

January 6, 2022



D.C. Update: HRSA announces new Administrator, Carole Johnson, SAMHSA accepting applications for grants to build 988 capacity, and more

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## Meet the Member

### Dr. Leslie Brougham Freeman, Prevention Coordinator for State of Louisiana

Dr. Freeman is the Director of Prevention Services for the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). In her role, she is responsible for the oversight and management of the prevention portion of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant and supervises several discretionary grant funds addressing prevention of substance misuse. Dr. Freeman manages the Louisiana Synar Program, as well as all suicide prevention related activities. She supervises a number of prevention staff that monitor grants and provides technical assistance to local communities, providers, and other State government departments and affiliated organizations.



She is an appointed member of the Governor's DWI Task Force and also serves on the State Epidemiology Workgroup and Prevention Systems Committee. Dr. Freeman is an Adjunct Faculty Member in the Psychology Department at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Freeman holds a B.A. in Psychology from McNeese State University, a Master of Social Work, and a Ph.D. in Human Resource Education and Workforce Development, both from Louisiana State University. She is a Licensed Prevention Professional and a Licensed Master Social Worker.



### Kimberly Figone, Research Associate II at NASADAD

Kimberly Figone is a recent Master in Public Health graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno. She joined NASADAD as a Research Associate II in September 2021 and currently supports the Youth Coordinators, Women's Services Coordinators, and the State Opioid Treatment Authorities. Before joining NASADAD, Kimberly spent two years as a Behavioral Health Coordinator at a non-profit mental health organization in California where she helped to develop, implement, and manage programs that promoted equal access to quality care. Her knowledge of public health, interest in substance use treatment and recovery services, and passion for health equity drew her

to the Washington D.C area in July 2021.

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## Around the Agencies

### HHS and CMS announce new Medicaid option for SUD crisis care

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) a new option for supporting community-based mobile crisis intervention services for individuals with Medicaid. Authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the new option will help States integrate crisis intervention services into their Medicaid programs to support individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. As described in a press release, while several States have these services in place, ARPA grants CMS new authority to provide States with additional resources and tools to enhance these programs for up to three years. In addition, the Medicaid option will offer flexibility for States to design programs that work for their communities.

### HRSA announces new Administrator, Carole Johnson

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently [announced](#) that Carole Johnson will serve as Administrator of the agency. As described in a press release, Ms. Johnson currently serves as the Testing Coordinator for the White House COVID-19 Response Team and previously served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services where she oversaw Medicaid, food assistance, childcare programs, and mental health and addiction services. Ms. Johnson also served for more than five years as the White House Domestic Policy Council's public health lead in the Obama Administration, which included oversight of HRSA issues. In addition, Ms. Johnson has worked on health care and health policy on Capitol Hill, in academia, and in the non-profit and philanthropy sectors.



### SAMHSA accepting applications for Director of 988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Coordination Office

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for Director of the 988 and Behavioral Health Crisis Coordination Office. The Director will be responsible for providing vision and direction for the Office; assigning and managing 988 team priorities including oversight of federal planning and convening, crisis center operations, public awareness and communications, and broader crisis systems transformation; and reviewing and improving all 988-related documents and publications. SAMHSA is accepting applications until January 20, 2022, and more information can be found [here](#).

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### CDC releases three new research funding opportunities related to SUD

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) announced three new research funding opportunity announcements (FOA) regarding substance use disorders. Applicants for the first [grant program](#) must propose a research project that aims

to better understand and identify risk and protective factors related to polydrug initiation and use and the relationship between polydrug use and overdose, particularly among populations experiencing higher rates of substance use. Applications are due January 12, 2022. The second [grant](#) will support process and outcome evaluations needed to identify effective approaches implemented in the CDC's Overdose Data to Action program. Applications are due February 22, 2022. Finally, the third [grant program](#) will provide funding for research on the role of polydrug use in drug overdoses and to improve the CDC's understanding of risk and protective factors, patterns, and trajectories related to polydrug use. Applications for this grant are due January 7, 2022.

### SAMHSA accepting applications for grants to build 988 capacity

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced a new funding opportunity titled [Cooperative Agreements for States and Territories to Build Local 988 Capacity](#). The purpose of the grant program is to improve State and territory responses to 988 contacts by recruiting, hiring, and training mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) providers to staff local centers; engaging Lifeline crisis centers to unify 988 response across States; and expanding the crisis center staffing and response structure needed for the successful implementation of 988. SAMHSA plans to issue 56 awards for 2 years with one award per State/territory. The anticipated total available funding is \$105 million, and applications are due January 31, 2022.

