

January 13, 2023



D.C. Update: New NASADAD Fact Sheet, ONDCP Report on Substance Use Treatment in Correctional Settings, Public Health Emergency Extensions, and More.

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Meet the Member

Dr. Kenneth Zoucha, SOTA for Nebraska, Director of Addiction Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, University of Nebraska Medical Center



Dr. Kenneth Zoucha is a recognized leader in addiction medicine for the State of Nebraska and serves as Director of Addiction Medicine for the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Board certified in Pediatrics and Addiction Medicine, Dr. Zoucha has extensive experience that includes his 20-year career as a general pediatrician in Nebraska and now specializes in the treatment of substance use disorders in adolescents. In addition to his expertise in treatment of adolescents and young adults, he also has a special interest in the treatment of pregnant women with substance use disorders, babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome and their families. He has served as medical director for several adolescent secure care placement facilities throughout the state, serving youth with a broad array of experiences, backgrounds, and trauma operated by the State of Nebraska. He continues to treat youth in the justice system through his work with juvenile probation at the Douglas County Youth Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

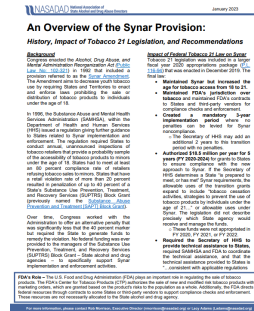
Dr. Zoucha is a clinical educator of medical students, residents, and other health care providers. Responding to the escalating national need, he championed the establishment of an Addiction Medicine fellowship at UNMC. He also led the development of an innovative executive addiction fellowship, featuring one-month immersive experiences

for residents and providers already in practice. Dr. Zoucha also serves as the Nebraska State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA), being involved with opioid use disorder treatment throughout the state, both in the Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP's) as well as other treatment centers and medical clinics throughout the state of Nebraska.

NASADAD News

New Fact Sheet: An Overview of the Synar Provision: History, Impact of Tobacco 21 Legislation, and Recommendations

NASADAD is pleased to share a new fact sheet on [An Overview of the Synar Provision: History, Impact of Tobacco 21 Legislation, and Recommendations](#). This updated fact sheet includes the federal revisions to guidance that occurred between 2020-2022 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Congress enacted the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Administration Reorganization Act (Public Law No: 102-321) in 1992 that included a provision referred to as the Synar Amendment. The Amendment aims to decrease youth tobacco use by requiring States and Territories to enact and enforce laws prohibiting the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 18.

In 1996, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a regulation giving further guidance to States related to Synar implementation and enforcement. The regulation required States to conduct annual, unannounced inspections of tobacco retailers that provide a probability sample of the accessibility of tobacco products to minors under the age of 18. States had to meet at least an 80 percent compliance rate of retailers refusing tobacco sales to minors. States that had a retail violation rate of more than 20 percent resulted in penalization of up to 40 percent of a State's Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant (previously named the [Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment \[SAPT\] Block Grant](#)). Over time, Congress added through the appropriations process other options beyond the large penalty to the SUPTRS Block Grant. More permanent revisions to the penalty were ultimately made in Tobacco 21 legislation.

To learn more, download the fact sheet [here](#).

White House Happenings

Biden-Harris Administration Announces All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Last month, the Biden-Harris Administration announced [All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), with the goal of reducing homelessness in America 25% by 2025. This Federal Plan, developed by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) in collaboration with 19 federal agencies that make up the USICH Council, is designed to systematically prevent homelessness and eliminate the systemic racism driving disparities in homelessness. All In aims to serve as an alternative to criminalization by providing a multi-year, interagency roadmap for systems and policies to address homelessness. The Plan was developed with public input from more than 1,500 online comments and more than 80 listening sessions that included more than 500 people who have experienced homelessness as well as providers, elected officials, advocates, developers, and other partners from nearly 650 communities, tribes, and territories.

All In is built around six pillars: three foundations- equity, data and evidence, and collaboration- and three solutions- housing and supports, crisis response, and prevention, with strategies and actions within each pillar that will be updated annually

to reflect progress. In particular, the Plan aims to:

- “Urgently address the basic needs of people in crisis;
- Expand the supply of and access to affordable housing and high-quality support;
- Build better systems to prevent people from losing their home in the first place;
- Collaborate across sectors, systems, and jurisdictions;
- Rely on data and evidence that show what works; and
- Include people who have experienced homelessness in the policymaking process to dismantle systems that create disparities.”

The federal agencies that make up USICH will work with select state and local governments to accelerate the implementation of strategies. USICH will also host webinars starting in January 2023 to help partners and communities use All In to develop local and systems-levels plans.

The Biden-Harris Administration’s press release announcing the plan can be found [here](#).

The Federal Strategic Plan can be downloaded in full [here](#).

ONDCP Releases Report on Substance Use Treatment in Correctional Settings

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) recently released the [Performance Measures for Medication-assisted Treatment in Correctional Settings](#) report. The report, authored by the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPRA) and Rulo Strategies, offers professionals working with correctional institutions a performance management framework for monitoring medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD) in correctional settings. The report outlines twelve performance measures for assessing corrections-based MAT, covering both process and outcomes measures to track key activities and their impacts. The report suggests measures for practitioners that include rates of OUD, referrals to MAT, rearrests, and fatal overdoses, among others.



The White House press release on the report can be found [here](#).

The report can be read in full [here](#).

State Spotlight

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Signs Executive Order to Create New Mental Health Insurance Office

On January 8th, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued [Executive Order 2023-04D](#), creating the [Ohio Mental Health Insurance Assistance Office](#) in the Ohio Department of Insurance. The Ohio Mental Health Insurance Assistance Office is Ohio’s official resource to ensure compliance and develop best practices for providing mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) insurance benefits. The Office aims to help consumers, mental health advocates, mental health and SUD providers, employers, first responders, and other stakeholders understand their mental health and SUD insurance benefits to ensure access to treatment. Specifically, the Office strives to:

- “Help Ohioans identify and utilize their mental health and addiction insurance benefits.
- Provide consumer protection through education and vigilant regulation of insurers’ compliance with mental health and addiction parity insurance laws.
- Work collaboratively with employers, insurers, healthcare providers, and patient advocacy organizations to develop best practice standards for providing mental health and addiction insurance benefits.”

The Single State Agency (SSA) Director for Ohio is Lori Criss, who serves as Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and is a NASADAD Board of

Around the Agencies

Opioid Public Health Emergency Extension

On December 22, Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), renewed the [Opioid public health emergency declaration](#).

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Extension

On January 11, Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), renewed the [COVID-19 public health emergency declaration](#).

HRSA Funding Opportunity: Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently [announced](#) a \$500,000 per year grant opportunity to tackle neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in rural communities through its [Rural Communities Opioid Response Program \(RCORP\)](#). HRSA will provide approximately 40 awards to limit the impact and incidence of NAS in rural communities by improving systems of care, family support, and social determinants of health. Grantees must use the funding to provide mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), to pregnant and postpartum people who suffer from SUD and their families within [HRSA-designated rural areas](#). Over the three-year performance period, award recipients must demonstrate achievement of the following goals:

1. “Reduce structural- and systems-level barriers (e.g., transportation challenges, limited workforce, reimbursement issues, etc.) to a) Increase access to behavioral health care, especially substance use disorders, including opioid use disorder (SUD/OD), services for rural pregnant and postpartum persons and their families; and b) Address community risk factors and social determinants of health.
2. Strengthen the quality and sustainability of behavioral health care services for rural pregnant and postpartum persons and their families by implementing coordinated, evidence-based, trauma-informed, family-centered SUD/OD and other services.”

Applicants are encouraged to target populations that have historically suffered from poor health outcomes, health disparities, and other inequities compared to the rest of the population. HRSA is particularly interested in innovative approaches to service provision. Applications are due by March 8, 2023.

The notice of funding opportunity can be found [here](#).

Timeline of Selected FDA Activities and Significant Events Addressing Opioid Misuse and Abuse



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released the [Timeline of Selected FDA Activities and Significant Events Addressing Opioid Misuse and Abuse](#). This timeline consists of chronological information about FDA activities and significant events related to opioids, including misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD). The timeline includes a [summary of key events/activities](#) from 1911 through 2022, and is followed by tabbed years with additional information on specific actions in that year or time period.

The FDA Opioid Timeline can be downloaded [here](#).

2023 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors Application Period Extended

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) Foundation is extending the application period for the [2023 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors \(MFP-AC\)](#) to January 31, 2023. Funded by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation in collaboration with the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), this program will administer up to 40 master's degree-level counseling fellowships of \$15,000 for addictions counseling students. Minorities include racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, sexual orientation, rural, or military groups.

Detailed eligibility requirements and information on how to apply can be found [here](#). Fellowship awardees will be announced by the end of March 2023.

Research Roundup

NIH-Funded Study Finds Hepatitis C Treatment Gap for Individuals With Alcohol Use Disorder



A new [study](#), funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open finds a hepatitis C treatment gap among individuals with alcohol use disorder (AUD). Specifically, the study reports that individuals with co-occurring hepatitis C and AUD are less likely to receive direct-acting antiviral treatment for hepatitis C within either one or three years of diagnosis, compared with those without AUD. This comes despite current guidelines recommending antiviral treatment regardless of alcohol use.

Led by scientists at Yale University, the study points to stigma around substance use, hesitancy to prescribe treatment due to concerns of adhering to treatment protocols, patients' acceptance of hepatitis C treatment, and delays in accessing treatment as causes for the hepatitis C-AUD treatment gap.

NIH's press release announcing the study's findings can be found [here](#).