

September 16, 2021



D.C. Update: SAMHSA awards over \$123 million for six grant programs, NIDA to hold meeting on prevention research, and more

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## Meet the Member

### Phil Hall, State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for State of Arkansas

Phil Hall initially entered the substance use disorder field in 1988, serving as a Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor while in the United States Navy in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Upon moving to Arkansas after his retirement, he joined the team at Little Rock Community Mental Health Center and then transitioned to serve as the Field Auditor for the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (BADAP). Mr. Hall then became a Research Project Analyst for the TOPPS II Project, an eight-state consortium that focused on outcome measures. This team was instrumental in developing the Addiction Screening Assessment and Monitoring Instrument (ASAMI), an assessment tool still used by treatment centers in Arkansas today. Mr. Hall has served in his current role as State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) since 2006 and has made a significant impact upon the substance misuse field. He is often sought out by SOTAs from other States for his knowledge and experience in providing guidance to the opioid treatment programs. Mr. Hull previously served on the Arkansas Substance Abuse Certification Board in an advisory capacity for ten years.



## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA awards over \$123 million for six grant programs

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced more than \$123 million in funding through six grant programs

to address substance use disorders (SUD) and the opioid crisis. SAMHSA is awarding funding for the following grant programs: [Medication Assisted Treatment for Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction](#) (MAT-PDOA); [Tribal Opioid Response](#) (TOR) grants; [Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment](#) (SBIRT); [Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs](#) (SPF Rx); [First Responder-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grants](#) (FR-CARA); and [Providers Clinical Support System – Universities](#) (PCSS-Universities). Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, noted that the “funding will strengthen the full continuum of care for those battling addiction, and enhance health care providers’ depth of knowledge and best practices.”

### [CMS to require vaccination for staff within Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [announced](#) that the Biden-Harris Administration will require COVID-19 vaccinations for staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities. Prior emergency regulations requiring vaccinations for nursing home workers will be expanded to include hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, and home health agencies, among others. CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure noted that current data shows “that the higher the level of vaccination rates among providers and staff, the lower the infection rate is among patients who are dependent on them for care.” CMS is in the process of developing an Interim Final Rule with a comment period that will be issued in October.

### [DEA announces virtual Red Ribbon Rally](#)

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced its annual [National Red Ribbon Rally](#) which will premiere virtually on October 5<sup>th</sup>. As described in the invitation, young people in communities and schools across the country pledge to live drug free by wearing red ribbons and participating in substance use prevention events throughout the month of October. This year’s Red Ribbon Rally will feature voices from the community and special guests who represent diverse experiences and perspectives on drug use prevention. In addition, the event will recognize the elementary, middle, and high school winners of the DEA’s Red Ribbon Visual Arts Contest and announce the community groups selected to receive DEA’s 2021 Community Drug Prevention Award.



## In the News



### [NGA releases policy brief on State collaboration to address SUD in justice-involved populations](#)

Yesterday, the National Governors Association (NGA) released a policy brief titled “[Lessons Learned in State Collaboration to Address Substance Use Disorder and Justice-Involved Individuals](#).” The brief follows a listening session, held in July 2021, that was developed in collaboration with NASADAD. As described in the brief, senior officials from single state agencies (SSAs) and state administering agencies (SAAs) in three States shared their successes, lessons learned, and challenges in addressing substance use disorders (SUD) within justice-involved population. The policy brief highlights lessons learned from collaborative efforts, challenges in facilitating

coordination, best practices among current approaches, and considerations for States and territories.



## Webinars to Watch

### NIDA to hold meeting on prevention research

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announced an upcoming meeting titled "Enhancing Prevention Research Related to Substance Use and Addiction: Identifying Research Gaps and Opportunities with ABCD Study Data." As described in the announcement, the meeting will connect the fields of epidemiology, developmental neuroscience, and prevention to improve the integration of [Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development](#) (ABCD) study findings in prevention intervention research. The goal of the meeting is to stimulate data analyses that would lead to the development of targeted prevention intervention research. The first meeting will focus on trauma and self-regulation and their roles in substance use initiation. The meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm to 4:00pm EST and registration can be found [here](#).



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