

April 4, 2019



D.C. Update: SAMHSA seeking comments on recovery housing guidelines, upcoming Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, and more

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## Around the Agencies

### **SAMHSA seeking public comments on proposed Recovery Housing Guidelines**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting comments on its draft, "[Recovery Housing: Best Practices and Suggested Minimum Guidelines](#)," until April 12, 2019. This document was developed in response to section 7031 of the SUPPORT Act of 2018, which requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop best practices for recovery housing. The draft guidelines include ten guiding principles that aim to assist patients, providers, State and federal policymakers, and others in defining and understanding what constitutes safe, effective, and ethical recovery housing. The ten principles are:

1. Have a clear operational definition
2. Understands that addiction is a chronic condition requiring recovery supports
3. Co-occurring informed
4. Assesses facility and appropriately matches client needs
5. Administrative acumen and accountability
6. Provides or supports evidence-based practices
7. Ensures quality and client safety
8. Ongoing communication with

### **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 6th**

This year's [National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day](#) will be held on May 6. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Awareness Day focuses on the importance children's mental health, especially as it relates to healthy development. This year's Awareness Day event will take place at the Hubert Humphrey Building in Washington, DC. During the event, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, will focus on the impact that suicide has on youth, young adults, and families, and will review evidence-based programs that help those in crisis. The event will be livestreamed [here](#) on May 6th at 3:00 pm EST.

SAMHSA encourages States, tribes, territories, and communities across the nation to [host events](#) and activities around children's mental health throughout the month of May.

### **OIG finds that SAMHSA followed grant regulations and program-specific requirements when awarding Opioid STR grants**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) within the Department of Health and Human

- interested parties and care specialists
- 9. Culturally competent
- 10. Measures performance and success

All comments should be sent to [Recoveryhousing@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Recoveryhousing@samhsa.hhs.gov).

### New SAMHSA blog post on preventing underage drinking

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has published a new blog post, "[Starting Conversations About Preventing Underage Drinking](#)." The post, written by Acting Director of SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Luis Vasquez, reviews the history of SAMHSA's "Communities Talk" events, which began in 2006 to serve as a forum for a variety of stakeholders to discuss alcohol use among youth. Acting Director Vasquez also writes about specific examples from which these types of community events led to successful outcomes, including reduced alcohol use, more youth signing alcohol-free pledges, and increased donations to support local prevention activities.

Services (HHS) has released a report, "[The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \[SAMHSA\] Followed Grant Regulations and Program-Specific Requirements When Awarding State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants](#)." The report states that: "We found that SAMHSA followed HHS grant regulations and program-specific requirements when awarding Opioid STR grants authorized under the 21st Century Cures Act. Specifically, SAMHSA performed an adequate review of all 57 grant applications and adequately followed up with applicants to address their concerns. As part of the pre-award process, SAMHSA created teams of expert staff members to review the applications and evaluate the information. We also determined that SAMHSA's funding formula elements (unmet need for opioid use disorder and drug poisoning deaths) were based on the 21st Century Cures Act. According to SAMHSA, these funding elements provided the most comparable and uniform data on a national scale to assess the prevalence of the opioid crisis." The report offers no recommendations to SAMHSA based on these findings.

## State Spotlight



### North Carolina launches opioid awareness campaign

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Justice, in partnership with many other State agencies, private organizations, and community

groups, have launched a public education campaign to address the opioid crisis. The "[More Powerful](#)" campaign will include TV, radio, digital, and billboard advertisements that will run throughout the State through November to raise awareness of the impact of opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose. Kody Kinsley serves as the NASADAD member for the State of North Carolina.

## News from NASADAD

### NASADAD staff attends LAC's inaugural No Health = No Justice meeting

On April 3, 2019, NASADAD's Shalini Wickramatilake-Templeman attended the Legal Action Center's (LAC) inaugural "[No Health = No Justice](#)" meeting at Columbia University in New York City. LAC's new campaign focuses on the intersection of systemic racism, mass incarceration, and health. The meeting featured three panels: 1) No Health = No Justice in the Community; 2) No Health = No Justice After Incarceration; and 3) Achieving Health and Justice. Panelists spoke about issues such as: the role of drug policy on mass incarceration; substance use and mental disorders in minority populations; access to healthcare services for low-income populations; the impact of historical trauma; the importance of person-first language in describing those involved in the criminal justice system; improving re-entry services to ensure healthcare, housing, and employment; and mass decarceration.



### National Prevention Network (NPN) Call for Presentations

The 2019 National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference will be held August 27-29 in Chicago, IL. The purpose of the conference is to highlight the latest research in the substance use prevention field. It provides a forum for prevention professionals, coalition leaders, researchers, and federal partners to share research, best practices and promising evaluation

results for the purpose of integrating research into prevention practice.

The [call for presentations](#) is now open for the conference, with a deadline of April 12th.

Highlighted topics for this year's conference include:

- Evidence-based Programs and Strategies to Reduce Substance Use
- Evidence-informed Innovative Approaches to Reduce Substance Use
- Prevention Workforce Development
- Community Stakeholder Empowerment and Community Capacity Building
- Drug Trends and Emerging Issues
- Substance Use Prevention and Collaboration with Other Fields

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## In the News

### **Opioid crisis is driving rate of some infectious diseases in U.S.**

A [press release](#) by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) highlights a new commentary in the Journal of Infectious Diseases that's co-authored by officials from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The [commentary](#) focuses on the impact of the current opioid crisis on the increase of certain infectious diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis C virus. As described in the NIH press release, "High-risk injection practices such as needle-sharing are causing a surge in infectious diseases. Additionally, risky sexual behaviors associated with injection drug use have contributed to the spread of sexually transmitted infections." The commentary notes that infectious disease and substance use disorder professionals must work together to address this "dual public health crisis."

### **NIDA travel award for SPR Annual Meeting**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) American Indian and Alaska Native Drug Abuse Etiology and Prevention Research Early Career Travel Award program to attend and network at the [Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting](#) is now accepting applications. This Early Career Travel Award program at SPR is designed to provide support for students and researchers who focus on American Indian and Alaska Native drug use prevention research. The SPR Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, CA, May 29-June 1, and applications for this travel award are due Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Application Instructions from SPR: Please submit a document that details your name, highest degree achieved, Race/Ethnicity (if you choose to provide it), where you are currently employed or are a student, whether you are presenting at the conference, and a brief personal statement (1-2 paragraphs) describing your interest in and commitment to working in this field, including specific areas of drug use research in which you are interested, the current status of your research career and your plans for the next two years in regard to developing your research skills and pursuing research and research funding opportunities. Applications should be no longer than 2 pages and can be shorter. Please send applications to [Kathy Etz](#) and [Jennifer Lewis](#) with a subject line of "AI/AN SPR travel award."