

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

**Directors**

**DC Update**

**March 7th, 2018**

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**News from the States**

**MAT in jails and prisons found to prevent post-incarceration overdose deaths in RI**

A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* *Psychiatry* suggests that treating people for opioid addiction in jails and prisonsreduces opioid overdose deaths once individuals re-enter society. In 2016, the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (DOC) launched a program that screens all inmates for opioid use disorder and provides medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to those who need it. The study found that when comparing the six-month period before the MAT program was implemented to the same period a year later, the study showed a 61 percent decrease in post-incarceration opioid overdose deaths. That decrease contributed to an overall 12 percent reduction in overdose deaths in the State’s general population in the post-implementation period.

The DOC’s MAT program grew out of work done by Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo’s Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force. Rebecca Boss, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals, who serves on the NASADAD Board of Directors, is a co-chair of the Task Force. Ms. Boss is also co-author of the

*JAMA Psychiatry* publication.

Learn more about the study [here](https://news.brown.edu/articles/2018/02/opioids).

Access the *JAMA Psychiatry* publication [here](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2671411?redirect=true).

**KY House of Representatives passes bill to tax prescription opioids**

Last week the Kentucky State House of Representatives passed a bill to tax prescription opioids. The legislation would tax drug distributors 25 cents per dose in an effort to curb the over-prescription of opioids. The bill would give the State attorney general authority to prosecute drug companies that pass the tax along to their customers. If enacted, the revenue from the tax would be used to fund public education and other services. If approved by the State Senate, Kentucky could become the first State in the country to tax the prescription opioid painkillers, although several other States have pending legislation to tax opioids.

Read more about the bill [here](https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2018/03/01/us/ap-us-opioid-tax.html).

**Public-private initiative teaches Ohio high school students about proper use of prescription medications**

Ohio’s Prevention Action Alliance and the AmerisourceBergen Foundation have teamed up in order to join the Prescription Drug Safety Network. The Prevention Action Alliance is a nonprofit organization based in Ohio dedicated to the prevention of substance misuse. The Prescription Drug Safety Network is a coalition comprised of a variety of stakeholder groups, including State leaders, health care companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacies, and foundations. This public-private partnership has recently announced a new digital education initiative to combat opioid misuse among youth and help Ohio high school students make informed decisions about prescription medications. The educational initiative offers information about proper use of prescription medications, safe disposal of medications, and strategies for how to handle situations that involve the misuse of prescription drugs.

Learn more about the partnership, as well as the prevention initiative [here](http://mha.ohio.gov/Portals/0/assets/News/eUpdates/eUpdateFEB18.pdf) (pg. 4).

**News from NASADAD**

**NASADAD attends White House Opioid Summit**

On March 1st, Robert Morrison, NASADAD’s Executive Director, attended an Opioid Summit at the White House. The First Lady, Melania Trump, made introductory remarks, which were followed by three sessions that were moderated by Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway. The first session focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery, featuring Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar; Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary David Shulkin; and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson. The second session featured the new Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), James Carroll. The last session focused on law enforcement and interdiction, featuring Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan; Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen; and Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The event concluded with remarks from President Donald Trump.

**NASADAD presents at NACo Legislative Conference**

On March 4th, Robert Morrison, NASADAD’s Executive Director, presented

during a session regarding the opioid crisis held at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. The panel was moderated by Nick Macchione, Director, Health and Human Services Agency, County of San Diego, California. Other participants included Brian Bowden, NACo’s Associate Legislative Director for Health, and Ron Manderscheid, PhD, Executive Director of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD). Mr. Morrison was asked to talk about the different federal funding streams available to address the opioid crisis. He discussed various programs at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), including the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant; the State Targeted Response (STR) to the Opioid Crisis Grants; the Partnerships for Success grant that focuses on primary prevention; the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) Rx prevention grant; and a number of others. The panelists then engaged in a dialogue with attendees. NASADAD wishes to recognize NACo and NACBHDD for their partnership.

To learn more about NACo, click [here](http://www.naco.org/).

**NASADAD participates in meeting with Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use**

On February 27th, Rob Morrison and Shalini Wickramatilake of NASADAD’s Policy Department attended a Coalition for Whole Health meeting, which featured a dialogue with Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz. The Coalition for Whole Health is a coalition of substance use and mental health stakeholder groups. Dr. McCance-Katz spoke with the group about her priorities as the leader of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). During the meeting, she spoke about the importance of various grant programs administered by SAMHSA, including the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) grants and the State Pilot Grant Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW).

**NASADAD attends Senate HELP Committee hearing on the role of technology in treating addiction**

On February 27th, NASADAD’s Shalini Wickramatilake attended the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing entitled, “The Opioid Crisis: The Role of Technology and Data in Preventing and Treating Addiction.” The HELP Committee is led by Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA). Hearing witnesses included: Snezana Mahon, PharmD, Vice President, Clinical Product Development, Express Scripts, St. Louis, MO; Sherry L. Green, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, Sherry L. Green & Associations, LLC, Co-founder, National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws, Sante Fe, NM; H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., Dean’s Executive Professor, Public Health Program, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA; and Sanket Shah, Clinical Assistant Professor, Health Informatics, University of Illinois at Chicago, Hinsdale, IL. Witnesses and members of the HELP Committee discussed a variety of issues, such as drug disposal bags, privacy protections for individuals with a substance use disorder, and prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs).

Watch a recording of the hearing [here](https://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/the-opioid-crisis-the-role-of-technology-and-data-in-preventing-and-treating-addiction).

**Upcoming Events**

**SAMHSA/HRSA webinar on Integrating HIV and Substance Use Disorder Treatment to Optimize Care for Vulnerable Patients**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Center for Integrated Health Solutions will be hosting a webinar on Integrating HIV and Substance Use Disorder Treatment to Optimize Care for Vulnerable Patients. The webinar will feature Alexander Walley, MD, M.Sc, Associate Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine and Joshua Blum, MD, Program Coordinator, Denver Health and Hospital Authority. The webinar will cover the following issues:

How integration can support implementation of evidence-based practices and care teams in Ryan White HIV/AIDS provider settings to address substance use and HIV treatment needs;

Opportunities to cross-walk SUD and HIV treatment approaches using the key concepts of integration; and

Current organizational readiness to adopt and/or incorporate new strategies for client retention.

The webinar will be held on March 21, 2018 from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm EST.

Register for the webinar [here](https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1180915&tp_key=10406aaf6c).

*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.*