

February 17, 2022



D.C. Update: Senate confirms FDA Administrator, BJA Report, and more

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Meet the Member

Kate Dobler, Women's Services Coordinator for State of Arizona

Kate Dobler serves as a Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW) Project Director in the Division of Grants Administration within the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Ms. Dobler's work in early childhood includes coaching and mentoring parents, community partners, and volunteers. She engages partners to build a network of relationships that supports the healthy growth and development of her community's youngest children. Ms. Dobler earned her bachelor's degree in 1994 from the University of Arizona, College of Agriculture, School of Family and Consumer Sciences, in Family Studies with an emphasis in Child Development and a Minor in Sociology. After joining First Things First in 2008, she earned a Certificate in Public Management from Arizona State University in 2015. She also holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership with a focus on Community College and Higher Education from Northern Arizona University.



News from NASADAD

NASADAD All States Public Policy Call 2/25 at 2pm EST

Due to the holiday on Monday, February 21st, our next All States Public Policy call will be held on **Friday, February 25th, from 2:00pm - 3:00pm EST** (1pm CST/12pm MST/11am PST). The call will feature a guest presentation by Gabrielle de la Gueronniere, Vice President of Health and Justice for the Legal Action Center (LAC). Ms. De la Gueronniere will walk through recent products developed by LAC – including several papers regarding service delivery for justice-involved populations with a particular eye on Medicaid, and a report related to parity for

Capitol Hill Happenings



Senate Committee Hearing on Youth Mental Health

On February 15th, the Senate Committee on Finance hosted their second hearing on the youth mental health crisis. This hearing, led by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), specifically examined strategies for eliminating barriers to care. The discussion focused heavily on policy levers for strengthening and increasing mental health services to schools, specialty populations, and rural populations. You can view the full Committee hearing on "Protecting Youth Mental Health: Part II - Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Care," [here](#).

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Hearing on Mental Health Crisis

On February 17th, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce hosted a hearing on responding to the national mental health crisis. Subcommittee Chairwoman Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) stated "the grief and stress caused by this ongoing global health crisis is taking a real toll on people's mental health and we need to ensure everyone has access to the care and support they need." You can view the Subcommittee hearing on "Americans In Need: Responding to the National Mental Health Crisis," [here](#).

Around the Agencies

CDC's Draft Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids Now Open for Public Comment

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) draft [Proposed 2022 CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids](#) is posted in the Federal Register for public comment until April 11, 2022. The clinical guidance is an update to the [2016 Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#). CDC offers specific instructions for updating the guidance, available [here](#).

FDA Administrator Confirmed

On February 15, the Senate confirmed Dr. Robert Califf to lead the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Previously, Dr. Califf served as the FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco from February 2015 until his appointment as Commissioner in February 2016. Prior to joining the FDA, Dr. Califf was a professor of medicine and vice chancellor for clinical and translational research at Duke University.

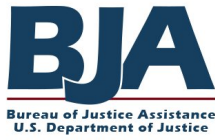


NIH: Analysis of Death Records Shows Growing Disparities in Opioid Epidemic

A National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded [study](#) examined drug overdose death trends through death certificate data over the last decade and found an increase in racial disparities among overdose deaths and an increase in stimulant use. The study found that opioid/stimulant deaths among Black Americans have risen at more than three times the rate seen among non-Hispanic white people, especially in eastern States. In other parts of the country, there's also been a disproportionate increase in combination overdose deaths among Hispanic and Asian Americans.

BJA: Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) released a [legal brief](#) on considerations for



implementing withdrawal policy and protocols that will ensure legal compliance for individuals in jails. The brief further discusses the scope of the challenge, overview of constitutional rights, and key legislation related to substance use withdrawal, and outlines steps for creating a comprehensive response to substance use disorders (SUD).

NIJ: Five Things About Substance Use Interventions

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) released [five practices to understand about substance use](#) as rated by crime solutions. These included practice profiles for:

- 1) Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for reducing opioid dependence;
- 2) Cannabis use disorder treatment using psychosocial interventions;
- 3) Strategies that reward positive behavior and withhold rewards when undesired behavior is exhibited can reduce alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use;
- 4) Short-term interventions to reduce alcohol use or related problems for adolescents and young adults;
- 5) Juvenile drug courts effects on drug and alcohol offense recidivism or future drug use.

APIS Releases New COVID-19 State Alcohol Policy Dataset

The Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS), a project of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), announced the release of updated resources on alcohol-related policies adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As described in the [press release](#), APIS provides an updated Dataset and Codebook to represent state-level policies affecting alcohol availability during the COVID-19 emergency in a form that facilitates incorporating these policies in statistical and other analyses. The new Dataset, presented as an Excel file with a Codebook that provides definitions for the variables, complements the coverage in the Digest of State Alcohol-Related Laws During the COVID-19 Emergency for On-Premises and Off-Premises Establishments.

