

October 22, 2021



D.C. Update: Senate Appropriations Committee releases L-HHS bill report, SAMHSA releases new publication on preventing marijuana use among youth, and more

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## Meet the Member

### Claudia Zundel, Prevention Coordinator for State of Colorado

Claudia Zundel, MSW serves as the Director of Community Prevention and Early Intervention for the Office of Behavioral Health at Colorado Department of Human Services. Ms. Zundel has a 25+ year career at the Colorado Department of Human Services but is known for her innovation and acting as a catalyst to initiate new projects. She was the Principal Investigator for a grant administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) called the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their families commonly known as Systems of Care. She previously served as the Director of Child, Adolescent and Family Services at the Office of Behavioral Health, Cross System Project Manager, Director of Early Childhood Mental Health and Family Center Director. Early in her Colorado career she worked in Governor Romer's office in Communities for a Drug Free Colorado where she first was introduced to substance use prevention.



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## News from NASADAD

[Mark Stringer, former President on NASADAD Board,](#)



#### announces retirement

Mark Stringer, Director of the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH), recently [announced](#) his plans to retire on January 1, 2022. As described in the announcement, Mr. Stringer has been a dedicated public servant to thousands of Missourians with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders (SUD) over the past 34 years. During his time with DMH, Mr. Stringer led efforts to integrate physical health care with mental health and SUD's, expanded medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and was responsible for programming to address the opioid crisis and increase recovery support services. Mr. Stringer was an active NASADAD member and served as President

on the Board of Directors for two terms. He also held several other positions on the Board throughout his tenure and served as Chair of the Association's Public Policy Committee. Mr. Stringer is also the recipient of numerous awards including the NASADAD Service Award and National Treatment Network (NTN) Champion Award.

#### NASADAD sends letter in support of Post-Disaster Mental Health Recovery Act

NASADAD recently sent a [letter](#) to Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) expressing support for the Post-Disaster Mental Health Recovery Act. This legislation would allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP) grants to be issued during all Emergency Disaster Declarations. CCP grants are made available to States and implemented by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Funding supports community-based outreach, short-term counseling, and other services to survivors of disasters. Presently, CCP grants are only made available to States and localities during a Major Disaster Declaration.

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### Capitol Hill Happenings

#### Senate Appropriations Committee releases L-HHS bill report

On Monday, the Senate Appropriations Committee, led by Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL), released the report to accompany the FY 2022 (Oct. 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022) Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The bill includes funding for all HHS programs, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

A full overview of the Senate Appropriations Committee's recommendations can be found [here](#), and below are some of the highlights:

- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant:** \$3.008 billion (+\$1.15 billion compared to FY 2021)
- **State Opioid Response (SOR) grant program:** \$2 billion (+\$500 million compared to FY 2021)
- **Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT):** \$643 million (+\$146 million compared to FY 2021)
  - **MAT for Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA):** \$136.5 million (+\$45.5 million)
  - **Drug Courts:** \$95 million (+\$25 million)
  - **Pregnant & Postpartum Women:** \$49 million (+\$16 million)
  - **SBIRT:** \$30.5 million (+\$560,000)
  - **Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR):** \$20 million (+\$10 million)
- **Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP):** \$245 million, an increase of \$37 million above FY 2021 level
  - **SPF-PFS:** \$148.8 million (+\$29.3 million)
  - **Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking:** \$15 million (+\$5 million)
  - **Tribal Behavioral Health Grants:** \$21.1 million (+\$415,000)
- **Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS):**
  - **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant:** \$1.582 billion (+\$825

The Appropriations Committee's bill and accompanying report can be found [here](#).

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## Around the Agencies

### [SAMHSA releases new publication on preventing marijuana use among youth](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a new [publication](#) titled "Prevention Marijuana Use Among Youth." The purpose of the guide is to review the literature on prevention of marijuana use among youth, provide recommendations, and examples of those recommendations. The guide includes an issue brief on current approaches; current evidence on the effectiveness of prevention strategies; guidance for selecting and implementing evidence-based policies and programs; examples of interventions for preventing marijuana use; and resources for evaluation and quality improvement.

EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCE GUIDE SERIES

#### **Preventing Marijuana Use Among Youth**



### [CDC adds SUD's and mental health disorders to list of medical conditions associated with severe COVID-19](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their [list](#) of underlying medical conditions associated with higher risk for severe COVID-19. SAMHSA noted that the list now includes substance use disorders and mental health disorders limited to mood disorders such as depression and schizophrenia spectrum disorders. The CDC recommends a COVID-19 booster shot to individuals with these conditions who are fully vaccinated.

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## Research Roundup

### [NIDA study finds decrease in buprenorphine misuse](#)

A [study](#) from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) examined buprenorphine misuse among people with opioid use disorders (OUD). Data collected from a survey indicated that nearly three-fourths of adults reporting buprenorphine use did not misuse the medication in the past 12 months. In addition, buprenorphine misuse decreased between 2015 and 2019 despite increases in the number of individuals receiving buprenorphine treatment. As described in a [press release](#) from NIDA, among adults using buprenorphine, those receiving treatment services were less likely to misuse the medication than those not receiving treatment services. NIDA Director, Dr. Nora Volkow, noted that the "study provides further evidence to support the need for expanded access to proven treatment approaches, such as buprenorphine therapy, despite the remaining stigma and prejudice that remains for people with addiction and the medications used to treat it."

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