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

**Directors**

**DC Update**

**January 5th, 2018**

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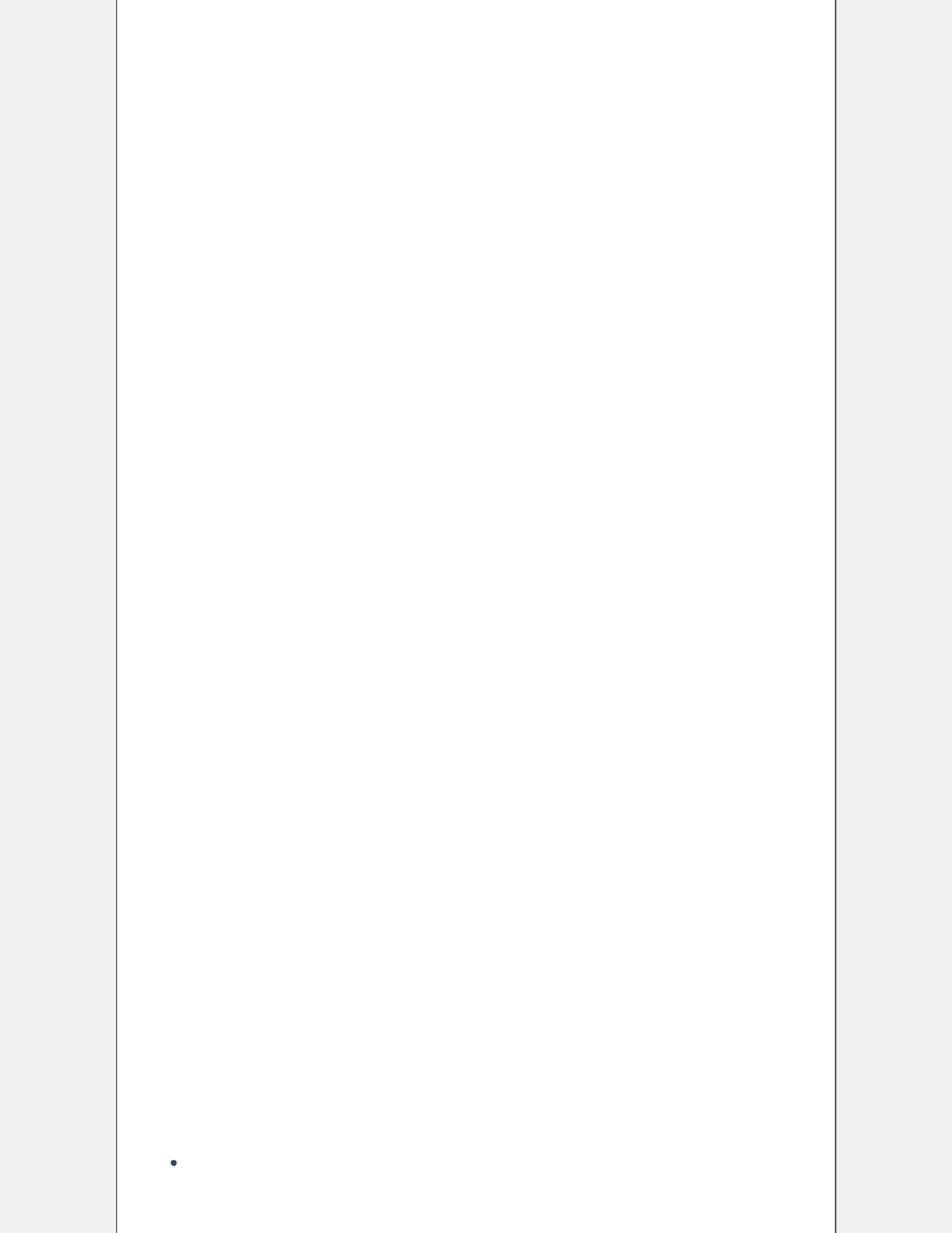
**News from the States**

**NY Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services launches campaign warning patients about fraudulent addiction referral services**

In light of recent concerns about “patient brokering,” the New York Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) has launched a campaign warning those seeking addiction treatment to be wary of unscrupulous practices and inadequate services. Patient brokering is a practice in which brokers are paid by addiction treatment providers in exchange for referring patients to those programs. OASAS, in collaboration with the New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers (ASAP), has been distributing posters to treatment centers that warn patients about patient brokering. The posters encourage patients to report any suspicious activity to

OASAS.

In a *New York Daily News* article about the new campaign, OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez is quoted as saying, “Making the decision to seek treatment is a critical first step for many people with substance use disorders and their families. Their bravery needs to be rewarded with the services that can best help them get on the road to recovery.” Commissioner

González-Sánchez serves on the NASADAD Board of Directors.

See two of the posters and learn more about OASAS’s efforts [here](http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/state-ads-warn-bogus-addiction-center-referral-schemes-article-1.3723175).

**In the News**

**Department of Justice issues memo on marijuana enforcement**

On January 4th, Attorney General Jeff Sessions sent a memo to all United States Attorneys on marijuana enforcement. The memo directs all U.S. Attorneys to enforce the laws enacted by Congress when pursuing prosecutions related to marijuana activities. The memo states that, “previous nationwide guidance specific to marijuana enforcement is unnecessary and is rescinded, effective immediately.”

Previous federal guidance includes the Cole Memo—a memo from 2013 written by then-Deputy Attorney General James Cole—which allowed States to proceed with marijuana legalization with minimal federal interference, as long as law enforcement continued to prioritize certain aspects of the issue, such as distribution to minors. By rescinding previous federal guidance, federal prosecutors will now be able to decide what to do when State marijuana laws don’t align with federal drug laws. Next steps and implications of the Sessions memo remain unclear at this point.

Read Attorney General Sessions’ memo [here](https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1022196/download).

Read the 2013 Cole memo [here](https://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/resources/3052013829132756857467.pdf).

**Administration expected to release guidelines for requiring Medicaid recipients to work**

This morning *The Hill* published an article suggesting that the Trump administration is soon expected to release guidelines that will allow States to add work requirements to their Medicaid programs. The work requirements would only take effect if a State chose to pursue them and applied for a waiver from the federal government. Details of what will be included in the guidelines are unclear, but according the the article, the guidance will allow States to have work requirements approved if they meet certain conditions. There are currently nine States applying to start imposing work requirements.

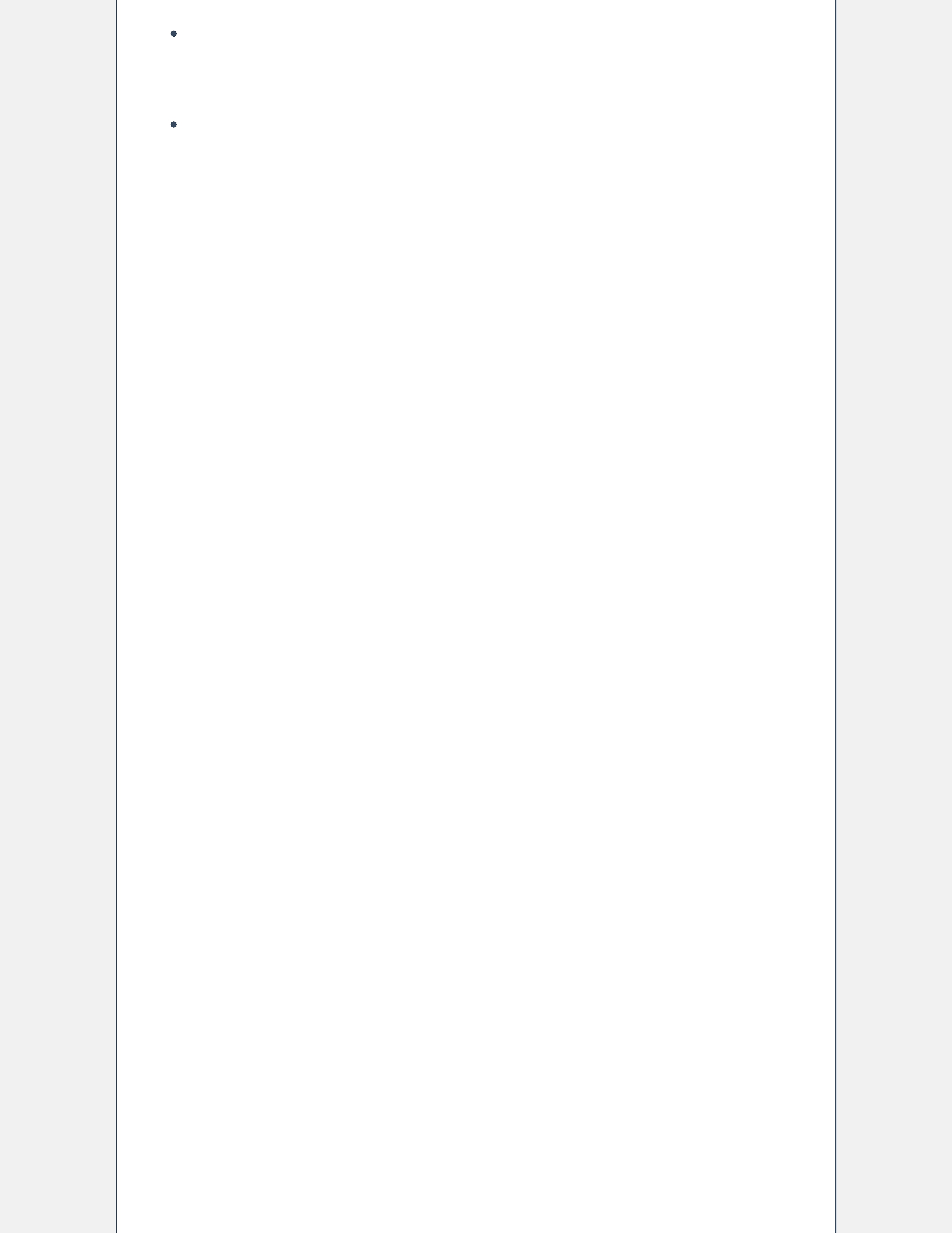
Read the full article [here](http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/367514-trump-poised-to-take-action-on-medicaid-work-requirements).

**SAMHSA finalizes rule on 42 CFR part 2—Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records regulations**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has finalized changes to Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records regulations (42 CFR part 2). The final rule updates 42 CFR Part 2 to, “facilitate information exchange within new health care models while addressing the legitimate privacy concerns of patients seeking treatment for a substance use disorder.”

As described in a SAMHSA press release, major provisions of the final rule include:

Permission of additional disclosures of patient identifying information, with patient consent, to facilitate payment and healthcare operations such as claims management, quality assessment, and patient safety

activities.

Permission of additional disclosures of patient identifying information to certain contractors, subcontractors, and legal representatives for the purpose of conducting a Medicare, Medicaid, or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) audit or evaluation.

Assisting users of electronic health records (EHRs) by permitting use of an abbreviated notice of prohibition on re-disclosure more easily accommodated in EHR text fields.

SAMHSA plans to hold a public meeting to obtain additional input from stakeholders about the effect of 42 CFR Part 2 on patient privacy. The public meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 31, 2018.

The new rule can be accessed [here](https://www.samhsa.gov/health-information-technology/laws-regulations-guidelines).

Read the full SAMHSA press release [here](https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201801021100).

**Repeal Coalition sends letter to President Trump urging continued efforts to repeal Affordable Care Act**

The Repeal Coalition, a coalition of organizations in support of repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), recently sent a letter to President Trump urging him to continue health care reform efforts in 2018. After unsuccessful attempts to repeal the ACA in 2017, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) indicated that Congress would likely focus its work on other issues this year. However, it is possible that with persistent advocacy from stakeholder groups and ongoing interest from some members of Congress, efforts to repeal the ACA could continue.

Read more about the Repeal Coalition’s letter [here](http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/367153-conservative-groups-push-for-2018-repeal-of-obamacare).

Read the letter [here](https://www.scribd.com/document/368319474/IWV-RepealCoalition-Letter-Trump).

**Upcoming Events**

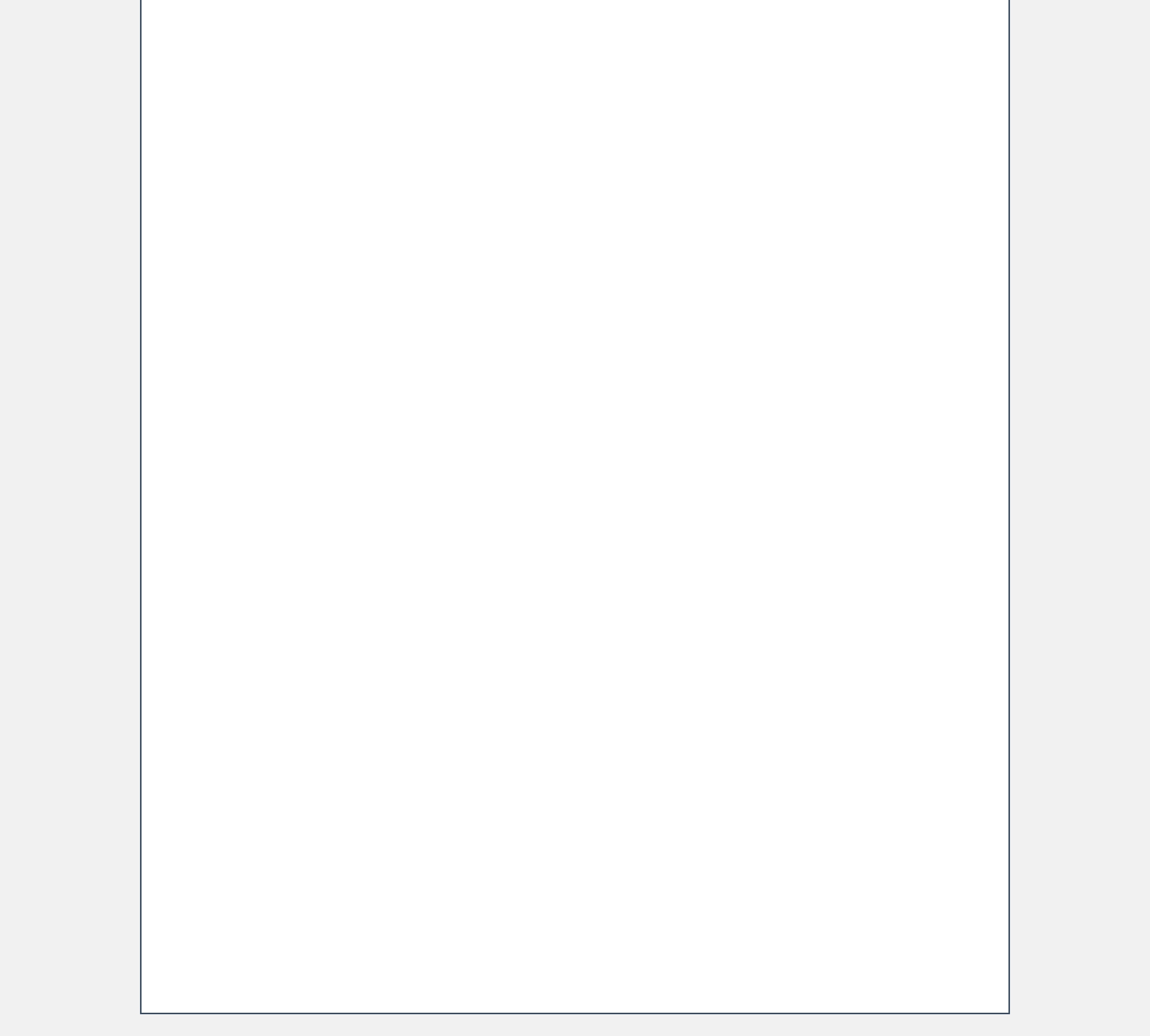
**SAMHSA webinar on the impact of alcohol on women's health**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) will be hosting a webinar on the impact of alcohol on women’s health and best practices to identify and intervene for substance use among women. The webinar will primarily focus on alcohol, but information about other drugs, such as opioids, will be presented as well. The webinar will feature presentations from Dr. Kaylin Klie, Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado, and Dr. Alison Moore, Chief of Division of Geriatrics at UC San Diego Health. The webinar will be held on January 18th from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm EST.

Register [here](https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1176559&tp_key=f7013a501b).

**NIDA and NIAAA announce upcoming National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week**

The National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (NDAFW), sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) will be held from January 22nd-28th. NDAFW provides an opportunity for youth to learn the facts about drugs and alcohol and engage with addiction experts. Local school and community events can be

registered in order to receive support from NIDA staff.

Learn more about NDAFW [here](https://teens.drugabuse.gov/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week/learn-about-ndafw).

**CADCA’s Annual National Leadership Forum and SAMHSA’s Prevention Day to be held in early February**

The Community Anti-Drug Coalition’s (CADCA) Annual National Leadership Forum will be held February 5th-8th, 2018 at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) 14th Annual Prevention Day will be held on the first day of the conference, February 5th, with the theme of “The Power of Prevention: Applying the Past, Navigating the Future.” The forum will feature a number of presentations from substance use disorder professionals on recent research as well as several training workshops.

Learn more about the event and register [here](http://www.cadca.org/events/forum2018/registration).

**Upcoming webinar on impact of substance use on child welfare system**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty will be hosting a webinar entitled, “The Role of Substance Use and Opioid Misuse in Child Welfare Caseload Increases.” The webinar will feature a presentation from Robin Ghertner and Annette Waters from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE). The presentation review the results from a study demonstrating a link between substance use prevalence and child welfare indicators. They will also discuss the specific mechanisms by which parental substance use has led to the increase in caseloads, and unique challenges the opioid crisis is presenting to child welfare systems.

The webinar will be held on January 24th from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST.

Register [here](http://irpwisc.formstack.com/forms/substance_use_and_child_welfare).

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