

April 8, 2021



D.C. Update: CDC & SAMHSA announce that certain grant funds may be used for fentanyl test strips, GAO releases report on Good Samaritan and Naloxone Access laws, and more



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### Meet the Member

#### Gabrielle Richard, Prevention Coordinator for State of Arizona

Gabrielle Richard currently serves as a Grants Manager with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Ms. Richard provides oversight for all substance use prevention efforts related to AZ's Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant and Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) activities, including strategic planning, policy development, providing technical assistance and training to contractors, and program development and oversight. Ms. Richard also serves as a Peer Grant Reviewer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), as well as with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Prior to these roles, Ms. Richard worked for both the State of Texas and the State of Washington, coordinating and administering statewide substance use prevention efforts. Ms. Richard has a Master's of Prevention Science from the University of Oklahoma, and a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Addiction Studies from the University of South Dakota. Ms. Richard is also a Certified Prevention Specialist with the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC).



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[Around the Agencies](#)

## CDC and SAMHSA announce that certain grant funds may be used for fentanyl test strips

Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [announced](#) that federal funding may now be used to purchase rapid fentanyl test strips (FTS). Grantees receiving funds from the CDC's Overdose Data to Action grant can now use funds to purchase FTS. In addition, SAMHSA's State Opioid Response (SOR) grants--which are managed by the State alcohol and drug agency--can also be used to purchase FTS. Tom Coderre, Acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, stated that FTS "...will save lives by providing tools to identify the growing presence of fentanyl in the nation's illicit drug supply and – partnered with referrals to treatment – complement SAMHSA's daily work to direct help to more Americans."

## GAO releases report on Good Samaritan and Naloxone Access laws

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently published a [report](#) evaluating Good Samaritan and Naloxone Access laws, as required by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016. The report includes an overview of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) efforts to collect and disseminate information on the laws; the extent to which States, territories, and D.C. have these laws and the characteristics of them; and what research indicates concerning the effects of Good Samaritan laws. As described in the report, GAO found that ONDCP took multiple actions to track, study, and share information about Good Samaritan and Naloxone Access laws. The report also noted that 48 jurisdictions (47 States and D.C.) have enacted both laws. In addition, GAO reviewed 17 studies on the effectiveness of Good Samaritan laws and found a pattern of lower rates of opioid-related overdose deaths among States that enacted these laws.



## SAMHSA publishes series of advisories on substance use disorder treatment

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has published a series of Advisories based on existing Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIPs) and Technical Assistance Publications (TAPs). The first advisory, [Group Therapy in Substance Use Treatment](#), provides an overview of goals, processes, group-specific approaches, resources, and common elements that support favorable outcomes in group therapy. The second advisory, [Prescribing Pharmacotherapies for Patients with Alcohol Use Disorder](#), includes an overview of alcohol use disorder (AUD) medications to facilitate abstinence and medically supervised withdrawal after screening and assessment. A third advisory, [The Importance of Family Therapy in Substance Use Disorder Treatment](#), covers factors for programs and providers to consider when implementing family therapy approaches, goals and processes for conducting effective family counseling, and additional resources.

## NHSC to hold Q&A sessions on loan repayment programs

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) announced an [event](#) to provide assistance to individuals interested in applying for three loan repayment programs: The [Loan Repayment Program](#), the [Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#), and the [Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#). The NHSC Loan Repayment Programs Application Online Q&A Sessions will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 5:00pm ET. Participants can ask questions related to eligibility, loan documentation, service requirements, or the application process. Applications for the loan repayment programs are due by May 6<sup>th</sup>.



## SAMHSA accepting applications for First Responders-CARA Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting [applications](#) for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) Grants. As described in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), the purpose of the program is to allow first responders and members of other key community sectors to administer naloxone, or other devices approved by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, for emergency reversal of an overdose. Recipients of the grant will train and provide resources to first responders including the establishment of processes, protocols, mechanisms for referral to appropriate treatment and recovery support services, and safety measures around fentanyl and other drugs. Eligible applicants include State governments, tribes, and local governmental entities. SAMHSA plans to issue approximately 15 to 20 awards of up to \$800,000 per year for up to five years. Applications are due May 17, 2021.

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## Research Roundup

### Study examines relationship between family structure and opioid misuse

A [study](#) recently published in the *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* journal examined the association between family structure, including marital status and presence of children in the household, and opioid misuse. Researchers used data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) from 2002-2018 and found that married young adults have lower age-adjusted probabilities of prescription opioid misuse and heroin use, and that the presence of children in the house is also associated with lower probabilities of prescription opioid and heroin misuse. In addition, those with children in the household who have never been married also showed lower probabilities of prescription opioid and heroin misuse. Researchers concluded that increases in disconnected adults may result in continued increases in substance use disorders (SUD) and overdoses.

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## In the News



### Faces and Voices of Recovery releases federal policy and advocacy priorities

Faces and Voices of Recovery recently [released](#) their federal policy and advocacy priorities for 2021 and 2022. Federal policy priorities include enacting and funding the

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 2.0, the Family Support Services for Addiction Act, and the Honoring Recovery Month Act. In addition, the organization is prioritizing legislation that requires a black, indigenous, and people of color set-aside for recovery support services and legislation that secures telehealth funding and eligibility for peer recovery support services. Faces and Voices also released advocacy priorities including expanding community-based recovery support services, supporting and protecting individuals' right to treatment and recovery support services, elevating the role of harm reduction and low-threshold barriers for recovery, and rejecting harmful practices for justice-involved individuals.