

August 19, 2021



D.C. Update: NASADAD announces new Board Member, Larry Scott, representing Region V, Senate Passes Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment (RSAT) Act, and more

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Meet the Member

Cheryl Labuguen, Prevention Coordinator for State of Hawaii

Cheryl Labuguen is a Certified Prevention Specialist with just over 15 years of experience in the substance use prevention field. She is currently a Prevention Program Specialist with the Hawaii State Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, where she oversees contracts that provide substance use prevention services that strengthens the use of the Strategic Prevention Framework, as well as provides leadership and guidance to prevention providers through technical assistance and trainings. Prior to her current role, Cheryl had the opportunity for nearly 10 years to provide direct and indirect prevention services to various groups statewide and build relationships with various stakeholders. She coordinated and implemented a best practice gender-specific program and an evidence-based family program, coordinated and mentored anti-drug community coalitions, conducted presentations, facilitated focus groups, and provided resources to prevention and treatment providers. Cheryl received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



News from NASADAD

NASADAD announces new Board Member, Larry Scott, representing Region V

NASADAD is pleased to announce that Larry Scott, Michigan's Director for the Office of Recovery Oriented



Systems of Care, will now serve as Region V Director on the NASADAD Board of Directors. Mr. Scott has over 35 years of experience in substance use services as a training and certification coordinator; communicable disease prevention coordinator; coordinator of HIV/AIDS Regional Training Centers; surveillance and research analyst; and State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA). During his tenure with the office, Mr. Scott also served as the State Project Director for eleven Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration Discretionary Grant Projects and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Contracts totaling \$100 million. He holds a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from University of Massachusetts (Amherst) as well as a master's and Education Specialist Degree in Instructional Development and Design from Michigan State University.

Nominations for Annual Ramstad/Kennedy Award due September 10th

The Recovery Month Planning Partners are seeking nominations for the Annual Ramstad/Kennedy Award which recognizes a State alcohol and drug agency director – also known as a Single State Authority (SSA) – who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in support of recovery and *Recovery Month* and to acknowledge Congressmen Ramstad and Kennedy for their commitment to recovery and recovery-oriented policies. The Award is sponsored by the Recovery Month Planning Partners (a coalition of 200+ organizations). Nominations are due September 10. Review the criteria and download the application [here](#). The award will be presented on September 23, 2021 in conjunction with other awards sponsored by the annual National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD).



Capitol Hill Happenings

Senate Passes Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment (RSAT) Act

On July 30th, the Senate passed the Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act, introduced by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) in March. The bill reauthorizes and expands on the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program, improving and increasing access to residential substance use disorder treatment programs in jails and prisons. The bill would also create programs that would enable individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) to continue to receive treatment after release. As described in a [press release](#) from Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH), a cosponsor of the bill, the RSAT Program provides residential substance use treatment for individuals in jails and prisons; prepares them for reintegration into their community by incorporating reentry planning activities into treatment programs; and assists individuals and their communities through the reentry process by delivering community-based treatment and other services. To see the bill, click [here](#).

Around the Agencies



ONDCP Awards \$2.5 Million to LAPPA to Support State Drug Policies

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) announced that it has awarded \$2.5 million to the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) to assist the organization with research supporting evidence-based State drug policies. The funding was awarded through the ONDCP's Model Acts Program and will be used to draft model legislation at the State level to expand access to harm reduction and treatment services in underserved communities. In addition, the funding will be used to address fentanyl

trafficking and to reduce the stigma surrounding substance use disorders. To see the White House press release, click [here](#).

HHS Awards \$85.5 Million for Rural Communities Opioid Response Programs

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, announced that it will provide \$90 million in funding to address rural health issues. The funding will be distributed through two Rural Communities Opioid Response Programs and includes \$85.5 million for community-based opioid use disorder (OUD) and substance use disorder (SUD) programs. The Implementation Program includes \$78 million to reduce SUD and OUD morbidity and mortality in high-risk rural communities by expanding prevention, treatment, and recovery services. The Psychostimulant Support Program includes \$7.5 million which will be used to expand psychostimulant misuse prevention and treatment services. To see the announcement, click [here](#).

Research Roundup

Study Finds 28.5% Increase in Opioid Overdose Rates During COVID-19 Pandemic

A [study](#) published in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* sought to analyze and understand changes in emergency department (ED) utilization following a nonfatal opioid overdose during COVID-19 compared to controls in six healthcare systems across the United States. Opioid overdoses were recorded among adult visits from January 2018 to December 2020 in six different healthcare systems. Results of the study indicated that despite a 14% decline in all-cause ED visits in 2020, overdoses increased by 10.5% compared to 2018 and 2019. Additionally, opioid overdose rates increased by 28.5% in 2020 compared to the previous two years. The conclusion of the study reveals that expanded community and hospital based interventions are needed to help individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the News

Stat News Article: "Punishing Drug Use Heightens the Stigma of Addiction"

In an article published by Stat News, Dr. Nora D. Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), discusses the consequences of punishing drug use and the negative effects of stigma that the punishment creates. Dr. Volkow notes that punitive policies surrounding substance use contribute to the stigma surrounding individuals with substance use disorders (SUD). As a result of this stigma, only 18% of people with SUDs receive treatment. For example, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), fear of judgement or negative opinions is a reason individuals with SUDs avoid seeking treatment. Additionally, stigmatizing attitudes among primary physicians are correlated with lower use of medication assisted treatment (MAT). To read the full article, click [here](#).

