

October 25, 2018



D.C. Update: SUPPORT Act signed into law, new NASADAD staff, and more

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White House Happenings

SUPPORT Act signed into law

On October 24th, President Trump signed into law the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment ("SUPPORT") for Patients and Communities Act. NASADAD's Rob Morrison attended the bill signing ceremony, and NASADAD Board Member, Sara Goldsby (SSA, SC) was also at the event.

As a reminder, some of the provisions in the bill include:

- Reauthorizing grants to States to address the opioid crisis (previously authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016), and adding to the grant program a 5% set-aside for Indian tribes, as well as up to a 15% set-aside for States and Tribes with the highest age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths based on CDC data. The bill authorizes \$500 million for each of FY 2019 - FY 2021.
- Establishing a grant program for emergency rooms to create a protocol to support individuals who have survived an opioid overdose, including having onsite peer recovery coaches.
- Creating a grant program to establish at least 10 Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers (CORCs) throughout the U.S.
- Developing and disseminating best practices for recovery housing.
- Student loan repayment for SUD treatment professionals in mental health professional shortage areas or counties that have been hardest hit by drug overdoses.
- Reauthorizing the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), as well as the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) and High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) programs.
- Reauthorizing SAMHSA's Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW) program for FY 2019-FY 2023.
- Temporarily (FY 2019-FY 2023) repealing the IMD exclusion, allowing State Medicaid programs to receive federal reimbursement for up to 30 total days of care in an IMD during a 12-month period for eligible individuals with a substance use disorder.
- Adding clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse anesthetists, certified nurse midwives, and allopathic and osteopathic doctors to the category of qualifying practitioners who can prescribe buprenorphine.



Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Jim Carroll; Sara Goldsby (SSA, SC); and Robert Morrison (NASADAD) at the bill signing ceremony

News from NASADAD

New NASADAD Research Director and staff members

NASADAD is excited to announce that several new staff members have recently joined our team.

Melanie Whitter joined NASADAD as Director of Research and Program Applications on August 20. Melanie has close to 30 years of experience in the substance use disorder field and in the public administration of health and human services at the federal, State and local levels of government. From 2003 – 2018, Ms. Whitter served as a Principal Associate at Abt Associates. Prior to joining Abt, Ms. Whitter provided leadership in the State of Illinois Department/Office of Alcoholism of Substance Abuse for thirteen years. From 2000 to 2003, she served as the Single State Authority (SSA) for alcohol and other drugs services. During that time, Ms. Whitter served on NASADAD's Board of Directors, as Vice President for Treatment and as a Regional Director. Melanie also worked in the Washington, D.C. offices of Illinois Senator Alan J. Dixon and Illinois Governor James R. Thompson, where she concentrated on health and human service issues.

In September, we also had Kevin Rushton join as a research analyst, and Claire Gray and Joel Tinkler join as research associates.



Melanie Whitter, Director of Research & Program Applications



Kevin Rushton, Research Analyst



Claire Gray, Research Associate



Joel Tinkler, Research Associate

Recent NASADAD membership changes

There have been several changes in the NASADAD membership over the past few weeks. In Nevada, Stephanie Woodard, PsyD, Senior Advisor on Behavioral Health in the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is now serving as the NASADAD member for the State. We welcome Dr. Woodard and thank former NASADAD Board member from Nevada, Kyle Devine, for his service representing Region IX. Edward Mersereau of Hawaii is now serving on the Board representing Region IX.

Additionally, Allison Bauer of Massachusetts is no longer serving as the State's NASADAD member. We appreciate Ms. Bauer's contributions to the Association, especially her recent work helping to ensure a successful National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference in Boston, MA earlier this year. The interim director in MA is Jim Cremer.

Around the Agencies

CAPT resources available online

The Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) project within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will end on October 30, 2018. Materials developed by the CAPT will continue to be available through the [SAMHSA](#)

[website](#). Additionally, the CAPT's "Prevention Conversations" videos will continue to be available on the [SAMHSA YouTube channel](#).

HHS launches campaign highlighting civil rights protections for persons in recovery from an opioid use disorder

In recognition of National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is launching a [new public education campaign](#) to highlight the Department's efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. The new campaign will inform the public about civil rights protections that may apply to persons in recovery from an opioid use disorder and ensure that organizations are aware of their obligation to comply with federal nondiscrimination laws. A video, titled "[Federal Nondiscrimination Laws and Opioid Use Disorders](#)," provides more information about the campaign.

In the News

New Over-the-Counter Medication Safety resources

Scholastic, in partnership with the American Association of Poison Control Centers, has developed several new Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Safety resources to help engage 5th and 6th graders in conversations about responsible medicine use. The materials were created for teachers, families, community leaders, and healthcare professionals. [Parents](#) can access home safety topics, conversation starters, and more. Teachers can access lesson plans, digital storybooks, skill charts and other printable resources through the [site](#) OTC Medicine Safety for Teachers. Resources for [community leaders](#) and [healthcare professionals](#) include presentations, printable resources, program guides, and more.

Upcoming Events

National Drug Take Back Day is Oct. 27th

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, from 10 am to 2 pm EST, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in partnership with federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement, businesses, medical offices, agencies, and first responders, will host events to collect and safely dispose of unwanted medications. In advance of the event, the DEA has made [several resources](#) available, including a Take Back Day toolkit, promotional videos, images for social media use, and more.

SPR Annual Meeting abstract submission deadline is Oct. 31st

The Society for Prevention Research (SPR) [27th Annual Meeting](#), "Prevention Science in a Big Data World," will be held May 28 – May 31, 2019. The goal of the 2019 annual meeting is to consider ways in which the prevention science community can leverage complex data and innovative technologies to open new avenues in prevention research. The deadline for paper, poster, workshop, and special interest group abstracts is Wednesday, October 31st. All abstracts can be submitted [online](#).

Webinar on updated National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction website

The National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction (NICCC) was developed to shed light on the collateral consequences on conviction, which are the the legal and regulatory restrictions that limit or prohibit people convicted of crimes from accessing employment, housing, and other rights, benefits, and opportunities after their sentences have been served. Earlier this year, the NICCC was updated to incorporate new features that improve the usability and accuracy of the resource.

The National Reentry Resource Center, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, will be hosting a [webinar](#) on Oct. 31st at 1:00 pm EST to provide an overview of the new NICCC site and discuss how attorneys, judges, policy-makers, advocates, and justice-involved individuals can leverage this resource to better navigate and understand these policies.