

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

**Directors**

**DC Update**

**February 9th, 2018**

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**Capitol Hill Happenings**

**Budget deal includes $6 billion for opioids and mental health, changes child welfare payments for children of parents with SUD, and lists SSAs as mandatory partners for Regional Partnership Grants**

This morning the President signed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which keeps the government funded for another 6 weeks, until March 23rd, giving Congress more time to finalize appropriations for FY 2018. In addition to the stopgap funding measure, the Act includes a two-year budget agreement with many health-related provisions, including authorizing $6 billion to address the opioid crisis and improve mental health care. This funding would be split over two years, with $3 billion for FY 2018 and $3 billion for FY 2019, to enhance State grants, prevention programs, and law enforcement activities related to substance use and mental health programs. This funding is subject to the appropriations process; specific details about which programs the new funding would support are unclear at this time.

The budget package also includes the Family First Prevention Services Act, which addresses issues related to child welfare and substance use. Some provisions alter the allowable uses of Title IV-E funding so it can be used to pay for services before children need to be removed from their home. The bill also allows foster care maintenance payments to be made for children who live with a parent while the parent is in residential treatment for a substance use disorder.

The Budget Act amends the Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) program, an initiative managed by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The RPG program was originally created to improve the well-being, permanency and outcomes of children who are in out-of-home placement as a result of a parent’s or caregiver’s substance use, or are at risk of such placement. The Bipartisan Budget Act amends the RPG program by promoting increased State-level interagency collaboration, listing both the State child welfare agencies and the State alcohol and drug agencies as mandatory partners for the grant.

NASADAD will continue to monitor implications of the Bipartisan Budget Act, as well as funding for FY 2018 and FY 2019.

**In the News**

**AMA creates campaign for physicians to share stories about patients’ difficulties accessing SUD treatment**

The American Medical Association (AMA) has developed a digital tool kit as part of its “End the Epidemic” campaign to address opioid addiction and overdose deaths. The tool kit will be used by the AMA and medical societies to urge physicians to upload stories about patients’ access to SUD and pain treatment. The “Share Your Story” campaign is part of the AMA’s work to address the opioid crisis. It is designed to highlight physician efforts, as well as urge payers and policymakers to improve access to treatment. The online questionnaire asks physicians, “What administrative barriers (e.g. prior authorization, step therapy) have you experienced in your practice when trying to provide multidisciplinary and/or multimodal pain care or comprehensive treatment for a substance use disorder?”

Access the End the Epidemic tool kit [here](https://www.end-opioid-epidemic.org/digital-toolkit/treatment/).

See the “Share Your Story” questionnaire [here](https://www.end-opioid-epidemic.org/treatment/treatment-contact-form/).

**Around the Agencies**

**SAMHSA releases clinical guidance for treating PPW with OUD and their infants**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a tool to help health care providers in caring for pregnant women and postpartum women (PPW) with opioid use disorder (OUD) and their babies. The publication, Clinical Guidance for Treating Pregnant and Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorder and Their Infants, includes 16 fact sheets. Each fact sheet contains four elements: a clinical scenario; clinical action steps; supporting evidence and clinical considerations; and web resources. SAMHSA developed the guidance to meet the needs of health care professionals and offer them accurate information about caring for PPW and their infants.

Access the tool [here](https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA18-5054/SMA18-5054.pdf).

**SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions releases Step-by-Step Guide for Sustaining Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Center for Integrated

Health Solutions (CIHS) has created a step-by-step guide on Sustaining Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care. The guide offers four steps for safety-net and other primary care providers to integrate mental health and substance use services. The fours steps are:

1. Operational and Administrative Readiness
2. Workforce Development
3. Clinical Practice Tools
4. Sustainability and Continuous Improvement

For each step, the guide offers considerations/questions for the provider, as well as resources to support the provider through that particular step.

Access the guide [here](https://integrationedge.readz.com/overview-and-step-1--operational-and-administrativ).

**Upcoming Events**

**Children of Addiction Awareness Week**

Children of Addiction (COA) Awareness Week will be held February 11th-17th, 2018. The awareness week, which is led by the National Association for Children of Addiction (NACoA), aims to bring attention to the impact that parental addiction has on children. COA Awareness Week also celebrates the recovery of the children and teenagers who have received the help they needed to recover from the childhood trauma associated with parental addiction. The annual awareness event entails educational programs, proclamations by mayors and governors, poster contests in schools, as well as radio, television, and print media. Advocacy tools and suggested activities are available on the NACoA website.

Learn more about COA Awareness Week [here](https://nacoa.org/coa-awareness-week/).

**NIAAA call on Feb. 14th about recent study on FASD prevalence**

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) recently published results of a study of more than 6,000 first-graders that found that a significant number of the children have fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). The rates of FASD range from 1 to 5 percent in community samples. The study was funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). NIAAA will be holding a call to discuss the results of this study, on Wednesday, February 14th at 2:00 pm EST.

To participate in the call:

Dial: 888-324-9648

Code: 8319911

*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.*