

June 24, 2021



D.C. Update: Shalini Wickramatilake leaving NASADAD after 8 years of service, SAMHSA releases new webpage on methamphetamines, and more



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### Meet the Member

**Belinda Greenfield, Ph.D., State Opioid Treatment Authority for State of New York**

Dr. Greenfield is the New York State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) and the Bureau Director of Adult Treatment Services with NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). Belinda is responsible for policy and regulatory oversight of 126 Opioid Treatment Programs, serving over 42,000 patients, and she also oversees special projects to expand/enhance SUD clinical treatment and recovery services. These projects are part of a larger statewide agenda to create a person-centered New York State SUD treatment system that successfully meets all clients' varying treatment needs. She has over 30 years' work experience in both addiction and psychiatric treatment settings. Belinda also serves as an Adjunct Associate Professor at Hunter College, CUNY, teaching graduate counseling students, routinely consults locally and nationally, and also works as a Federal Grant Reviewer.



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### News from NASADAD

**Shalini Wickramatilake leaving NASADAD after 8 years of service**

Shalini Wickramatilake, Associate Director of Federal Relations, is leaving NASADAD after 8 years of exemplary service to the Association. Her last day will

be July 2.



Shalini first came to NASADAD as a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Fellow in 2013. Shalini was then recruited and hired by NASADAD's Research and Program Applications Department where she held a number of responsibilities, including service as liaison to NASADAD's Women's Services Network (WSN) and the State Youth Substance Use Coordinators Committee. From there, Shalini joined NASADAD's Public Policy Department in 2015 as Public Policy Associate. Shalini would go on to serve as Manager of Federal Affairs and most recently Associate Director of Federal Affairs.

Shalini's tenure with the Public Policy Department coincided with some of the most consequential developments in federal policy impacting substance use disorders in general, and State alcohol and drug agencies in particular. This includes passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act, and recent historic investments in the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant. A large part of her portfolio focused on issues impacting pregnant and parenting women. For example, Shalini dedicated time to work related to SAMHSA/CSAT's Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Program and a pilot program authorized in CARA for State alcohol and drug agencies to support family-centered services in non-residential settings. She also spent time on the Regional Partnership Grant within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), along with the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Shalini took part in a number of training opportunities while at NASADAD as well. For example, Shalini participated in SAMHSA's Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute (WASLI) which was housed in SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). In addition, she served as a Visiting Scholar at the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED), an initiative housed at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Additionally, Shalini is currently pursuing her Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree at the Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.

We wish to recognize Shalini for her years of service to NASADAD and wish her success in her new role at [2020 Mom](#), an organization focused on maternal mental health care.

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## Around the Agencies

### [CDC releases new webpages regarding smoking cessation medications](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) released new webpages related to smoking cessation medicines. The webpages are designed to help individuals [choose a smoking cessation medication](#) and to learn [how to use the seven FDA approved medications](#). The webpages give detailed information about each of the cessation medications including pros and cons, side effects, and precautions. It also includes detailed information on how to use each of the medications, as well as information on how to combine cessation medications. The new content also includes a page on the [7 Common Withdrawal Symptoms](#) and ways to manage them.

## SAMHSA releases new webpage on methamphetamines

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released new resources to help reduce substance use disorders

(SUDs) including a new webpage, [Know the Risks of Meth.](#) The webpage includes basic information about methamphetamines, including short- and long-term effects of use, a video about recovering from methamphetamine use disorder, and additional resources for individuals seeking treatment. The webpage also includes relevant resources including methamphetamine facts, overdose death rates, and treatment modalities.

LEARN ABOUT

Methamphetamine



## In the News



### APIS releases new dataset of State alcohol-related laws enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS), a project of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), released [updated resources](#) aimed to help researchers studying the effects of alcohol-related policies adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The resources include an updated Dataset that provides statistical data on selected alcohol-related policies enacted by States in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It also includes an accompanying Codebook that describes variables covered in the Dataset. Additionally, the resources include data on per capita alcohol sales during the pandemic. Coverage is provided for all 50 states and the District of Columbia including exact effective dates.

The Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS), a project of the National Institute on Alcohol

## Webinars to Watch

### SAMHSA to hold webinar on evidence-based treatments for veterans with PTSD

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) GAINS Center will be presenting an upcoming webinar event on Monday, June 28th

from 3:30-5:00 ET. The webinar will discuss how to make the distinction between post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Complex PTSD in Veterans, as well as the best evidenced-based treatments for both. To register for the webinar click [here](#), or for more information about the SAMHSA GAINS Center click [here](#).



### Upcoming SAMHSA webinar to introduce Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Toolkit

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will be hosting a webinar introducing the Medication for Opioid Use Disorder Toolkit, which was developed with funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The Toolkit provides tools and resources for treatment court teams and will assist with making connections to local jails and treatment providers. The webinar will discuss how to ensure access to community-based treatment services and support for drug court participants. The webinar will take place on Tuesday, June 29th, at 2:00pm ET. There will be a subsequent discussion group from 3:00pm to 4:00pm ET. To register for this webinar, click [here](#).

