

September 21, 2023



D.C. Update: NASADAD Attends Mobilize Recovery Event, SAMHSA Releases Key Survey Findings on Recovery Among Adults in the US, 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Adds American Sign Language, and More.

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Meet the Member

Cathy Capps-Amburgey, Women's Services Coordinator for West Virginia

Cathy Capps-Amburgey is the Director, Women's Health Services in the Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH), West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR). In this position, Cathy also serves as the Women's Services Coordinator (WSC) for West Virginia. She has a Master's Degree (MA) in Sociology and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (BSW). Prior to working in BBH, Cathy was Director of the WV Children with Special Health Care Needs Program and later served in the WV State Privacy Office as Assistant Chief Privacy Officer. In 2015, Cathy accepted a position as the Director of the WV Family Planning Program and transitioned to the BBH as Training Coordinator in 2020. Cathy's current position as Director, Women's Health Services has provided her with a wonderful opportunity to utilize knowledge and skills gained in each of her prior roles.



NASADAD News

NASADAD Attends Briefing on Youth Reentry Reform

On Tuesday, September 12, Daniel Diana, NASADAD Legislative Coordinator, attended a briefing hosted by the [Children's Defense Fund](#), in collaboration with the Future Forum Caucus, on Youth Reentry Reform at the Rayburn House Office Building. The briefing featured a group of Youth Policy Consultants (YPCs) with experience in the criminal justice system who highlighted the need for more reentry supports for youth in

particular and the benefits of including youth in policy development. The briefing began with a discussion of the challenges youth face in reentry and the stigma associated with returning to their communities following incarceration. The YPCs then offered solutions to promote better reentry outcomes for youth, including the use of credible messengers with lived experience, ensuring access to vital documents and technology, teaching financial literacy, and language/disability assistance, among others. The briefing concluded by pointing to the discrepancy in attention between adult reentry services and the lack of those for youth.

NASADAD attends Mobilize Recovery Event in Washington, D.C.

On September 19, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison attended the Mobile Recovery Conference held in Washington, D.C. that featured remarks from Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, entertainer Macklemore, and others. [Mobile Recovery](#) is an initiative that recruits and trains advocates “...from all 50 states focused on community-based solutions to end the addiction and overdose crisis.”



(Pictured: Dona Dmitrovic, Senior Advisor for Recovery, SAMHSA; Rob Morrison, NASADAD; Cynthia Moreno-Tuohy, Executive Director, NAADAC)



SAMHSA Releases Key Survey Findings on Recovery Among Adults in the United States

As part of Recovery Month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s [\(SAMHSA\) Office of Recovery \(OR\)](#) recently released the [Recovery from Substance Use and Mental Health Problems Among Adults in the United States Report](#). This report is based on data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) of self-reports of recovery among adults aged 18 and older in the United States who have or had a problem with substance use and/or mental health. The report was designed to “...provide a clearer characterization of the factors associated with recovery among adults and how future efforts can foster a whole-health approach to sustain recovery from mental health and substance use conditions.” Key takeaways include:

- “Recovery is real and possible - A significant majority (7 in 10) of adults who have had a mental health or substance use condition are in recovery and they represent over 50 million Americans.
- Recovery is holistic and personalized - Factors such as social supports, treatment, insurance coverage, and spirituality can be key in supporting recovery.
- Resilience can accompany recovery - People in recovery reported that their mental health and substance use were not significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

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

An infographic summarizing the report’s findings can also be found [here](#).

Updated SAMHSA Resource: Talking With Your College-Bound Young Adult About Alcohol - The Sound of Your Voice: Parent Guide

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released an updated fact sheet on [Talking With Your College-Bound Young Adult About Alcohol - The Sound of Your Voice: Parent Guide](#). This updated guide, which includes a companion video, is designed to provide parents with information about the consequences of underage drinking and tips on how to discuss those dangers with their college-bound young adults.



The updated guide can be downloaded [here](#).

The companion video can be viewed [here](#).

New SAMHSA Resources Designed to Help Communities Respond to the Opioid Overdose Crisis

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in collaboration with RTI International, recently released two resources designed to help communities respond to the opioid overdose crisis. These new resources are products of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) [Helping to End Addiction Long-term \(HEAL\)ing Communities Study \(HCS\)](#) that examines the prevention, overdose treatment, and medication-based treatment infrastructure in numerous communities hit by the overdose crisis. The new resource-guides include:

- [Engaging Community Coalitions to Decrease Opioid Overdose Deaths Practice Guide 2023](#): “This guide exists to help communities decrease opioid overdose deaths; it includes tools and real-world examples that can be used to build and strengthen community coalitions that work to reduce opioid overdose deaths.” This guide can be downloaded [here](#).
- [Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach \(ORCCA\) Practice Guide 2023](#): “This guide was drawn from HEALing Communities Study (HCS) learnings to-date and expert insights to provide guidance regarding implementation of ORCCA menu strategies.” This guide can be downloaded [here](#).

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Adds American Sign Language

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) the addition of nationwide American Sign Language (ASL) to the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#)'s videophone services for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. “The new service aims to ensure that Deaf or Hard of Hearing people who use ASL as their primary language can readily access and connect with the support they need during a mental health crisis.” Details on how to connect to ASL services can be found below:



- “To connect directly to a trained 988 Lifeline counselor in ASL, callers who are Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, and Late-Deafened can click the ‘ASL Now’ button on [988lifeline.org](#) and follow the prompts. Direct dialing to 988 from the videophone will be available in the coming weeks, and in the meantime, ASL callers can call 800-273-TALK (8255) from their videophone to reach ASL services.”

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) press release announcing the addition of ASL to 988 services can be found [here](#).

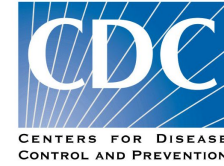
New HRSA Toolkit: Caring for Women with Opioid Use Disorder

The [Health Resources and Services Administration's \(HRSA\) Office of Women's Health](#) recently released a new toolkit on [Caring for Women with Opioid Use Disorder: A Toolkit for Organization Leaders and Providers](#). The toolkit is designed to support organizations and providers who care for women with opioid use disorder (OUD) by offering strategies and key principles for care. The toolkit also includes a self-assessment tool for

organization leaders and providers to assess the status of their care, as well as metrics to monitor and evaluate care coordination for women with OUD. Additionally, the toolkit outlines HRSA programs and other resources to improve care for women with OUD.

The toolkit can be downloaded [here](#).

CDC Funding Opportunity: Rigorous Evaluation of Policy-Level Interventions to Prevent Overdose



The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control \(NCIPC\)](#) announced a funding opportunity for [Rigorous Evaluation of Policy-Level Interventions to Prevent Overdose](#). The program is seeking

"...investigator-initiated research to rigorously evaluate effectiveness of policies for reducing drug use and overdose as well as the effect of these strategies on reducing or worsening existing disparities in medical care and health outcomes." Aside from evaluating the impact of these policies on health outcomes, the program intends to understand their implementation process and how that achieves outcomes among groups with a disproportionate burden of overdose or groups at a greater risk of adverse outcomes related to substance use. The proposed research must evaluate the impact of local, State, Tribal, federal, or organizational policy aimed at reducing substance use or drug overdose along at least two overdose outcomes.

The Rigorous Evaluation of Policy-Level Interventions to Prevent Overdose will offer 2 awards of up to \$350,000. Applications are due December 1, 2023.

Research Round-Up

NIH Study Finds Higher Buprenorphine Doses Associated with Improved Retention in Treatment for OUD



A recent [study](#) funded by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), published in JAMA Network Open, found that higher buprenorphine doses were associated with improved retention in treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD). According to the study, of patients prescribed buprenorphine in Rhode Island from 2016 to 2020, "Individuals with opioid use disorder who were prescribed a lower buprenorphine dose were 20% more likely to discontinue treatment than those on a higher dose." The main findings include:

- 59% of patients initiating buprenorphine treatment who were prescribed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended daily dose of 16 milligrams (mg) discontinued treatment within 180 days;
- 53% of patients initiating buprenorphine treatment who were prescribed the higher 24 mg daily dose discontinued treatment within 180 days; and
- Patients prescribed the recommended 16 mg dose were 20% more likely to discontinue treatment over 180 days compared to those prescribed 24 mg (statistically significant).

The researchers conclude that in light of the widespread availability of fentanyl and efficacy of the 24 mg high dose of buprenorphine, higher doses of buprenorphine may help improve treatment retention.

We're Hiring!

NASADAD Hiring for Alcohol and Other Drug Research Analyst

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) is hiring for an Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Women's and Youth Services. See the job listing and link to apply below:

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Women's and Youth Services
NASADAD seeks an experienced, team-oriented person with a demonstrated understanding of substance use issues related to women and youth, excellent writing and research abilities, data analysis experience, and strong communication skills.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Flinn, Ed.D., Associate Director of Planning and Program Management, at: tflinn@nasadad.org.

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