

March 24, 2023



D.C. Update: NASADAD Letter on the Health Care Workforce Shortage, DEA Public Safety Alert, New SAMHSA Funding Opportunities, and More.

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Meet the Member

Erica Mathews, SOTA for Wyoming, Grants and Programs Unit Manager, Behavioral Health Division, Wyoming Department of Health



Erica Mathews is the Grants and Programs Unit Manager for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Section of the Behavioral Health Division with the Wyoming Department of Health. Erica has over 15 years of experience managing substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health programs. Erica is passionate about issues related to substance use, suicide prevention, early intervention, and integrating prevention efforts into communities and systems to produce sustainable outcomes. In her current position, Erica manages the team that oversees multiple grant-related programs, including the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant program, the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant, and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. Her team also oversees crisis response programs, including the 988 Lifeline. In her previous position, Erica oversaw the team providing statewide SUD prevention and mental health promotion efforts, including suicide prevention. Erica currently serves as the Wyoming State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) and the designee to the Opioid Treatment Network (OTN), and previously served on the National Prevention Network (NPN).

NASADAD News

[NASADAD Letter on the Health Care Workforce Shortage to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions](#)

On Monday, March 20, NASADAD responded to a stakeholder [request for information](#) (RFI) from the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) on potential legislative solutions to alleviate the health care workforce shortage.

NASADAD's response underscored the importance of working with the State alcohol and drug agency to ensure a coordinated approach across all levels of government. Additionally, our recommendations to strengthen federal workforce initiatives included:

- Amend current statute to make clear that States may allocate Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant funds to support certain substance use disorder workforce initiatives;
- Establish a discretionary grant in SAMHSA/CSAP to bolster the substance use disorder prevention workforce;
- Reinstate SAMHSA/CSAT's Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute (WASLI);
- The importance of a report to be developed by the SAMHSA/CSAP on the state of substance use disorder prevention workforce; and
- Continue to support the SAMHSA/CSAP Fellowship program.

The letter can be found on the NASADAD webpage [here](#).

White House Happenings

ONDCP, AMCHP, and ASTHO Webinar: Perinatal Substance Use: National and State Public Health Strategies

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) will share their priorities for improving maternal health outcomes and expanding access to evidence-based treatment for perinatal populations. The [Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs](#) (AMCHP) and the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) (ASTHO) are offering this no-cost [webinar](#) on March 27, at 1:00 pm (ET). The webinar will feature officials from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), who will "... share its priorities for improving maternal health outcomes and expanding access to evidence-based treatment for perinatal populations, as outlined in the agency's recent report: [Substance Use Disorder in Pregnancy: Improving Outcomes for Families](#)." The presentation will include "... recommendations and opportunities for state MCH programs to partner with ONDCP and strengthen local MCH behavioral health systems." Registration is required.

Capitol Hill Happenings

House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Holds Markup to Consider Series of Proposed Controlled Substances and 9-8-8 Lifeline Legislation

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health recently held an [open markup session](#) to consider five proposed bills related to "monitoring shipments of controlled substances, increased requirements for cybersecurity for the 9-8-8 lifeline, imposing a ban on the quality-adjusted life year (QALY) measure, providing authority to block U.S. entrance of persons importing certain controlled substances from designated foreign countries, and fentanyl scheduling." Three out of the five bills under consideration, the Block, Report, And Suspend Suspicious Shipments Act ([H.R. 501](#)), the 9-8-8 Lifeline Cybersecurity Responsibility Act ([H.R. 498](#)), and the Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act of 2023 ([H.R. 485](#)) received unanimous support from the Committee.

The Markup Memo and full Markup Amendments can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

A recording of the Health Subcommittee Markup of five bills can be found [here](#).

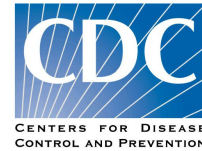
Around the Agencies

DEA Issues Public Safety Alert: DEA Reports Widespread Threat of Co-mixing of Xylazine with Fentanyl



The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a Public Safety Alert earlier this week on the [Widespread Threat of Fentanyl Mixed with Xylazine](#). The Alert warns the “... American public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine.” The DEA reports that co-mixing of xylazine and fentanyl put users at a higher risk of suffering fatal drug overdose- due to xylazine not being an opioid, rendering naloxone ineffective for reversing its effects. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently sent a communication to healthcare providers on the risks of xylazine in illicit drugs, which can be accessed [here](#).

CDC Announces Funding for Overdose Surveillance and Prevention Efforts



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced two new funding opportunities for States, localities, and territories under the [Overdose Data to Action](#) program:

- The [Overdose Data to Action in States](#) funding opportunity will support “State health departments and the District of Columbia to expand their surveillance efforts to track fatal and non-fatal overdoses, emerging drug threats, and associated risk factors.” The program will provide “continued support of clinician education and training, health IT infrastructure, and public safety partnerships.”
- The [Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities](#) funding opportunity will “support local city and county health departments and territories to develop overdose-related surveillance infrastructure and implement prevention activities.” The goal of the program is to “use data to drive action steps that reduce fatal and non-fatal overdoses in communities as fast as possible, with a primary focus on opioids, stimulants, and polysubstance use involving opioids and/or stimulants.”

The application period for both closes May 8th. Letters of intent are requested by March 30th.

NIH Funding Opportunity: Supporting the Management of Substance Use Disorders in Primary Care and other Ambulatory Settings

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a new funding opportunity for [Supporting the Management of Substance Use Disorders in Primary Care and other Ambulatory Settings](#). This program intends “...to develop and test strategies to improve the capacity of primary care and ambulatory care settings to provide evidence-based, patient-centered care for people who misuse opioids and other substances.” The initiative will fund up to 4 projects to “... produce evidence on effective models of care and strategies to implement effective treatments that will lead to sustainable changes in care delivery and develop lasting partnerships between primary care and other care settings.” Priority populations include inner city, rural, low-income, minority, women, children, and elderly, among others. [Applications](#) are due April 14th, 2023.

New SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Provider’s Clinical Support System - Medications for Alcohol Use Disorders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a \$1.5 million funding opportunity for [Providers Clinical Support System - Medications for Alcohol Use Disorders](#). This program strives “... to provide training, guidance, and mentoring on the use of Medications for Alcohol Use Disorders (MAUD). It is intended to enhance the capacity of healthcare and counseling professionals to identify and treat

alcohol use disorder (AUD).” The Providers Clinical Support System - Medications for Alcohol Use Disorders consists of one award of up to \$1.5 million. Applications are due May 8th, 2023.

New SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Tribal Behavioral Health

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a \$15.05 million funding opportunity for [Tribal Behavioral Health](#). This program is designed “... to prevent and reduce suicidal behavior and substance use/misuse, reduce the impact of trauma, and promote mental health among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth, up to and including age 24, by building a healthy network of systems, services, and partnerships that impact youth.” The Tribal Behavioral Health program will offer 59 awards of up to \$250,000 each. Applications are due May 15th, 2023.

New SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced a \$1.43 million funding opportunity for [Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers](#). This program aims “... to establish or implement comprehensive treatment and recovery centers which provide a full spectrum of treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support services to address the opioid epidemic and ensure access to all three FDA-approved medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).” The Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers program will provide a total of two awards of up to \$850,000 per year. Applications are due May 16th, 2023.

NIDA Launches Substance Use Prevention Services in Primary Care Challenge Competition



National Institute
on Drug Abuse

The National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is accepting applications for the [Substance Use Prevention Services in Primary Care Challenge Competition](#). The new challenge seeks “creative, visionary, and actionable plans to implement substance use prevention interventions in primary care.” NIDA will award a total of \$100,000 across 4 awards of \$2,500 each. Applications are due Friday, May 19th, 2023. To learn more or to apply visit the challenge website [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA GAINS Center Webinar Series: Steering in the Right Direction: Diversion and Supports for Transition-Age Youth in the Criminal Justice System Virtual Summit



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) GAINS Center is hosting a three-presentation webinar series on [Steering in the Right Direction: Diversion and Supports for Transition-Age Youth in the Criminal Justice System Virtual Summit](#). This virtual summit will feature “... innovative programs and implementation strategies to support transition-age youth (TAY) prior to and throughout involvement with the criminal justice system.” The webinar series will discuss specialized supports and diversion options that are available to meet the needs of transition-age youth, especially those struggling with mental health and substance use disorders (SUD), and assistance that will foster their long-term success. This no-cost webinar series will be offered on March 29th, 2023. The topics and times of each session in the Virtual Summit can be found below:

- Presentation 1: Mobile Response and Stabilization for Transition-Age Youth will take place from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM ET
- Presentation 2: Alternative Solutions Supporting Diversion from the Criminal

Justice System will be offered from 1:45 PM- 3:15 PM ET

- Presentation 3: Preparing Transition-Age Youth for Successful Reentry to the Community will be hosted from 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM ET

[Registration](#) is required.

Other News

Annual Rx and Illicit Drug Summit



The [Annual Rx and Illicit Drug Summit](#) has been announced for April 10-13, in person, in Atlanta, Georgia. This four-day summit will [feature federal policymakers](#) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), who will share expertise on addressing substance use disorder (SUD) issues and the opioid epidemic.

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