

February 17, 2023



**D.C. Update: NASADAD's Rob Morrison Speaks at SAMHSA's 19th Prevention Day, NIDA and NIAAA Announce the 2023 National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, GAO Report on Adult Drug Court Programs, and More.**

[Visit our Website](#)



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## Meet the Member

### **Virginia H. Ervin, RN, BSN, SOTA for South Carolina, Utilization Review Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services**



Virginia has been with the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services since 1997. Her current positions are Utilization Review Coordinator and State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA), which serves as a liaison to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the State's opioid regulatory agency. She is a lifelong resident of the Palmetto State, having been born and raised in Florence, South Carolina.

Prior to joining the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Virginia's professional experience was primarily in both inpatient and outpatient addiction treatment services. Her work experience also includes medical/surgical nursing, inpatient psychiatric care, and employee/occupational health.

As one of the first nurses hired when the Bruce Hall addiction treatment facility opened in Florence in 1984, providing care and assistance to patients and families in need of addiction services has been Virginia's passion.

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## NASADAD News

### **Rob Morrison, NASADAD Executive Director, Speaks on Panel at SAMHSA's 19th Prevention Day**



On Monday, January 30, Robert Morrison spoke during the

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) 19th Prevention Day, in conjunction with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum. Rob was joined by keynote speaker CAPT Jennifer Fan, PharmD, JD Acting Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) SAMHSA and fellow panelists Amy Goldstein, Ralph Hingson, and Barrye Price. To learn more about Prevention Day, visit SAMHSA's [webpage](#).

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## Around the Agencies

### NIDA Op-Ed: "Pregnant People with Substance Use Disorders Need Treatment, not Criminalization"



National Institute  
on Drug Abuse

Dr. Nora D. Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), recently published an Op-Ed detailing the obstacles many pregnant women face when seeking treatment and assistance with substance use disorders (SUD). The op-ed discussed the harmful effects of the criminalization of those suffering from SUD, especially pregnant women, including exacerbating racial disparities and damaging or even fatal consequences to the health of both the mother and the fetus. The op-ed calls for the decriminalization of women struggling with SUD, and advocates for a transition to more supportive and effective care for women struggling with SUD.

The op-ed can be found [here](#).

### HHS Issues 90-Day Notice of the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency



Last week, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra issued a 90-day notice via a [Dear Governors Letter](#) announcing the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration on May 11, 2023. HHS also released a [fact sheet](#) for communities that identifies key healthcare areas that will be affected by the transition from current flexibilities enabled by the PHE.

### NIDA and NIAAA Announce the 2023 National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week



The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) announced that the [2023 National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week® \(NDAFW\)](#) will be held March 20-26, 2023. NDAFW is an annual, week-long health observance that inspires dialogue about the science of drug use and addiction among youth. Additional details about NDAFW, including how to register a NDAFW event, can be found [here](#).

### New SAMHSA Funding Opportunities: Grants for SUD Treatment and Recovery for Pregnant and Postpartum Women

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently [announced \\$17 million in new funding opportunities](#) for two grant programs that support substance use disorder (SUD) services for pregnant and postpartum women (PPW). The [Services Program for Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women](#) will grant 22 awards for a total \$11.6 million to comprehensive SUD treatment services, recovery support services, and harm reduction interventions across specialty residential and outpatient care. It will also support required activities for minor children, partners of the women, and extended family members of pregnant and postpartum women as requested. The [State Pilot Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women](#) will grant 6 awards for a total \$5.4 million for family-based treatment services for pregnant and postpartum women with a SUD diagnosis in nonresidential settings, and will also promote new models of service delivery by supporting a coordinated State

system managed by State alcohol and drug agencies.

"Eligible applicants for the Services Program for Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Post Partum Women are States and Territories, including the District of Columbia, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in section 5304 of title 25), health facilities, or programs operated by or in accordance with a contract or award with the Indian Health Service, or other public or private non-profit entities. Eligible applicants for the State Pilot Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women are Single State Agencies (SSA) for Substance Abuse." Applications for both grant programs are due Monday, March 27, 2023.

## CoE-PHI Seeking Professionals Providing SUD and Mental Health Services for Focus Group



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) is seeking professionals who provide substance use disorder (SUD) and/or mental health treatment services and have experience obtaining patient consent to share SUD and/or mental health treatment information to participate in a focus group. The focus group aims to discover:

- "How to approach talking to clients about concepts of privacy and confidentiality"
- Challenges associated with talking to clients about concepts of privacy and confidentiality"

Participation will contribute to a growing understanding of the skills required to obtain consent to share treatment information in a way that is helpful to patients. CoE-PHI is offering a \$150 payment to those who participate. [Applications](#) are due March 3.

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## Research Roundup

### GAO Releases Report on Adult Drug Court Programs: Factors Related to Eligibility and Acceptance of Offers to Participate in DOJ-Funded Adult Drug Courts



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on [Factors Related to Eligibility and Acceptance of Offers to Participate in Department of Justice \(DOJ\) Funded Adult Drug Courts](#). The GAO reported that, in determining eligibility, "many adult drug courts reported using risk assessment tools to identify and target their services." They also reported limiting eligibility to those whose mental and cognitive health needs can be adequately met by the resources available within these Adult Drug Courts, as well as "limiting eligibility to individuals residing within the court's jurisdiction." The report also identified barriers to enrollment based on the nature of an individual's offenses, especially as "adult drug courts funded by DOJ grants are prohibited by law from using the funding to include individuals with prior or current violent offenses in their programs."

The GAO highlights page for the report can be downloaded [here](#).

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

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## Webinars to Watch

### COSSAP & TASC Webinar: How EMS Is Impacting the Lives of Overdose Patients in North Carolina



The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) and the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) are hosting a webinar on [How Emergency Medical Services Is Impacting the Lives of Overdose Patients in North Carolina](#). This no-cost webinar is being offered on

February 23, 2023, at 2:00 pm (ET). The webinar will feature Dr. James Winslow, State Medical Director for the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The webinar will provide an overview of the EMS medication-assisted “bridge” programs developed in several countywide EMS agencies with the help of special funding from the North Carolina Office of EMS. Interventions by EMS that will be discussed include:

- “State opioid dashboard
- Increased naloxone access
- Leave behind naloxone
- EMS-based needle exchange
- Pop-up testing sites for HIV/Hepatitis
- EMS Medication Assisted Bridge Programs”

Registration is required.

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