

November 10, 2022



**D.C. Update: New NASADAD Fact Sheet on President Biden's Marijuana Proclamation, SAMHSA Announces Release of Interim Strategic Plan, CDC Releases Updated Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain, and More**

Visit our Website



---

## Meet the Member

### **Corine Stancil, State Opioid Treatment Authority for Florida, Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

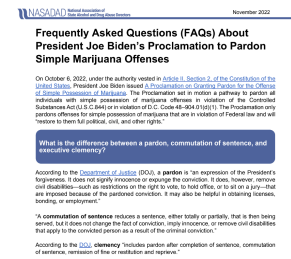
Corine Stancil serves as the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for the State of Florida. Stancil has worked in this capacity since 2015. During Stancil's time with DCF, the number of Methadone Medication-Assisted Treatment Programs have increased tremendously. The Department is currently in the process of overseeing 42 methadone clinics complete the licensure process, as a result of the 2018/2019 Methadone Medication-Assisted Treatment Needs Assessment. Additionally, she has been able to collaborate with key staff and partners to promulgate stare rule which enhances quality of care while increasing ease and access to treatment services. Stancil enjoys working with State and national partners to create and implement innovative strategies which increase access to care for individuals in rural areas and correctional facilities.



Prior to her current work, Stancil worked with the Florida Department of Health in the areas of HIV/AIDS, Women's Health, and Chronic Disease.

Stancil holds a Masters of Public Health, with a focus on Behavioral Health, from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Stancil serves as the Alternate for Region IV, Opioid Treatment Network (OTN) Executive Committee with NASADAD.

## New NASADAD Fact Sheet: FAQs About President Joe Biden's Proclamation to Pardon Simple Marijuana Offenses



On October 6, 2022, President Joe Biden issued [A Proclamation on Granting Pardon for the Offense of Simple Possession of Marijuana](#). The Proclamation set in motion a pathway to pardon all individuals with simple possession of marijuana offenses in violation of the Controlled Substances Act (U.S.C.844) or in violation of D.C. Code 48-904.01(d)(1). In response, NASADAD developed a fact sheet for State alcohol and drug agencies, *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About President Joe Biden's Proclamation to Pardon Simple Marijuana Offenses*, that explores answers to common questions around the timeline for pardons, what does receiving a presidential pardon entail, who does this proclamation apply to, and more.

The Fact Sheet can be accessed on our webpage [here](#).

## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA Announces Release of Interim Strategic Plan

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the release of the [Interim Strategic Plan \(ISP\)](#). According to SAMHSA, the ISP seeks to present a more person-centered strategy to achieving SAMHSA's objectives and details the agency's priorities and guiding principles. SAMHSA is releasing the ISP as a first step for a full four-year Strategic Plan it will later release for 2023-2026 and is seeking the public's feedback to ensure the Plan is responsive and inclusive.

The Interim Strategic Plan can be downloaded [here](#).

### CMS Finalizes Physician Payment Rule Expanding Medicare Coverage to Include Opioid Treatment and Recovery Services via Telehealth



The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced the [Calendar Year 2023 Physician Fee Schedule \(PFS\) Final Rule](#), which included provisions designed to boost access to mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services, including expanded Medicare coverage for opioid treatment and recovery services. CMS noted the Rule makes it easier for Medicare beneficiaries to receive mental health or SUD services by allowing mental health and SUD clinicians to offer services under general rather than direct supervision of the Medicare practitioner. CMS also noted the PFS Rule clarifies that Medicare will cover opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment and recovery services delivered through mobile units and telehealth, including programs that initiate treatments with buprenorphine using telehealth. The Final Rule, according to CMS, also addresses pricing by increasing payments for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and other OUD treatments by changing the rate from a 30-minute session to a 45-minute session.

CMS will also provide a new monthly payment for comprehensive treatment and management services for those with chronic pain and is finalizing policies to reimburse clinical psychologists and licensed clinical social workers to furnish integrated mental health and SUD health care as part of a patient's primary care team.

### HRSA Celebrating National Rural Health Day



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is celebrating [National Rural Health Day](#) on Thursday, November 17th, 2022, with the theme of "Advancing Behavioral Health Equity in Rural Communities." National Rural Health Day celebrates the "power of rural" by highlighting the unique health care challenges rural individuals face and how HRSA's

programs and policies help reduce health care disparities in rural communities. HRSA will host a leadership panel with various Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) leaders, including a discussion with HRSA administrator Carole Johnson, about the initiatives the federal government is taking to increase mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) health equity in rural communities.

HRSA will host virtual events each day that week leading up to the celebration on best practices from their grantees' work in strengthening mental health and SUD services in rural communities.

A schedule of the virtual events can be found [here](#).

## CDC Releases Updated Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the [CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain - United States, 2022](#). This report updates [clinical practice guidelines from 2016](#) for clinicians providing pain care for outpatients aged 18 and up, including those that prescribe opioids, and provides recommendations for managing acute, subacute, and chronic pain. The guidance aims to improve communication among clinicians and patients about the benefits and risks of pain treatments, especially opioid therapy, bolster the effectiveness and safety of pain treatment, improve quality of life for pain patients, and lower risks associated with opioid pain therapy, including opioid use disorder (OUD) and overdose. The guideline addresses the following areas:

- “determining whether or not to initiate opioids for pain
- selecting opioids and determining opioid dosages
- deciding duration of initial opioid prescription and conducting follow-up, and
- assessing risk and addressing potential harms of opioid use.”

In a change from the 2016 guidelines, CDC no longer recommends three-day limits on opioid treatments for acute pain and instead supports individualized patient care. The 2022 guidelines also recommend providers consider the benefits and risks of starting, increasing, and stopping opioid treatments to prevent patients' harm, offer additional options for treating acute pain, and provide guidance for providers on opioid tapering.

## SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You." Campaign Launches New SUD Screening Tool



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently launched a new substance use disorder (SUD) screening tool, [Screen4Success](#), designed to help parents better understand their children's health and find resources and support to address their needs. This screening tool is part of [SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You."® national prevention campaign](#), which promotes evidence-based prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce risks and harms associated with mental health and SUD in youths. Screen4Success asks questions about substance use, mental and physical health, general wellbeing, and family life, and then provides resources based on areas identified where participants may benefit from additional support.

Screen4Success is available on mobile devices through the ["Talk. They Hear You." campaign mobile app](#) and will be continuously updated to help users find relevant resources in their area.

## NACCHO Launches New SPACECAT Resource Addressing the Intersection of Suicide, Overdose, and ACEs

The National Association of Country and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recently launched the [Suicide, Overdose, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Capacity Assessment Tool \(SPACECAT\) Quick Start Guide](#) and the [SPACECAT Toolkit](#). SPACECAT was created in 2021 to assess local, State, and territorial health departments' capacity to address suicide, overdose, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The Quick Start Guide provides guidance to help local health departments (LHD) translate the results from

their SPACECAT into public health action to prevent or mitigate ACEs. The Guide aims to induce a multi-step process of environmental scanning, visioning, and action planning and contains exercises at each step. The web-based Toolkit adds to the Guide to provide data and guidance on strengthening LHD capacity in each of SPACECAT's key domains. Each section includes key takeaways, tip sheets, and links to relevant resources.

While intended for LHDs, these SPACECAT resources can be used to help any entity implement an action plan to strengthen their capacity for suicide, overdose, and ACEs prevention. More information about SPACECAT and its resources can be found [here](#).

## CoE-PHI Resource: Privacy Protections for Deceased Patients



The Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) released a new resource on [Privacy Protections for Deceased Patients](#) under [42 CFR Part 2](#). The resource highlights the key privacy protections for deceased patients' substance use disorder (SUD) treatment records under 42 CFR Part 2 and how those protections effect similar provisions in the [HIPAA Privacy Rule](#). The key points are:

1. "Both HIPAA and Part 2 generally protect the privacy of individuals after their death to the same extent as during their life.
2. Part 2 permits disclosures of information identifying a deceased patient as seeking or receiving treatment for substance use with written consent, including with a special consent provision for deceased patients.
3. A deceased patient's Part 2 records may be released without consent in limited circumstances."

The new resource can be downloaded [here](#).

---

## Research Roundup

### Report Reveals Depictions of People with Alcohol Use Disorder in U.S. Newspapers

The Drinking Report for Addiction Medicine (DRAM) recently released a report about [Depictions of People with Alcohol Use Disorder \(AUD\) in U.S. Newspapers](#) based on a [study](#) that reviewed how U.S. news articles discuss individuals with AUD and propose solutions to AUD published in the journal *Health Communication*. The report analyzed 339 U.S. news articles and found that:

- 72% of news articles focused on individuals with AUD, rather than AUD in general
  - Of those news articles, 62.7% depicted individuals as being involved in criminal or illegal activity
  - Another 31% of those news articles focused on treatment
- 60% of news articles posed a solution to AUD
  - 63.9% of those news articles proposed a law enforcement solution
  - Another 40.1% of those news articles proposed a treatment solution, and
  - The last 15.8% of those news articles proposed a prevention solution
- Articles posing punitive solutions to AUD were shared and viewed significantly more times than those posing solutions related to prevention, treatment, or recovery services

The report concludes that news articles perpetuate stigma toward people with AUD by favoring legal action as the solution and focusing on people with AUD engaging in criminal behavior.

---

## Webinars to Watch

### SAMHSA Public Listening Session for CCBHC Criteria Update

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting a



[public listening session](#) sharing updates on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Certification Criteria. This listening session is open to the public and will be held on November 17, 2022, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (ET). In addition to describing the updated CCBHC criteria, the listening session will provide recommendations for how CCBHC providers can comply with the new standards. Registration is required.

NASADAD | 202-293-0090 | [nasadad.org](http://nasadad.org)