

May 20, 2021



D.C. Update: HHS announces \$1.5 billion in SAPT Block Grant funding stemming from American Rescue Plan Act, NASADAD sends letter in support of Dr. Delphin-Rittmon's confirmation, and more



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Meet the Member

Charley Bartlett, Treatment Coordinator for State of Kansas

Charley Bartlett is the Director of Adult Services for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) / Behavioral Health Services (BHS). His directorship includes the adult programs for mental health services, substance use disorder (SUD) services, housing and homeless services, and problem gambling and gaming services. While working in BHS at KDADS Mr. Bartlett participated in the development and support of Oxford Houses in Kansas and developed training and certification for peer mentors and Persons Centered Case Managers. He continues working towards the development and implementation of infrastructure to support and build the capacity of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care. Mr. Bartlett also serves as the Liaison for the Kansas Governors Behavioral Health Service Planning Council. He has been working for the State of Kansas since 2001 and, prior to that, he was a substance use disorder treatment counselor for 18 years. Mr. Bartlett holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from Kansas State University in Sociology/Corrections and Biology. He has a master's degree in Social Work Administration from the University of Kansas.



News from NASADAD

NASADAD sends letter in support of Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, NASADAD Member from CT, nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use

NASADAD recently sent a [letter](#) to Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Richard Burr (R-NC), Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, in support of the nomination of Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. Since 2015, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has served as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), managing the State's publicly funded substance use and mental health service delivery system. In her role as Commissioner, she has been a member of NASADAD and has served on the Association's Public Policy Committee, providing guidance on federal legislative and regulatory efforts to address addiction. In addition, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon received the NASADAD State Service Award in 2019 for her dedication to effective and equitable substance use services in Connecticut. The letter notes strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Delphin-Rittmon.

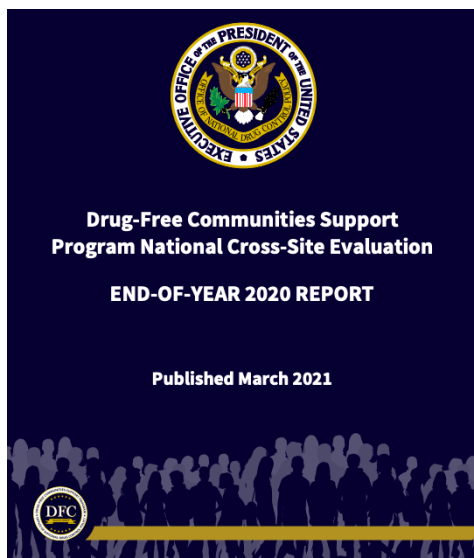


Around the Agencies

HHS announces \$1.5 billion in SAPT Block Grant funding stemming from American Rescue Plan Act and creation of Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

This week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is distributing \$3 billion in funding stemming from the American Rescue Plan Act passed in March. As described in a press release, the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Program and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant Program will each disperse \$1.5 billion to States and territories. To view a list of funding awards by State, click [here](#).

In addition to the release of funds, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the establishment of a new Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (BHCC). Dr. Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health, and Tom Coderre, Acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, will serve as co-chairs of the Council. The BHCC's primary goal is to facilitate collaborative, innovative, transparent, equitable, and action-oriented approaches to addressing the HHS' agenda related to mental health and substance use disorders.



ONDCP releases 2020 report on DFC program

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) recently released their [2020 DFC National Cross-Site Evaluation: End-of-Year Report](#). As described in the report, approximately 1 in 5 Americans were living in a community with a Drug-Free Communities (DFC) coalition in 2020 and the program utilized nearly 30,200 people to engage in youth substance use prevention. In addition, DFC coalitions met the goal of significantly increasing the percentage of middle school and high school youth who chose not to use substances. Data indicated a significant decrease in alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana use since the DFC program's creation in 1997, and an increase in school youth choosing not

to misuse prescription drugs. The report includes background on the DFC program, community context, efforts to build capacity, strategy implementation, findings from an outcome evaluation, DFC coalition efforts during COVID-19, and more.

[SAMHSA to hold webinar series on teleservices in drug court settings](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) GAINS



Center announced an upcoming three-part Virtual Learning Community titled "[The Future of Teleservices in Drug Courts](#)." As described on the website, treatment court practitioners are beginning to contemplate strategic directions for a post-pandemic service model. Part one of the Virtual Learning Community, "Where Are We Now? Recent Developments and Emerging Opportunities," will present a retrospective view of the transition to teleservices, a review of the mounting evidence-base for teleservices in treatment court settings, enhancing best practice standards through the use of teleservices, and results from a nationwide survey of treatment courts. Part one will be held on June 16th from 1:00pm-2:15pm ET and a discussion group will follow from 2:15-3:00pm ET. To register, please click [here](#).

[Department of Treasury releases guidance of use of American Rescue Plan funds and includes SUD as allowable use](#)

The Department of the Treasury recently released [guidance](#) to States on the acceptable uses of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act passed in March. This funding, separate from the dollars allocated to the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, will be released through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The Treasury announced that funding can be used for mental health, substance use, and other treatment services. Prior to the release of guidance, Representatives Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), David McKinley (R-WV), and David Trone (D-MD) sent a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen calling for American Rescue Plan Act funding that provides States and localities the flexibility they need to invest in prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. As described in a [press release](#), they also urged the Treasury Department to recognize the clear, direct link between the spike in drug overdose deaths and the healthcare, economic, and psychological effects of the pandemic.

[Research Roundup](#)

[NIDA Directors publish commentary on importance of patient preference in opioid medication development](#)

Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and Dr. Wilson Compton, Deputy Director of NIDA, recently published a [commentary](#) regarding a new [study](#) on extended-release injections of buprenorphine. As described in a [press release](#), the Australian study found that the extended-release injection of buprenorphine was well-tolerated, acceptable to patients, and produced generally more positive patient-reported outcomes compared to daily oral buprenorphine. The commentary states that patient voices and preferences have often been left out of medication development efforts and that patient preferences and outcomes may serve as an important metric in medication trials. In addition, they note that extended-release formulations may have benefits in settings where patients have difficulty accessing consistent care such as justice settings, populations experiencing homelessness, and in rural communities.

