

May 20, 2022



D.C. Update: State Opioid Response Grant Funding Opportunity, SAMHSA Recovery Innovation Challenge, and More

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## Meet the Member

**Sarah Mariani, Certified Prevention Professional, Section Manager, Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Promotion Section, Washington State Health Care Authority, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery**



Sarah Mariani is currently the Section Manager overseeing substance use prevention and mental health promotion services for the Washington State Health Care Authority, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. Sarah is the co-chair for the State Prevention Enhancement Policy Consortium that oversees the State's five-year Strategic Plan for Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Mental Health Promotion. Additionally, in this role she also serves as Washington State's National Prevention Network (NPN) representative and is the NPN President. Sarah also serves on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Member, National Advisory Council. Prior to joining the State, she was the Executive Director for the county program to prevent youth violence and substance abuse. Sarah has worked in prevention for over twenty years including coalition-building, strategic planning, and training. Sarah began working for the State of Washington in 2006 and has contributed to the development of multiple substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion initiatives for the State. Including the development of the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative model and as part of her work to support workforce development, Sarah created the first of its kind, Washington State online professional development platform which includes interactive

## Capitol Hill Happenings

### Bipartisan Group of Senators Introduce Legislation to Deter Counterfeit Pills Laced with Fentanyl and Methamphetamine

Last week, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced the [Stop Pills That Kill Act \(S.4151\)](#), that would expand existing penalties for possessing paraphernalia used to manufacture methamphetamine to also apply to possessing paraphernalia used to make counterfeit pills that contain methamphetamine, fentanyl, and fentanyl analogues. U.S. Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced the bipartisan bill to challenge the surge in counterfeit pills. The full press release can be found [here](#).

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## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA Announces State Opioid Response Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) recently published the [State Opioid Response \(SOR\) Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#). The SOR program intends to address the opioid overdose crisis by providing resources to States and territories to support prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services for opioid use disorder (OUD). The SOR program also supports the continuum of care for stimulant misuse and use disorders, including for cocaine and methamphetamine.

The application deadline is Monday, July 18, 2022, with an anticipated total available funding of \$1,439,500,000. Eligibility is limited to Single State Agencies (SSAs) and territories. The notice of funding opportunity can be found [here](#).



### HHS Releases Viral Hepatitis Federal Implementation Plan

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released the [Viral Hepatitis Federal Implementation Plan](#) outlining federal partners' commitments to eliminating the threat of viral hepatitis in the United States by 2030. The plan provides a framework of policies, research, and activities that federal partners commit to implementing through 2025 to the goals of the [Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for the United States](#). These intend to guide federal and non-federal stakeholders in developing their policies and programs to eliminate viral hepatitis.

## VIRAL HEPATITIS

Federal Implementation Plan  
for the United States | 2021-2025



### SAMHSA Funding Opportunity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Behavioral Health Center of Excellence

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently [announced](#) a five-year, nearly \$3.5 million grant opportunity to develop a Center of Excellence for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities aimed at reducing substance use and mental health-related disparities. [The AANHPI Behavioral Health Center of Excellence's](#) priorities are to:



- “Promote culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health information and practices;
- establish a steering committee to identify emerging issues; and
- provide training, technical assistance, and consultation to practitioners, educators, and community organizations.”

The Center of Excellence will also develop public-facing infographics and other materials on the mental health impacts of the bias against AANHPI communities and best practices for improving engagement and retention of mental health and behavioral health professionals to advance the [HHS Equity Action Plan](#).

## SAMHSA Announces the Recovery Innovation Challenge



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is launching the [Recovery Innovation Challenge](#). The challenge intends to identify practices developed by peer-run or community-based organizations and the entities they partner with, such as local or State governments and health systems, that promote recovery services. As part of this challenge, participants are encouraged to share details about the practices they are using to advance recovery. In particular, SAMHSA aims to learn the following:

- What challenges have you experienced in advancing recovery in your organization, or, in your local or State systems?
- How are you advancing recovery in your organization, or, in your local or State systems? What innovations have you developed to advance recovery?
- How do you know your efforts are working? How do you measure your success?

SAMHSA recently established an [Office of Recovery](#) to serve as a national clearinghouse and resource for recovery services across the mental health, substance use, and co-occurring domains to promote recovery by working in partnership with recovery community leaders.

The challenge offers up to 10 awards, with a prize of up to \$400,000. Deadline for submission is July 15, 2022.

## SAMHSA Hiring for Office of Recovery, Office of Assistant Secretary



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hiring for several job openings in its new [Office of Recovery](#), including Supervisory Public Health Analysts, Director, and Deputy Director, open until May 31, 2022, and a Statistician, open until May 26, 2022. See the openings and announcements below:

### Director, GS-0685-15

Delegated Examining (DE): [HHS-SAMHSA-DE-22-11461923](#)

Merit Promotion (MP): [HHS-SAMHSA-MP-22-11461924](#)

### Deputy Director, GS-0685-15

Delegated Examining (DE): [HHS-SAMHSA-DE-22-11486358](#)

Merit Promotion (MP): [HHS-SAMHSA-MP-22-11486357](#)

### Statistician (Health), GS-1530-13

Delegated Examining (DE): [HHS-SAMHSA-DE-22-11493497](#)

Merit Promotion (MP): [HHS-SAMHSA-MP-22-11493499](#)

[Additional positions](#) will open in the coming weeks.

