

July 1, 2022



[D.C. Update: House Appropriations Markup, DEA Inaugural Family Summit, GAO Observations on 2022 National Drug Control Strategy, New CDC Trainings, and More](#)

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## Meet the Member

### Marlies Perez, Division Chief, California Department of Health Care Services

Marlies Perez has been a Division Chief with the California Department of Health Care Services since May 2013 and at the State level since 2001. Currently, Ms. Perez leads the Community Services Division (CSD), which is charged with policy development, oversight, compliance, and monitoring of the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP), Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP), and Children's Therapeutic Care Programs. Additionally, CSD administers several grants through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), including the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT), Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, and Behavioral Health Response and Rescue Project. Ms. Perez has a bachelor's degree in international relations and a master's degree in organizational management. When Ms. Perez is not working, she enjoys camping, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.



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## Capitol Hill Happenings

[House Appropriations Committee Markup on FY 2023 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations](#)

## Bills

The House Appropriations Committee held a markup on June 30, 2022, on the [Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bills and Revised Report on the Subcommittee Allocations](#). The bill provides \$242.1 billion in funding for the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Labor (DOL), and Department of Education (DOE) with funding for several NASADAD priority programs. The Committee report can be found in full [here](#), and a recording of the hearing [here](#).

## Around the Agencies

### DEA Inaugural Family Summit on the Overdose Epidemic

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) held the first-ever [DEA Family Summit on the Overdose Epidemic](#) on June 14 and 15 for families who lost a child from a drug overdose. The Family Summit aims to reverse the overdose epidemic by bringing together partners, families, and community groups working to decrease overdose deaths to raise awareness of the severe drug threats facing U.S. communities. The families and DEA were joined by the Department of Justice (DOJ), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Education (DOE), and Partnership to End Addiction to discuss the scope of current drug threats, how they can further amplify community prevention efforts, and areas for collaboration. In addition, the Summit offered various opportunities for families to share their stories, engage in discussion, and explore awareness and prevention resources offered by DEA.



### GAO: Preliminary Observations on the 2022 National Drug Control Strategy

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released their [Preliminary Observations on the Office of National Drug Control Policy's \(ONDCP\) 2022 National Drug Control Strategy](#). Federal efforts to prevent, respond, and recover from drug misuse made GAO's 2021 High-Risk Update, which notes the Strategy's centrality in reducing drug overdose deaths. GAO reports that federal drug control efforts aim to reduce illegal drug supply and demand by promoting prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services, as well as interdiction, international operations, and law enforcement efforts. The preliminary review found that ONDCP had annual quantifiable and measurable objectives and specific targets for quantifiable long-term goals but was unable to discern if they addressed statutorily required information on performance evaluation planning, estimates of resources needed for its goals, and a systematic plan for increasing data collection. This is, in part, because the Strategy refers to this information in documents that are not yet available. ONDCP may conclude this information in accompanying National Drug Control Strategy documents it plans to release later this year.



The Highlights Page for the report can be found [here](#), and the full report [here](#).

### HRSA Releases Area Health Resources Files Diversity Dashboard

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) recently released the [Area Health Resources Files \(AHRF\) Diversity Dashboard](#), containing updated data on the diversity of the U.S. health workforce. The dashboard allows users to interact with detailed demographic information from the county, State, and national levels for nearly 40 healthcare occupations. AHRF provides data on health care professions, health facilities, population characteristics, economics, health professions training, hospital utilization, hospital expenditures, and environment. More



information on how to use the dashboard can be found [here](#).

## HHS Releases Guidance on Audio-Only Telehealth Services Under HIPAA Privacy Rules

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released guidance on how health care providers and health plans can deliver audio-only telehealth services consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1998's (HIPAA) privacy requirements. Audio telehealth has become vital since the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for patients in rural communities, individuals with disabilities, and those seeking convenient remote options who are unable to access physical medical services or communication technologies used for audio-video telehealth. The official guidance and FAQs can be found [here](#).



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## Training Time

### CDC Releases New Training and Resources to Promote the Importance of Naloxone

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a [suite of training and resources](#) promoting the importance of naloxone as a critical component for combating the opioid overdose epidemic. The suite aims to mitigate the risks associated with opioid overdose, increase naloxone dispensing across the U.S., and reduce the stigma surrounding naloxone in clinical settings. Naloxone training is offered as a full module or as separate mini-modules and patient cases. Clinicians are eligible to earn continuing education (CE) credits after completing the full module.



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## Webinars to Watch

### COSSAP Webinar: Supporting Native Fathers Struggling with Addiction

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) and the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical College are hosting a [webinar](#) on strategies for supporting fathers with a substance use disorders (SUD) in Native communities. This no cost-webinar will be offered on July 21, 2022, at 1:00 pm (ET). The webinar will cover the importance of investing in fatherhood programs, best practices and resources available for developing them, and the need to improve SUD recovery services in high-risk Native communities.

