



D.C. Update: House introduces Resolution acknowledging addiction workforce, SAMHSA releases report on prevention core competencies, and more



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### Meet the Member

#### Hannah Bonsu, Treatment Coordinator for State of South Carolina

Hannah Bonsu, BECE, CPM currently serves as the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services' (DAODAS) Treatment and Recovery Services Division Manager. Ms. Bonsu joined DAODAS in 2002 and for the last nineteen years has provided leadership in various roles while serving on numerous committees and workgroups. Ms. Bonsu's experience includes working as a counselor in the juvenile justice system; facilitating manager over an adolescent program for 17 years; the TANF PAIRS program manager for 15 years; and the Assistant Project Director with the Collaboration for Success. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education and is certified in Business Management from London South Bank University in London, England. Ms. Bonsu is also certified as an NIATx Change Leader and is a Certified Public Manager (CPM).



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### Capitol Hill Happenings

#### House introduces Resolution acknowledging addiction workforce

Representatives Dave Joyce (R-OH) and Tim Ryan (D-OH), Vice Chairs of the Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus, with support from Representatives Bill Johnson (R-OH), David Trone (D-MD), and Paul Tonko (D-NY), recently introduced

[House Resolution 364](#) to recognize the contributions of the addiction professionals workforce. As described in a [press release](#), the bipartisan resolution notes support for the delivery of evidence-based care for substance use disorders (SUD) by acknowledging the contributions of addiction professionals and encourages that recognized credentials reflect the requisite knowledge, training, and competencies for delivering quality, effective SUD counseling services. Congressman Joyce noted “I’m proud to introduce this bipartisan resolution to recognize the role addiction professionals play in successful substance use disorder treatment and counseling. We must continue to do everything in our power to support them and their life-saving work on the front lines of our nation’s addiction crisis.”

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## Around the Agencies

### PREVENTION CORE COMPETENCIES



### [SAMHSA releases report on prevention core competencies](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently published a report titled [Prevention Core Competencies](#). As described in the report, the goal of the project was to strengthen the substance use prevention field by continuing to assist in its professionalization and is intended to serve professionals currently working in the prevention field. The report defines the various competencies, including the development of knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) and their value to the prevention profession. It also includes recommended core

competencies in interdisciplinary foundations, assessment, capacity-building, planning, implementation, and evaluation. Finally, the report includes resources for prevention credentialing, degree programs, and training programs.

### [SAMHSA virtual learning community on MAT in drug courts](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) GAINS Center is hosting a series of webinars and discussion groups focused on the role of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in drug courts. The second webinar of the [Virtual Learning Community](#) will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm-3:00pm ET and will follow with a discussion group from 3:00-4:00pm ET. The webinar, [Overcoming Barriers to Social Integration for Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) Participants](#), will discuss barriers to social integration for individuals on MAT and will outline strategies for overcoming these social barriers. As described on the website, attendees will hear about common barriers related to obtaining housing, employment, and affiliation with social support groups; strategies for working with housing providers, employers, and group facilitators to overcome these barriers; and examples of site-specific implementation strategies.

### **Medication-Assisted Treatment in Drug Courts** **VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY**



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## Research Roundup

### [Study examines opioid prescription claims among women of reproductive age](#)

A [study](#) recently published in the *Journal of Opioid Management* examined opioid prescription claims among women of reproductive age. Researchers estimated the annual percentage of women of reproductive age with private insurance or Medicaid who had opioid prescription claims during 2013-2017. Results of the study indicated that the proportion of women aged 15-44 years with private insurance who had claims for opioid prescriptions decreased by 22.1%. and among women

enrolled in Medicaid, the proportion decreased by 31.5%. Researchers also noted that, while opioid claims decreased for insured women, opioid prescription claims remained common and were more common among women enrolled in Medicaid than those with private insurance.

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## In the News



### National Council for Behavioral Health announces name change

The National Council for Behavioral Health recently announced it has changed its name to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. As described in a [press release](#), the decision was made in response to changes in the fields of mental health and substance use treatment and the need to define more accurately the work of the organization's nearly 3,500 members. National Council for Mental Wellbeing President and CEO

Chuck Ingoglia said, "Not only is the National Council for Mental Wellbeing inclusive of mental health and substance use, our new name boldly states our goal – to make mental wellbeing a reality for everyone. This change also presents an opportunity to align our name with our goal of promoting mental health, recovery from substance use challenges, and equitable access to high-quality care." The organization also released a short video announcing the change, which can be accessed [here](#).