

November 4, 2021



D.C. Update: NASADAD announces new employee, Mellie Randall; Senate confirms Dr. Rahul Gupta as Director of ONDCP; and more

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Meet the Member

Kasey Strey, Prevention Coordinator for State of Texas

Kasey Strey is an Advanced Certified Prevention Specialist who collaborates locally and nationally to improve the health and well-being of Texans. After spending six years working directly with youth and their communities in the prevention field, she joined the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to provide program oversight to prevention providers statewide. She also serves as the Prevention Lead and subject matter expert for the HHSC Texas Targeted Opioid Response program funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Ms. Strey works diligently to promote prevention across the continuum of care and educates professionals at multiple levels, transforming them into prevention champions. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin from the School of Social Work.



NASADAD Staff Spotlight

Doug Fuller, Associate Director of Research and Program Applications

Douglas Fuller, Ph.D., joined NASADAD in May 2020. He currently works as the National Treatment Network



Team Leader and the Opioid Treatment Network Team Leader, as well as leads other technical assistance and research projects. His experience includes serving as a senior health researcher with over 18 years of experience focused on HIV/AIDS, substance use/disorders, criminal justice, and veteran wellness. Dr. Fuller brings expertise in strategic planning, contract management and acquisition, project budget monitoring, collaborative engagement, technical assistance, and diversity initiatives. He provides deep subject matter expertise in primary and secondary data

for patient reported outcomes, clinician reported outcomes, HIV and hepatitis testing, and access to care for historically vulnerable and underserved populations. He received his doctorate in sociology from Howard University in 2005.

News from NASADAD

NASADAD announces new employee, Mellie Randall

NASADAD is excited to announce our newest employee, Mellie Randall. She comes to NASADAD with over 30 years of experience in state government, having worked at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and served as the Single State Agency Director, National Treatment Network Representative, and Region III Representative on the NASADAD Board of Directors. She managed the administration of the SAPT Block Grant as well as discretionary grants, led collaborative projects across sectors of state government, and participated in several national projects. She also led efforts to establish access to medication assisted treatment (MAT) in rural Virginia and, with the advent of STR funding, implemented MAT in all 40 of Virginia's publicly funded behavioral health organizations. Mellie was an integral part of the team that designed, obtained, and implemented one of the first CMS SUD waivers. Mellie is working part-time with the State Opioid Treatment Authorities and on opioid research and technical assistance projects.



Around the Agencies



Senate confirms Dr. Rahul Gupta as Director of ONDCP

On October 28th, the Senate confirmed Dr. Rahul Gupta as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Dr. Gupta most recently served as the Chief Medical and Health Officer, Interim Chief Science Officer, and Senior Vice President at March of Dimes. As described in a [press](#)

[release](#), Dr. Gupta was a practicing primary care physician for 25 years and also served as the Health Commissioner of West Virginia where he led the State's opioid crisis response efforts including the creation of a Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Birthscore program to identify high-risk infants. Dr. Gupta stated in the press release that "President Biden has made clear that addressing addiction and the overdose epidemic is an urgent priority. As Director, I will diligently work to advance high-quality, data-driven strategies to make our communities healthier and safer."

CDC announces new webpage outlining opportunities for public engagement in chronic pain guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently in the process of

updating the [2016 Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#). As described in an announcement, the update includes several opportunities for community and partner engagement and input. To assist in this process, the CDC released a new [webpage](#) that provides information on sources of input, the process for updating the guidelines, and future opportunities for public input. Sources of input include systemic reviews of new scientific evidence; community engagement on the experiences of patients, caregivers, and clinicians; federal advisory committee and federal partner engagement; peer review by external subject matter experts; and public comment. The CDC anticipates that the draft updated guidelines will be posted in the Federal Register for a 60-day public comment period in early 2022.

CDC launches new education campaigns on preventing overdose deaths

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently launched four new education campaigns aimed at preventing drug overdose deaths in young adults aged 18-34 years. As described in a [press release](#), the campaigns provide information about the prevalence and dangers of fentanyl, the risks and consequences of mixing drugs, the power of naloxone, and the importance of reducing stigma around drug use to support treatment and recovery. The CDC developed the campaigns by speaking directly with young adults who reported using drugs and with peer recovery professionals.



In the News



New policy brief on addressing methamphetamine use

Carnevale Associates recently released a new policy brief titled "[Addressing the Methamphetamine Crisis Before it Gets Worse](#)." The brief includes recent data on the

rise in methamphetamine use and overdose deaths, factors contributing to increases in use, and recommendations for policymakers based on successful elements used during the opioid crisis. Recommendations include adopting and expanding opioid interventions with crossover potential; expanding research on evidence-based services for methamphetamine use; and expanding access and availability to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery supports such as contingency management and the matrix model.