

**The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

**Directors**

**DC Update**

**February 26th, 2018**

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**Around the Agencies**

**SAMHSA releases Treatment Improvement Protocol on medications for opioid use disorder treatment**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently published a Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) about medications that can be used to treat opioid use disorder (OUD). The TIP 63, “Medications for Opioid Use Disorder,” reviews the use of the three Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications to treat OUD: methadone, naltrexone, and buprenorphine. This document was mandated by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) in 2016.

This TIP offers guidance for healthcare professionals and addiction treatment providers on appropriate prescribing practices for these medications and effective strategies for supporting the patients who use medication in the treatment of their OUD. The TIP also educates patients, families, and the general public about how OUD medications work and the benefits they offer.

Access TIP 63 [here](https://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA18-5063FULLDOC).

**SAMHSA accepting nominations for Voice Awards program**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting nominations for the Voice Awards. The Voice Awards program

honors people in recovery and their family members who are making an impact on the lives of those with mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Consumer, peer, and family nominees are evaluated based on their outstanding contributions in all the following areas:

Personally demonstrated that recovery is possible through treatment and recovery supports;

Led efforts to reduce the negative public attitudes and misperceptions associated with behavioral health;

Made a positive impact on communities, workplaces, or schools; and Promoted meaningful family involvement as an essential part of recovery.

All nominees are reviewed by a panel of judges that includes leaders in the recovery field, advocates, and others. All nominations are due by March 16th, 2018. The awards ceremony will be held on August 8th.

Learn more about the Voice Awards [here](https://www.samhsa.gov/voice-awards/about).

**SAMHSA is seeking applications for grant to improve health care for the Hispanic/Latino community**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for a grant of up to $2 million for the Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE) - Hispanic/Latino Center of Excellence for Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Program. The purpose of this grant program is to strengthen the workforce that provides substance use disorder treatment and recovery services to Hispanic and Latino populations. The grantee would work with SAMHSA and its Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (ATTCs) to improve the quality and effectiveness of treatment and recovery. The grantee would also work with providers of clinical and recovery support services to improve the quality of workforce training and service delivery to Hispanic/Latino communities.

Learn more details about the grant [here](https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201802210400).

**New SAMHSA fact sheet on finding quality treatment for substance use disorders**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a fact sheet on how to find and identify quality substance use disorder treatment. The fact sheet serves as a guide for individuals who are seeking treatment. It outlines three steps to complete prior to entering treatment center, and lists five signs of a quality treatment facility, which include a review of the accreditation, medication, evidence-based practices, position on the role of families, and support networks. The fact sheet also includes information on how to access the SAMHSA Treatment Locator.

View the fact sheet [here](https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/PEP18-TREATMENT-LOC/PEP18-TREATMENT-LOC.pdf).

**News from NASADAD**

**NASADAD attends event on supporting recovery in the midst of the opioid crisis**

Earlier this month Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) and Indivior hosted an event, “America’s Opioid Epidemic: Supporting Recovery.” NASADAD policy staff attended the event, which featured several guest speakers, including Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams; Dr. Arthur Evans, CEO and Executive Vice

President of the American Psychological Association; Tom Hill, Vice President of Practice Improvement for the National Council for Behavioral Health; Rep. Dave Joyce (R-OH); Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI); and many others. Topics that were discussed during the event ranged from the role of Congress in combating the opioid crisis to addressing the stigma associated with addiction. One session focused on the need for funding specifically for recovery services, and highlighted the importance of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant.

Learn more about the event [here](http://supportingrecovery.splashthat.com/).

**NASADAD attends Senate HELP hearing on the impact of the opioid crisis on children and families**

Earlier this month the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) held a hearing on the impact of the opioid crisis on children and families. NASADAD policy staff went to the hearing, which was well attended. This is one of several recent hearings held by the HELP Committee, which is led by Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA). Witnesses for the hearing included Becky Savage, RN, MSN, Co-Founder of the 525 Foundation; Stephen Patrick, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; and William Bell, Ph.D., President and CEO of Casey Family Programs. Witnesses highlighted the importance of substance use prevention for youth, the recent increase in neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) cases, and the impact of substance use on child welfare, among many other issues.

Watch a recording of the hearing [here](https://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/the-opioid-crisis-impact-on-children-and-families).

**Upcoming Events**

**White House to host governors and business executives to discuss benefits of hiring individuals with criminal records**

Tomorrow the White House will host an event, “Putting People with Criminal Records to Work: A National Business Roundtable.” The event is being organized by The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, and will feature Governor Matt Bevin of Kentucky and Governor John Hickenlooper of Colorado. The dialogue will also include business executives from a variety of industries. The event will focus on consideration of criminal records in hiring decisions, fair hiring initiatives, and the need for qualified candidates in the workforce.

Learn more about the event [here](https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/announcements/the-white-house-to-host-governors-and-business-executives-to-discuss-benefits-of-hiring-people-with-criminal-records/).

*Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Morrison, Executive Director, or Shalini Wickramatilake-Templeman, Federal Affairs Manager, at (202) 293-0090.*