



The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors D.C. Update

Capitol Hill happenings, upcoming events, and more.

[Visit our Website](#)

Capitol Hill Happenings



House hearing on 21st Century Cures Implementation: Examining Mental Health Initiatives

Last week the House Energy & Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health, led by Chairman Michael Burgess (R-TX) and Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX), held a hearing entitled, "21st Century Cures Implementation: Examining Mental Health Initiatives." Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use, Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, served as a witness during the hearing.

In her testimony and in response to questions from members of the subcommittee, the Assistant Secretary highlighted how the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is implementing the 21st Century Cures Act provisions, and how implementation is benefiting individuals, families, and communities across the country.

While the intent of the hearing was to hear an update from SAMHSA specifically on implementation of Cures, many members of the subcommittee used their time to ask Dr. McCance-Katz about mental health

House subcommittee holds hearing on marketing practices in the substance use treatment industry

On July 24th, the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, led by Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) and Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO), held a hearing on practices within the substance use treatment industry, including advertising and marketing practices. This hearing was part of the Subcommittee's ongoing efforts to address unethical practices in the treatment field such as patient brokering.

Witnesses included:

- Jason Brian, Founder, Redwood Recovery Solutions and TreatmentCalls(dot)com
- Michael Cartwright, Chairman and CEO, American Addiction Centers
- Mark Mishek, President and CEO, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
- Robert Niznik, CEO, Addiction Recovery Now and Niznik Behavioral Health
- Dr. Kenneth Stoller, Director, Johns Hopkins Hospital Broadway Center for Addiction
- Marvin Ventrell, Executive Director,

implications of immigrant children being separated from their families.

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP)

A full recording is available [here](#).

Read more about the hearing [here](#).

In the News

Recent study finds 65% increase in cirrhosis from 1999-2016 in the U.S.

A [new paper](#) published in *The BMJ* found that from 1999 to 2016 in the U.S., annual deaths from cirrhosis increased by 65 percent. Researchers used death certificate data from the Vital Statistics Cooperative, and population data from the US Census Bureau compiled by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (1999-2016). They found that mortality due to cirrhosis has been increasing in the U.S. since 2009, driven by deaths due to alcoholic cirrhosis. Individuals aged 25-34 have experienced the greatest relative increase in mortality. Caucasians, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans experienced the greatest increase in deaths from cirrhosis. Researchers conclude that the rapid increase in death rates among young people due to alcohol highlight new challenges for care of patients with preventable liver disease.

Around the Agencies

NIDA offering online course on adolescent marijuana use

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), in collaboration with the Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA), is offering a self-paced [online course](#) on the assessment and treatment of adolescent marijuana abuse and dependence. The course focuses on the risks for marijuana use in adolescents, newly developed tools for screening youths for marijuana dependence, and resources for treating adolescents with cannabis use disorder. The course also covers topics such as driving and marijuana use and aftercare programs for preventing relapse.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming OJJDP webinar on Planning for Safe Care: What Your Family Drug Court Needs to Know about Serving Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders and Their Infants

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) within the Department of Justice (DOJ) will be hosting a [webinar](#) entitled, "Planning for Safe Care: What Your Family Drug Court Needs to Know about Serving Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders and Their Infants." The webinar will explore strategies and best practices for serving pregnant and parenting women with opioid use disorders, expanding services in family drug courts to serve the needs of mothers, families and their infants, and developing a family-centered Plan of Safe Care to improve the well-being and safety of infants with prenatal exposure and their families.

Speakers include:

- The Honorable John Rowley of the Sixth Judicial District in Tompkins County, New York
- Mishka Terplan, MD, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine in Richmond, Virginia.

The webinar will be held on Tuesday, July 31, 2018, 2:00-3:15 pm EST.

Upcoming RTI International webinar, "The Role of State Behavioral Health Agencies and State Financing in Expanding Access to Medication Assisted Treatment"

RTI International will be hosting a webinar on improving access to medication-assisted treatment. The webinar will feature speakers from State substance use and mental health agencies on how they are financing and expanding access to medication-assisted treatment across various settings. Discussion topics will include collaborations with Medicaid programs, use of discretionary and block grants, and changes in administrative policies.

Speakers will include:

- Mark Stringer (SSA, MO), Director, Department of Behavioral Health, Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH), Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Nora Bock (Treatment Coordinator, MO), Director of Adult Community Treatment Services, Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Jaime Powers (Treatment Coordinator, NH), Administrator, New Hampshire Bureau of Drug

and Alcohol Services

- Lindy Keller, Administrator, New Hampshire Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
- Ellen Augspurger, MAT SBIRT Project Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Rick Massatti (SOTA, OH), PhD, MSW, MPH, LSW, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

The [webinar](#) will be held on Tuesday, August 14th from 2:00-3:30pm EST.

NASADAD | 202-293-0090 | nasadad.org