

June 15, 2023



**D.C. Update: Legislative Hearing on Solutions to Address SUD, CMS Releases Series of Resources on Medicaid and CHIP Renewals, New NIH Studies, and More.**

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## Meet the Member

### **Ronna Corliss, WSC for Kansas, Manager, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services**

Ronna Corliss serves as the Manager of Problem Gambling and Substance Use Disorder Projects at the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, which includes serving as the Women's Services Coordinator (WSC) for Kansas. Prior to joining the Behavioral Health Commission 2 years ago, Corliss served as Director of Community Engagement at Elevate, inc. in Wisconsin. During her tenure at Elevate, she provided administrative oversight of 5 coalitions and Chaired the Heroin Task Force. Corliss developed and implemented a youth employment program as a restorative justice opportunity for young people. Her expertise in prevention science gave her the knowledge and skills to be instrumental in the implementation of universal Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in Wisconsin schools. While working in the not-for-profit sector, Ronna served a variety of justice-involved populations through direct services and advocacy.



She earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in Psychology from Emporia State University and serves as a board member of Habitat for Humanity International.

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## NASADAD News

### **NASADAD Participates in Faces and Voices of Recovery Panel**

On Monday, June 5th, Rob Morrison participated on a panel facilitated by Phil Rutherford, COO, Faces and Voices of Recovery. Other panelists included Beth Connolly, Director of Public Health, ONDCP; Paolo del Vecchio, Director, Office of Recovery, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and Tracie Gardner, Legal Action Center. The panel reacted to different questions asked by Mr. Rutherford, including issues related to federal funding, deflection and diversion, and

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## Capitol Hill Happenings

### Legislative Hearing on Solutions to Address Substance Use Disorder

On June 14, 2023, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health will hold a legislative hearing titled ["Responding to America's Overdose Crisis: An Examination of Legislation to Build Upon the SUPPORT Act."](#) The hearing is at 10:00 a.m. ET and will be live streamed. Witnesses have not been announced.

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## Around the Agencies

### CMS Releases Series of Resources on Medicaid and CHIP Renewals



Earlier this week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), released a series of resources on the resuming of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) renewals to help address issues related to Medicaid unwinding. These resources provide important updates for partners and information on new flexibilities announced by HHS designed to help keep people covered as states restart routine Medicaid and CHIP renewals. These new resources include:

1. [HHS Secretary Letter to Governors on Medicaid Redeterminations](#)
2. [Available State Strategies to Prevent Procedural Terminations During Unwinding](#)
3. [All Hands-On-Deck: Keeping People Covered As States Restart Routine Medicaid Renewals Factsheet](#)
4. [All Hands-On-Deck: Partner Call to Action](#)

CMS' press release announcing HHS' additional actions to keep people covered as States resume Medicaid and CHIP renewals can be found [here](#).

### SAMHSA Blog: Experiencing Pride at SAMHSA

In recognition of June as Pride Month, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Assistant Secretary Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon penned a blog post on [Experiencing Pride at SAMHSA](#). The post outlines SAMHSA's approach to addressing the health needs of LGBTQI+ individuals with, affected by, or at risk for mental health and substance use conditions. The post also identifies SAMHSA publications available, an open notice of funding opportunity to support LGBTQI+ youth, and additional resources available from the Agency.

### SAMHSA Releases New Data on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Health



On Tuesday, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new data report on [Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Behavioral Health: Results from the 2021 and 2022 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health](#). The report reviews findings from the 2021 and 2022 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health around topics such as alcohol use, cigarette use, illicit drug use, stimulant use, drug use disorder, opioid use disorder, mental health, and more.

### New BJA Funding Opportunity: FY 2023 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program



The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recently announced a \$40.2 million funding opportunity for the [FY 2023 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners](#)

[Program](#). The program intends to “...increase access to evidence-based prevention and treatment, reduce overdose deaths, and support increased access to evidence-based substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support services, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), to treat incarcerated individuals.” This program aims to do so by assisting states with “...developing and implementing residential SUD treatment programs within state correctional facilities, as well as within local correctional and detention facilities, in which persons are incarcerated for a period of time sufficient to permit SUD treatment.”

The BJA will offer up to 56 awards of between \$160,000 and \$4,395,000 each. Applications are due August 7th, 2023.

## NIH and FDA Leaders Call For More Research to Improve and Implement Drug-Testing Tools

In a [new publication in the New England Journal of Medicine](#), leaders at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) emphasize the importance of addressing gaps in the research, development, and implementation of fentanyl test strips and other drug-testing equipment to prevent overdose fatalities. The call to action “...encourages new collaborations among researchers and agencies to ensure the effectiveness of fentanyl test strips and promote the development of additional drug-checking technologies. It also encourages the reduction of barriers that inhibit use of these technologies where not prohibited by law.” Further comments by the NIH on this call to action can be found [here](#).

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## Research Round-Up

### NIH Research Finds Only 1 in 4 Adolescent Treatment Facilities Offer Buprenorphine For Opioid Use Disorder



According to a [new study funded by the National Institute of Health \(NIH\)](#), “...only 1 in 4 residential addiction treatment facilities caring for U.S. adolescents under 18 years old offer buprenorphine, a medication used to treat opioid use disorder” and “...only 1 in 8 offer buprenorphine for ongoing treatment.” Buprenorphine is the only medication for opioid use disorder (OUD) that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in people aged 16-18. These findings emphasize a significant barrier in access to evidence-based OUD treatment for young people. To read more about this study, visit the NIH website [here](#).

### NIDA Study Finds Men Died of Overdose at 2-3 Times Greater a Rate Than Women in The U.S. in 2020-2021

A group of researchers from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai published a [study in Neuropsychopharmacology](#) that found that “...men were significantly more vulnerable than women to overdose deaths involving opioid and stimulant drugs in 2020-2021.” The study analyzed national data on death records of people aged 15-74 from 2020-2021 and reported that “...men had a 2-3 times greater rate of overdose mortality from opioids (like fentanyl and heroin) and psychostimulants (like methamphetamine and cocaine).” While men are known to use drugs at higher rates than women, the researchers concluded that “...biological, behavioral, and social factors combined to increase the mortality risk for men.”

NIDA’s press release announcing the findings of the report can be found [here](#).

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## Webinars to Watch

### PTCC Webinar Series: Substance Use and HIV

The [Central East Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network](#)



(PTTC) is hosting a two-part webinar on [Substance Use and HIV](#). Part one of the series, [The Importance of Action and Addressing Disparities](#), “...will review data on the scope and connections between substance use and HIV and discuss key considerations and strategies for serving people living with HIV.” This session will be offered on June 20, 2023, at 1:00 PM (ET). Part two of the series, [Learning Lab Session-Developing and Expanding Services](#), “...will be a collaborative learning lab session on developing and expanding programs that serve people living with HIV.” Registration is required. This session will be offered on June 22, 2023 at 1:00 PM (ET).

### **SAMHSA Webinar: *Communities Talk About: Preventing Fentanyl Use by Youth and Young Adults***

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting a [webinar on \*Communities Talk About: Preventing Fentanyl Uses by Youth and Young Adults\*](#). This no-cost webinar is being offered on June 21, at 2:00 PM (ET). The webinar will feature leaders from SAMHSA, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and will discuss ONDCP’s designation of fentanyl combined with xylazine as an emerging threat, as well as “...highlight evidence-based prevention approaches available for individuals, communities, states, tribes, and jurisdictions to address the evolving opioid epidemic.” Registration is required.

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