>th</sup> to pass a CR to avoid facing a government shutdown.

The House leadership is currently crafting a measure to raise the debt limit, which is set to be reached in mid-October. The measure being discussed by House Republicans contains deficit reduction measures that have previously passed the House and a few measures included in President Obama's FY14 Budget Request. The measure would raise the debt limit for 1 year, delay the ACA for 1 year, and include mandatory spending cuts, a tax overhaul provision and economic development initiatives (i.e. approval of the Keystone XL pipeline). The House Republican plan could be unveiled as early as next week.

For more information, see [H.J. Res. 59](#)

### **House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Methamphetamine**

On Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison and Public Policy Associate Andrew Whitacre attended the House Science, Space, and Technology Research Subcommittee hearing on “Methamphetamine Addiction: Using Science to Explore Solutions.”

The hearing featured testimony from 4 witnesses, including: Sergeant Niki Crawford, the Methamphetamine Suppression Section Commander of the Indiana State Police; Dr. Edythe London, Professor of Addiction Studies and Director of the UCLA Laboratory of Molecular Neuroimaging at the David Geffen School of Medicine (UCLA); Dr. Jane Maxwell, Senior Research Scientist at the University of Texas-Austin; and Dr. Celeste Napier, Director of the Center for Compulsive Behavior and Addiction at the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL. Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-IN 8<sup>th</sup>) discussed his concerns over the emergence of smaller scale production of Methamphetamine, the permanent damage that Methamphetamine addiction can cause to the individual and their families, and the public health and public safety concerns from Methamphetamine lab accidents. Subcommittee Ranking Member Dan Lipinski (D-IL 3<sup>rd</sup>) noted that Illinois has lost an estimated \$3.5 million in grants for substance abuse programs due to sequestration. He and Chairman of the full committee, Lamar Smith (R-TX 21<sup>st</sup>), mentioned addiction as a public health disorder and brain disease.

Sergeant Crawford discussed the rise of local manufacturing of Methamphetamine over the last two decades, including the 2006 emergence of the “shake and bake” or “one pot” method of production which has created an easy, quick, and small scale method of Methamphetamine production. She stated that her experience in Indiana has shown her that most local Methamphetamine production is not driven by money, but instead driven by the producer’s addiction. Dr. London compared the nature and impact of Methamphetamine and Cocaine, noting that Methamphetamine is more potent, addictive, and toxic. She also highlighted the more prolonged effect of Methamphetamine. Methamphetamine impacts the brain by lessening neural activity and by making treatment less effective than for opiates. She stated that behavioral treatments are the most effective, but the effectiveness of such treatments differs from person to person. She discussed studies that are being done to uncover medications for Methamphetamine addiction, but none have proven successful yet.

Dr. Maxwell highlighted the emergence of large-scale production of Methamphetamine that is coming from Mexico and lowering the cost and increasing the purity of Methamphetamine. She mentioned that reports of users experiencing more psychosis, more use of needles, higher quantities, more availability, and high purity are starting to surface in communities in central Texas. Dr. Napier noted that Methamphetamine causes long-term brain abnormalities. In studies conducted on lab rats, Methamphetamine has caused degenerative brain defects that mirror the pathologies of Parkinson’s disease.

For more information, see [full hearing video and witness testimony](#)

### **Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing on Mandatory Minimums**

On Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on “Reevaluating the Effectiveness of Federal Mandatory Minimum Sentences.” Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) discussed the unsustainable growth of the federal prison population, and expressed the need to

reevaluate who gets punished and how we punish them. He highlighted the growth of the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), which is allocated \$64 billion per year and composes 25 percent of the Department of Justice (DOJ) budget. This growing share of the DOJ budget is increasingly crowding out funds for other department priorities. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) testified before the committee and stated that he believes each case should be judged on its own merits with all circumstances considered. He highlighted the disproportionate impact of mandatory minimum sentences on drug users. The committee heard testimony from 3 witnesses, including: Marc Levin, Policy Director for the Right on Crime Initiative at the Texas Public Policy Foundation; Brett Tolman, Shareholder at Ray Quinney & Nebeker and former U.S. Attorney; and Scott Burns, Executive Director for the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA).

Mr. Levin discussed the need for the federal government to learn from the States by focusing on Reentry programs and community corrections alternatives to incarceration. He noted that the federal government should expand alternatives to prosecution, including expanded drug court and treatment alternatives that many States have invested in. Mr. Tolman talked about his experience as a U.S. Attorney and noted that federal prosecution focuses on quantity, instead of the status of the offender in the drug network. This focus results in many low level drug offenders receiving significant prison sentences due to federal mandatory minimums. Mr. Burns highlighted the work of State district attorneys in seeking alternatives to prosecution that include drug treatment programs, drug courts, and others. He noted that State district attorneys often use prison sentences as a last resort.

For more information, see [the full hearing video and witness testimony](#)

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

On Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, NASADAD Public Policy Associate Andrew Whitacre attended the House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on “Two Weeks Until Enrollment: Questions for CCIIO.” Gary Cohen, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO), testified before the committee regarding the Health Insurance Marketplaces that will begin open enrollment on October 1<sup>st</sup> as mandated by the ACA. Mr. Cohen noted that 16 States are reporting lower preliminary premium rates than the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicted with average rates 19 percent below their prediction. CMS issued Navigator grants to over 100 organizations in August, consisting primarily of local, non-profit groups. These grantees have been instructed by CMS not engage in outreach and enrollment efforts by going door to door. Their role is to educate about the benefits of health coverage and to explain their enrollment options in the Marketplaces or through Medicaid. CMS went through a Navigator selection process that assessed the ability of organizations to engage in outreach and enrollment efforts in their communities and the grants require extensive training through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY 20<sup>th</sup>) asked Mr. Cohen about the status of the final rule on the Mental Health Parity and Addictions Equity Act (MHPAEA) and expressed his concern that without the final rule there is uncertainty whether full benefits will be available to those that enroll. Mr. Cohen said that he is confident that the final rule will be released by the end of the year and he discussed the process for investigating parity violations. He noted that States are the

primary enforcer of parity, but HHS/CMS is doing outreach and education to the State insurance departments on the parity requirements and their role in enforcement. He also noted that if enforcement is complied with by violators of parity, then the complaint will not be made public; however, if penalties or sanctions are sought or meted out, the complaint and proceedings will be made public.

For more information, see [the full hearing video and witness testimony](#)

## News

### **National Exemplary Awards for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices, and Policies**

NASADAD gave *Honorable Mention* for the 2013 National Exemplary Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices, and Policies to Kamiah Community Partners Coalition in Kamiah, Idaho and New Social Engine in Rockaway, New Jersey. For more than 20 years, the Awards, underwritten by the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), have recognized creative and effective local programs working with the community to prevent substance abuse.

The Kamiah Community Partners Coalition (KCPC) program was established in 2006 when a group of dedicated community members had the foresight to understand the need to extend efforts started by the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program. Using the Strategic Prevention Framework Model, KCPC has implemented sustainable environmental changes by taking a multi-faceted approach. KCPC's mission of "Promoting Positive Change for a Healthy Community" has effected change in the Kamiah School District boundaries by reducing youth marijuana usage by 9%, underage drinking by 3% and increasing perception of harm amongst youth as well as adults. And while they understand that their vision "All Kamiah School District Youth will be substance free" seems insurmountable, they have made great strides in the short time they have been in existence.

New Social Engine (NSE) originated in 2010 from a Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) grant received by Prevention Is Key in Morris County, New Jersey provided by NJ's Division of Addiction Services (DAS). Prevention Is Key worked with three local colleges, Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham, the County College of Morris and Drew University, to create a program and generate college student coalitions that would work to reduce the harms of substance use and abuse among the 18-25 population. Nearly 14,000 college students have attended an NSE substance free event since its inception. Strategies include disseminating awareness campaigns (social norming, celebrity quotes, and school guidelines regarding use) and serving on college task forces to advocate for environmental change to implement numerous environmental prevention strategies.

KCPC and NSE are the only two programs nationwide selected to receive an *Honorable Mention* for the Exemplary Award this year. Award-winning programs receive a \$1,650 unrestricted grant and were invited to attend and showcase their work at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Prevention Network Research Conference held August 26 – August 29, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The awards were presented during a luncheon ceremony on Wednesday, August 28.

**Problem Gambling Services Plan Presented to Casino Control Commission in Ohio *(Taken from ODMHAS Newsletter)***

On Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS), Tracy J. Plouck presented the [\*Ohio Plan for Problem Gambling Services SFY 2014-15\*](#) to the Ohio Casino Control Commission as required in Sec. 5119.47 of Amended HB 59, 130<sup>th</sup> GA. ODMHAS is the State substance abuse agency in Ohio. The plan provides a retrospective of the work undertaken in State Fiscal Year 2013 by the State and at the county Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board and service provider levels related to problem gambling services. It also includes information on the work of some of ODMHAS's partner agencies under [Ohio for Responsible Gambling](#). Further, the plan provides an overview of planned research, prevention, treatment and evaluation of problem gambling services for State Fiscal Year 2014-15. Much of the narrative was derived from the county ADAMH Board plans that were due to ODMHAS in August.

For questions or comments about the plan, contact Problem Gambling Services Bureau Chief Stacey Frohnapfel-Hasson at [stacey.frohnapfel@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:stacey.frohnapfel@mha.ohio.gov).

**SAMHSA Launches New Disaster Response Mobile App GO2AID**

SAMHSA has released its new disaster response mobile app, GO2AID. GO2AID allows disaster responders to access critical, disaster-related behavioral health resources right from their phone. Users will be able to share resources, like tips for helping survivors cope, and find local behavioral health services.

To download the app or for more information, see [SAMHSA GO2AID](#)

**FDA and NIH Create First-of-Kind Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science *(Taken from NIH Press Release)***

On Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as part of an on-going interagency partnership, have awarded a total of up to \$53 million to fund tobacco-related research in fiscal year 2013 to create 14 Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science (TCORS).

A new, first-of-its-kind regulatory science tobacco program, TCORS is designed to generate research to inform the regulation of tobacco products to protect public health. Using designated funds from FDA, TCORS will be coordinated by NIH's Office of Disease Prevention, directed by David M. Murray, Ph.D., and administered by three NIH institutes -- the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The TCORS awards represent a significant investment in federal tobacco regulatory science, including \$53 million in the first year and a potential total of more than \$273 million over the next five years. TCORS funding may not exceed \$4 million in total costs per year per center, and an investigator could request a project period of up to five years.

The 14 TCORS have been awarded to:

- Aruni Bhatnagar, Ph.D., and Rose M. Robertson, M.D., American Heart Association, Dallas
- Pamela I. Clark, Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park
- Thomas E. Eissenberg, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond
- Michael P. Eriksen, Ph.D., Georgia State University, Atlanta
- Stanton A. Glantz, Ph.D., University of California-San Francisco
- Stephen T. Higgins, Ph.D., University of Vermont and State Agriculture College, Burlington
- Robert C. Hornik, Ph.D., and Caryn Lerman Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin, Ph.D., and Stephanie S. O'Malley, Ph.D., Yale University, New Haven
- Joshua E. Muscat, Ph.D., and Jonathan Foulds, Ph.D., Penn State College of Medicine/Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey
- Mary Ann Pentz, Ph.D., and Jonathan Samet, M.D., University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- Cheryl L. Perry, Ph.D., University of Texas Health Sciences Center, Houston
- Kurt M. Ribisl, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Peter G. Shields, M.D., and Mary Ellen Wewers, Ph.D. The Ohio State University, Columbus
- Robert Tarran, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Medicine

For more information, please see:

- [FDA: Center for Tobacco Products](#)
- [Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science \(TCORS\)](#)
- [NIH: Office of Disease Prevention](#)
- [NIH: Tobacco Regulatory Science Program](#)

*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)*