

April 6, 2023



D.C. Update: Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Address Xylazine, New SAMHSA Funding Opportunities, NIDA Finds Buprenorphine Safe and Effective for Individuals with OUD, and More.

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Meet the Member

Laura Garcia, BA, MA, LPC, SSA of Illinois, joins NASADAD Board of Directors as Director of Region V

We are excited to announce that Ms. Laura Garcia, SSA in Illinois, is joining the NASADAD Board of Directors as Regional Director V. Congratulations Laura!



Laura Garcia is the Director of the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (IDHS/SUPR). The mission of IDHS/SUPR is to provide a recovery-oriented system of care along the continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support where individuals with substance use disorders (SUD), those in recovery, and those at risk are valued and treated with dignity and where stigma, accompanying attitudes, discrimination, and other barriers to recovery are eliminated.

Laura was born in Mexico and her family moved to Chicago, Illinois when she was four years old where they established their home. Laura completed her Bachelor' of Arts degree and a Master of Arts from DePaul University, a second master's degree in counseling from Governors State University and she is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). The majority of her professional career has been dedicated to the expansion of behavioral health services to help improve the health of individuals, families, and communities that are socially and systematically disenfranchised.

Laura joined IDHS/SUPR in April 2018 as the Deputy Director for the Bureau of Licensure, Compliance, and Monitoring where she oversaw the regulatory compliance of statewide substance use disorder intervention and treatment services. In her current role as Director, she oversees a budget of over \$600,000,000 and has worked to establish the Office of the Opioid Settlement Administration, expanded deflection services, initiated mobile services, expanded access to Medication Assisted Recovery, and implemented other opioid abatement strategies to address the overdose epidemic.

Capitol Hill Happenings

Lawmakers Write Letter Calling for Substance Use Disorder Funding In SAMHSA

A group of bipartisan lawmakers recently wrote a [letter](#) to the House Committee on Appropriations calling for the highest possible funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The bipartisan group of 13 lawmakers, led by Representatives Susan Wild (D-PA-7), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1), and Marilyn Strickland (D-WA-10), wrote the letter in recognition of the ongoing substance use disorder (SUD) crisis and SAMHSA's leadership on the issue. In addition to calling for the highest possible funding for SAMHSA, the letter hopes "... that over time, opioid-specific resources for States [State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants] are transitioned to the [Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services] SUPTRS Block Grant, as this program affords States the opportunity to target resources based on the substance use issues they are facing as opposed to pre-ordained, drug-specific spending requirements."

Representative Wild's press release announcing the letter can be found [here](#).

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

Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Address Xylazine

This week, a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced the [Combating Illicit Xylazine Act \(S. 993\) \(H.R. 1839\)](#). Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) with Representatives Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-19), August Pfluger (R-TX-11), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12), Ken Buck (R-CO-4), and Chris Pappas (D-NH-1) introduced this bipartisan, bicameral legislation that aims to address Xylazine. The bill would address the lack of access to tools needed to effectively track xylazine and address drug trafficking by:

- "Classifying its illicit use under Schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act;
- Enabling the DEA to track its manufacturing to ensure it is not diverted to the illicit market;
- Requiring a report on prevalence, risks, and recommendations to best regulate the illicit use of Xylazine;
- Ensuring all salts and isomers of Xylazine are covered when restricting its illicit use;
- Declaring Xylazine an emerging drug threat."

Senator Cortez Masto's press release announcing the legislation can be found [here](#).

Representative Panetta's press release announcing the legislation can be found [here](#).

Around the Agencies

New SAMHSA Funding Opportunities: Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced two funding opportunities for the Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success. Both programs are intended to "... help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of state and community substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion services." Specifically, these new programs strive to "... promote substance use prevention throughout a state jurisdiction for individuals and families by building

and expanding the capacity of local community prevention providers to implement evidence-based programs.”

The [Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for States](#) is a \$17.5 million funding opportunity exclusively for States that will offer 14 awards of up to \$1.25 million per award for up to 5 years. Applications are due June 5th, 2023.

The [Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges, and Tribes/Tribal Organizations](#) is a \$16.5 million funding opportunity for community-based organizations, federally recognized tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education that will offer 44 awards of up to \$375,000 per award for up to 5 years. Applications are due June 5th, 2023.

SAMHSA, NIMH, and NIDA Launch Initiative for Implementation Research Studies in CCBHCs

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), launched an [Evidence-Based Practice Implementation Science Pilot initiative](#). This initiative aims to “... reduce gaps in knowledge concerning successful adoption, implementation, and sustainment of Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) in community behavioral health clinics.” The initiative has created a [database of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics \(CCBHCs\)](#) that aspire to develop research on evidence-based practices in CCBHCs. The database contains information about each CCBHC’s area of focus and research objectives. The database also identifies the CCBHCs actively seeking research partners and provides contact information for them.

Interested applicants can apply through the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) [Notice of Special Interest](#).

SAMHSA is also hosting a [webinar](#) on this initiative. This no-cost webinar will be offered on April 19, 2023, at 1:00 PM (ET). The webinar will introduce the initiative and explore the [CCBHC EBP Implementation Science Pilot Participant Database](#). Registration is required.

Research Round-Up

NIDA Research Finds Buprenorphine Safe and Effective for Individuals with OUD



A multi-site clinical trial, supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) through the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative, found that “... less than 1% of people with opioid use disorders whose drug use includes fentanyl experienced withdrawal when starting buprenorphine in the emergency department.” These findings are intended to reduce concerns over [precipitated withdrawal](#) from use of medications used to treat opioid use disorders (OUD). These findings also build upon [existing evidence](#) that “... administering buprenorphine in emergency departments helps people begin addiction treatment and that higher-dose buprenorphine is safe and well tolerated in people with opioid use disorder experiencing withdrawal symptoms.” To read more about this study and its significance, visit the NIH website [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA Pre-Application Webinar: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic-Planning, Development, and Implementation Grants

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

pre-application webinar on [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic - Planning, Development, and Implementation Grants](#). This no-cost webinar will be offered on April 12, 2023, at 3:00 PM (ET). The webinar will “... provide an overview of the [CCBHC Planning, Development, and Implementation Grant \(CCBHC-PDI\) Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) SM-23-024](#). The CCBHC grant aims to assist clinics to establish new CCBHC programs.” Registration is not required.

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